

## Evangelism Class #20 Outline - Religions Crash Course

### 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

#### **Judaism:**

- **Origin:** Old Testament history.
- **Messiah?** Given up hope of a personal Messiah, but believe in a Messianic age of peace.
- **Salvation?** Atonement is made through sacrifices, repentance, good deeds, and God's grace.

#### **Approach:**

1) Establish a lot of common ground. We believe in Old Testament too! 2) Help them see payment must be made for sin. 3) Show how Jesus fulfilled prophecy (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; Isaiah 53; Daniel 2; Micah 5:2; etc.) 4) Show how Jesus was unique from false Messiahs. Came to take care of sin problem, not economic and cultural problems! (Hebrews 10:1-10; Gal. 3:24) 5) Show how Jesus took care of sins of the faithful from the O.T. times. (Heb. 10:14)

#### **Islam:**

- **Origin:** Muhammad in 610 A.D. received visions. Conquered city of Mecca and established it as worship center to God ("Allah" in Arabic).
- **Bible?** It's inspired by Allah, but the Jews and Christians corrupted it. The Koran received by Muhammad is God's uncorrupted word.
- **Jesus?** A great prophet, but not the greatest. Not the Son of God. Wasn't crucified.
- **God?** Allah is not relational with us. He is just and powerful, not loving and longing for relationship.
- **Salvation?** Good deeds must outweigh the bad. Must adhere to 5 articles of faith (beliefs) and 5 pillars of faith (actions).

#### **Approach:**

1) Expose glaring problem with, "Bible was corrupted" argument. - **Surah 6:115** - "None can alter His words." How did God let it happen? Why not to the Koran? 2) Emphasize salvation by grace, not good works outweighing the bad. 3) Koran is only document in history that denies Jesus was crucified, written 600 years after the fact. All sources, Christian or not, from that time said he was.

- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** - key to the gospel! **Galatians 1:8** - Koran teaches a different gospel.

#### **Hinduism:**

- **Origin:** Unknown. Beliefs fluid and changing. Brahman is Supreme being, can't be explained. Impersonal and unknowable.
- **Salvation?** Man's main problem is his ignorance that he is god. Goal is to break cycle of rebirth and become one with Brahman through works, knowledge, or devotion. Salvation is very difficult for them!

**Approach:** 1) Main problem is sin against a holy God, not ignorance we're god. 2) Salvation can't be earned. 3) God is personal and longs for relationship w/us.

#### **Buddhism:**

- **Origin:** Offshoot of Hinduism by Siddhartha Guatama around 550 B.C.
- **Salvation?** Man's main problem is suffering. All suffering caused by desire. Must get rid of all desire to reach nirvana, state of nothingness. Walk the Eightfold path.

**Approach:** 1) Show futility of ending all desire. 2) Can't perfect ourselves.

Sources: "Handbook of Today's Religions" by McDowell and Stewart  
"The School of Biblical Evangelism" by Cameron and Comfort