

Discipleship 201

“Jesus is Not the Only Way to Heaven!”

John 14:1-6

August 9, 2020 - Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- When it comes to who a person is, there are two things that matter more than anything ...
 - (1) Who does the person say they are, and what evidence do they present to prove this?
 - (2) Who do first-hand witnesses say they are, and what evidence did they see to prove it?
 - Remember, Jesus is one of three things:
 - Liar
 - Lunatic
 - Lord
 - **John 14:1-6**
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1. The Way:

- a. You know, there is a major difference between a person who points you in the direction of where you need to go ... AND ... a person who leads you there by showing you the way.
 - i. Abraham – The Father of the Israelites – **Genesis 25**.
 - ii. Mohammad – Founder of Islam
 - iii. Joseph Smith – Founder of the Mormon's
 - iv. Charles Taze Russell – Founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses
 - v. Siddhartha Gautama – Founder of Buddhism
 - vi. Jesus Christ – The God of all creation ... **Matthew 22:37-40 ... John 13:34-35**
- b. The difference here cannot be missed. When Christians talk about Jesus, they don't take you to visit His grave and mourn at it. We don't lay flowers at the tomb of Jesus. **WHY?** ... Because He is not there!
- c. The only way for you and I to come Home to the Father is through Jesus Christ and Him alone.
 - i. Not the Mosaic Law
 - ii. Not the Five Pillars of Islam
 - iii. Not the Four Truths and Eight-Fold Path of Buddhism.
 - iv. No through the Jehovah's Witnesses or the Mormon beliefs.
 - v. The only WAY to be saved is through Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

2. The Truth:

- a. Dictionary.com defines ... **Truth** – “The true or actual state of a matter ... A verifiable or indisputable fact ... proposition or principle or the like.”
- b. Greek – **Aletheia** ... English – **Truth** ... “The content of that which is true and thus in accordance with what actually happened.”
- c. Latin – **Veritas** ... English – **Truth** ... “The certainty and correctness of reality.”
- d. We demand truth in all areas of our life:
 - i. Family/friends
 - ii. Doctors
 - iii. Court System
 - iv. Employees/Employers
 - v. News/Politicians/Teachers/Road Signs/medicine bottles/food labels.

- e. But for some reason, and I am not sure why ... We are not interested in Truth when it comes to religion and morality.
 - f. **Truth does not change** ... It remains the same always, no matter what. – **Hebrews 13:8**
 - i. Truth is discovered, not invented.
 - ii. Truth crosses cultural lines.
 - iii. Truth is unchanging, even though our beliefs about truth change.
 - iv. Beliefs cannot change truth, no matter how sincerely they are held.
 - v. Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it.
 - g. Norman Geisler and Frank Turek said it this way ... *“In short, contrary beliefs are possible. But contrary truths are not possible. We can believe everything to be true. But we cannot make everything true.”*
 - h. **John 8:31-32**
 - i. Dictionary.com defines ... **Tolerance** ... “A fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward opinions, beliefs, and practices that differ from one's own.”
3. The Life:
- a. **John 11:25-26**
 - b. **John 11:38-40** – Lazarus
 - c. **Luke 8:40-56** – Jairus
 - d. **Luke 7:11-17** – Widow's son.
 - e. **Luke 8** – The woman with the bleeding issue.
 - f. **Luke 17** – Ten men with Leprosy.
 - g. In many places in the New Testament, Jesus tells His disciples that He will be handed over ... beaten and crucified. BUT on the third day, He will rise ... (**Matthew 16:21**)
 - h. **John 10:18**
 - i. **Matthew 28**
 - j. **1st Corinthians 15:3-8**
 - k. **No one refuted** His miracles ... **No one refuted** His crucifixion ... **No one refuted** His resurrection ... NOT one of His enemies refuted any of this, until hundreds of years later. **WHY?** ... Because that is what historical revisionist do. They try to rewrite TRUTH after the witnesses are gone.
 - l. **John 14:1-6**



Belief Systems

Christianity	Judaism	Islam	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses
Jesus Christ Primary Founder: →	Abraham	Mohammed	Joseph Smith	Charles Russell

Teachings on:

God	One, eternal, Triune, righteous, wise, loving, merciful	One, eternal, just	Allah, one, eternal	Once a man, who later became a god	Jehovah, but not at all like the God of the Bible
Man	Sinful, but valuable to God	Basically good with "flaws," learns through suffering	Basically good	People will become gods who will be worshiped	Basically good; spiritual needs can be earned
Scripture	The Bible (inspired and infallible)	The Torah (the Old Testament)	The Koran	Book of Mormon and Pearl of Great Price	Jehovah's Witnesses' version of the Bible only; and certain other publications
Jesus Christ	Fully God, fully man, deity	Ignored, distorted or "respectfully rejected"	A prophet, a man, not the Son of God	An "elder brother" who became a god	Just a man, denied, distorted
Life's purpose	To know God through a relationship with Jesus Christ	To love God (Deut. 6:5), and to try to do good	To submit to Allah	To be a part of the "one true Church" (the LDS church)	To win others to the Jehovah's Witnesses faith and thereby earn heaven
Heaven	Place of eternal joy for those who have received God's gift of salvation in Jesus	If there is one, we'll all be there	For those chosen by Allah	Planet Kolob; celestial kingdom; terrestrial kingdom; telestial kingdom	For 144,000 faithful Jehovah's Witnesses
Hell	Place of eternal torment for those who have rejected God's love	For evil people	For those rejected by Allah	No real hell, just lower levels of heaven	For non-Jehovah's Witnesses

Belief Systems

Hinduism	Buddhism	New Age/misc. "spirituality"	Secularism
no one founder Primary Founder: →	Siddhartha Gautama	1960s culture	various humanists

Teachings on:

God	Thirty-three main gods	No God, only "divine consciousness"	Pantheism (God is the universe)	Doesn't exist
Man	Part of god (Brahman, the main god)	Good, part of god, though god doesn't really exist	Good, even divine, part of God	The ultimate authority for all things
Scripture	The Vedas	Four noble truths and the eight-fold path	No one authoritative book	None
Jesus Christ	Ignored or distorted	An avatar, shaman, mystic	Didn't exist or if he did was only a man	Just a man
Life's purpose	To work out bad karma through knowledge, devotion or good deeds	There is no real "truth," but you should empty yourself	To gain power, self-realization, godhood	Nope, or if there is a purpose, it is to usher in utopia
Heaven	Nirvana, where you are <i>mukti</i> : free from all desires	Emptiness, the end of consciousness, thought ceases	None; in the mind; here on Earth	There isn't one, or maybe we can turn Earth into "heaven"
Hell	Here on Earth, being trapped in reincarnations	No such thing as sin, so no need for punishment	None; or ignorance; or for evil people	No such thing