

# World Religions

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In his book, *A Guide to the World's Religions*, David G. Bradley surveyed eleven religions including Christianity. They are Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Islam, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto. Today someone says, "I believe that if you just live a good moral life and love God that you'll go to heaven." Worship, godly living beyond "good morals," and service to God and man may be skirted under this view without the adherent even realizing that his religion is more akin to Buddhism than it is to Christianity. For example, the Shangha, the monastic order of Buddhists, "demands abstinence from killing, stealing, sexual immorality, lying, and the use of intoxicants and narcotics" (p. 114).

Jesus Christ is not *a way* to heaven; he is *the way* (John 14:6). Christianity clearly is superior to the world religions. One example is Confucius' maxim, "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others" (Lun Y 15:23) approaches life from the standpoint of being victimized while Jesus' teaching, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matt. 7:12) places the emphasis upon taking positive control of one's life.

Unique to the world's religions is Jesus Christ the Savior of the world "who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6-7). John R. Mott brings into focus the superior difference between Jesus and the impostors in the following comments: "What is the best word Confucius has for the person who is sinking? 'Profit by your experience.' What is the most hopeful message which Buddha has for the person who is sinking? 'Struggle.' What is the most encouraging teaching of Hinduism for the sinking person? 'You may have another opportunity in the next incarnation.' What does Mohammed say? 'Whether you sink or whether you survive, it is the will of God.' And, what does Jesus Christ say? 'Take my hand!'"

Christianity is designed for the whole world for all time. After his death, burial, and resurrection, just prior to his ascension back to the Father, Jesus commissioned his disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all

things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:19-20). When Jesus sent his disciples to “all nations,” he indicated that Christianity was for the benefit of the whole world. When Jesus promised his presence with his disciples “alway, even unto the end of the world,” he indicated that Christianity was for all time.

Examining the state of the founders of the world religions by comparison may further emphasize the superiority of Christianity over the world religions. Where is Buddha? In his tomb. Where is Confucius? In his tomb. Where is Mohammed? In his tomb. However, where is Christ? In his glory at his Father’s right hand! The apostle Paul wrote of him, “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph. 1:18-23).