

Comparative Religions

MIS - 340

Commentary Section

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1Jn.4:1).

International College of Bible Theology

ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

Knowing in your heart that you are born-again, and followed by a statement of faith are the two prerequisites to studying and getting the most out of your ICBT materials. We at ICBT have developed this material to educate each Believer in the principles of God. Our goal is to provide each Believer with an avenue to enrich their personal lives and bring them closer to God.

Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? If you have not accepted Him as such, you must be aware of what Romans 3:23 tells you.

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:

How do you go about it? **You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.**

I John 5:13 gives an example in which to base your faith.

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

What if you are just not sure? **Romans 10:9-10 gives you the Scriptural mandate for becoming born-again.**

⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Take some time to consider this very carefully. Ask Jesus to come into your heart so that you will know the power of His Salvation and make your statement of faith today.

Once you become born-again, it is your responsibility to renew your mind with the Word of God. Romans 12:1-2 tells us that transformation of the mind can only take place in this temporal world by the Word of God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The Apostle Paul, giving instructions to his “son” Timothy states in *2 Timothy 2:15*:

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

What happens if we do these things? Ephesians 4:12-13 gives us the answer to this question.

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

By studying the Word of God, you will be equipped for service in the Kingdom of God and you will also be ready to take the position in the Body of Christ to which God has appointed you. You will be able to walk in unity with other Believers and you will be a vessel of honor to God that can rightly divide the word of truth.

If you are not saved and you do not know what to say, consider this simple prayer.

Lord, I know that I have need of a savior. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and the God raised Him from the dead three days later. I ask to be forgiven and for Jesus to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. I believe now by faith that God has heard my prayer and I am born- again.

If you have prayed this prayer, you must accept by faith that your sins have been forgiven. It is important that you tell someone of your decision to accept the Lord. Also, it is our recommendation that you should attach yourself to a local church and undergo water baptism.

For those who have prayed this prayer with sincerity of heart, we welcome to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. May the blessings of God overtake you.

May God grant you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in all of His ways.

ICBT Directors and Staff

THE VISION

As we have been commissioned by the prophet of God, we now set our hand to write the vision of International College of Bible Theology, so that: **"He that runs may read it, the vision having been clearly written and made plain" (Habakkuk 2:2).**

- 1) **UNITY** - To build up the Body of Christ by networking with all churches, as well as with local and international ministries. This networking is to provide experienced leadership ministries to the small, local Church, to encourage unity and fellowship among pastors, church leaders and para-church groups, through active service.
- 2) **GOSPEL** - To go with the lifeline of the Gospel, wherein we desire to educate with love, integrity, and without compromise.
- 3) **ONE CROSS FOR ALL** - To cross cultural, racial, and denominational lines for unity, fellowship, networking, and progress. To have an open door through I.C.B.T to all, of like faith, who desire to join with us in a common goal for the highest good. To proclaim one cross for all cultures, races, denominations, and peoples.
- 4) **GO YE** - To go wherever there is a need; to rich or poor, to majorities and minorities, to large and small churches, to free and incarcerated; to go where many fail to go and to meet the needs before us.
- 5) **THE CALLED** - To make opportunities available, to those called to minister, to expand their horizons through new associations and experiences. To aid new and/or younger ministers in fulfilling God's call on their lives.
- 6) **EDUCATION** - God has charged us with propagating the Gospel through education to whosoever will. This education is offered through certificate programs that teach the basics of Christianity and degree programs for those seeking more in-depth levels in Christian teachings.
- 7) **APPLICATION** - To make available to students the opportunity for education, as well as learning practical application, in traditional and non-traditional settings.
- 8) **DREAM A DREAM** - To cause all persons with which we associate to catch a vision, to dream yet another dream, and to keep their eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of their faith.
- 9) **THE CALL** - To encourage each person (all persons) to move out of his/her (their) comfort zone, to be all he/she (they) can be for Christ and to fulfill the call upon their life (lives); to encourage each one (them) to pursue his/her (their) purpose, to live up to his/her (their) potential, and to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

For Your Consideration

Many times when we read material or study in an area, it seems that the subject matter does not apply to us. This can be because we do not fit the particular age group, gender, or situation that is being talked about. However, there is good reason to learn from any materials that we study; especially the Bible and Bible-based study courses, such as you are embarking on now.

Paul wrote to us in First Corinthians, chapter ten (10) and verse eleven (11), "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." What Paul is saying here is that God had a purpose in everything He had the writers record for us. Everything that is written down will apply to us in some way or another, whether as a warning, as material for future ministry to someone who needs it, or simply to help us avoid a pitfall that the enemy places in front of us.

The same is true in the Bible courses of International College of Bible Theology. However, there is a possibility that some might think that something does not apply to them, because of the way the materials are written, when we use words that appear to refer to a particular gender. At times the material does apply to gender, as when it is talking about marriage relationships, or possibly the rearing of children. However, there is one area that does not refer to gender, though it may appear so.

In the courses, as well as the Bible, there are areas where the word "he" is used extensively. This is not necessarily designed to refer to gender. God is certainly no respecter of persons, and neither are we. The King James Bible especially, has a myriad of references that use the word "he" which are in no way gender significant. For instance, the Scripture that says, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: The soul that sinneth, it shall die" Ezldel18:4. We all know that women have souls, the same as men. However, the use of the words "father" and "son" here would seem to imply that women are left out. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Also, there is the use of "he" and "she" in terms of natural things. For instance, the Church is continually referred to as "she" in the Scriptures. "She" is pictured as the Bride of Christ. Isaiah 61: 10 speaks of the Bride who has adorned herself with her jewels. Of course, this does not preclude the male gender from being a part of the Church and those who are delivered from the destruction of the end times, the Great Tribulation (Re.21:2).

Ships are referred to as "she," airplanes as "she," yet pastors and elders as "he." Does this mean that women cannot be pastors or elders? No. It simply means that for ease of reference, there has been a gender applied to some words.

No one should feel left out or slighted because of this nuance in the English language. You will find that both genders are not referenced every time in the course materials you are studying, and will study through International College of Bible Theology. It is double referenced in some places, and in some it is not. It is by no means meant to leave out some precious souls, just because we did not double reference every time a gender was referred to.

International College
of
Bible Theology

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth"
II Timothy 2:15*

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Comparative Religions

112 pages of Commentary

11 Homework assignments

5 Quiz assignments

1 Midterm Exam

1 Final Exam

28 pages of Answer Keys for school sites only (Answer keys are not included in the student's copy of material).

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the Commentary.

Do Homework I, which covers pages 14-22 in the Commentary.

Do Homework II, which covers pages 22-28 in the Commentary

Do Quiz 1, which covers Homework I-II.

Do Homework III, which covers pages 28-38 in the Commentary.

Do Homework IV, which covers pages 38-46 in the Commentary.

Do Quiz 2, which covers Homework III-IV.

Take Mid Term Exam, which covers Homework I - IV.

Do Homework V, which covers pages 46-52 in the Commentary

Do Homework VI, which covers pages 52-58 in the Commentary.

Do Quiz 3, which covers Homework V-VI.

Do Homework VII, which covers pages 58-73 in the Commentary.

Do Homework VIII, which covers pages 73-83 in the Commentary.

Do Quiz 4, which covers Homework VII-VIII.

Do Homework IX, which covers pages 83-91 in the Commentary.

Do Homework X, which covers pages 91-102 in the Commentary.

Do Homework XI, which covers pages 102-112 in the Commentary.

Do Quiz 5, which covers Homework IX-XI.

Take Final Exam, which covers Homework V - XI.

13 weeks in a Trimester: 11 weeks of teaching and 2 weeks of testing. You will need to cover 9.1 pages per teaching session.

18 weeks in a Semester: 16 weeks of teaching and 2 weeks of testing. You will need to cover 6.25 pages per teaching session.

NOTE: The Instructor is encouraged to add his/her personality to the teaching sessions and to add knowledge to the Commentaries. The Instructor had some latitude if they desire to give some outside homework or essays. Before doing so, please check with the administrator of the school.

ALL TERM PAPERS MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE THE FINAL EXAM. NO GRADES WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE COURSE WITHOUT THE COMPLETION OF THE TERM PAPER.

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Introduction

Studying Comparative Religions can often leave the student bewildered. The diverse and sincere beliefs held by each follower could cause the Christian student to question the existence of truth in matters of religion. Many of the world's faiths seem to be a mixture of truth and lie, with one person or principle responsible for the universe, and to whom they pay honor and reverence.

We are to be concerned with what our fellow man believes. Their convictions command their interest, study, and respect. As we study other religions, we, the Christian student, will many times find ourselves being rebuked, instructed, and inspired. This becomes vivid when we look at the fidelity in prayer and fasting found in the followers of Islam, or the quiet, dignified self-discipline of the Buddhist. These disciplines are noble and valid, just as much of the non-Christian teaching undoubtedly is. The Christian student could find himself in trouble if he dares to meddle with the practices of other religions.

How can we, as Christian students, be confident in our faith? If we study Christian history, we find it full of sin, intolerance, frailty and division. The Christian religion, through the centuries, has been filled with a myriad of human error. So what gives us our confident conviction in what we see as the truth? It is belief, faith, and trust in Jesus Christ, as the Messiah. The history of Israel stands behind Him, God's workings with and revelations through Abraham, Moses, and a host of prophets. The Old Testament, through promise, prediction, and pre-figuration, looks toward the One Who was, and did, come. There is no question as to whether Jesus came. His teachings and the impact He made were both in His life and in His death. There is also no doubt that after His death, His disciples on the day of Pentecost, became witnesses whom no trouble or persecution could silence. They turned the world upside down with His truth. This is the same truth that we must hold fast.

A. Why Study Other Religious Beliefs?

There is often a challenge by people of other religious beliefs with arguments of all types that appear valid. Christianity is not compatible with other religions/cults. The argument that Jesus was only a great teacher or the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only way to know the living God should be stressed because of this incompatibility. Christianity is not compatible with cults, non-Christian religions, secular religions or the occult. It is because of attacks upon Christianity by these other religions that the Christians went on the defensive. They had to present the truth to combat the deviations that were presented as true apostolic Christian doctrine. We must learn what these different groups believe and, most importantly, understand why those beliefs are not compatible with Biblical Christianity. The Bible says, "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear..." (1Pe.3:15). We believers in

Christ have a huge responsibility to answer those that speak out against the true faith. We must do this in a manner that shows them that it is possible to disagree with their beliefs, yet love them as Christ loves them. It is the teachings, the lies that we are opposed to, and not the people who follow them.

Most of the more than four billion (4,000,000,000) people living today, who follow one of the world's major false religions are ignorant of the basic tenets of their own religion. Many of them follow it because their parents did, but even those who have made a decision personally to follow it have a shallow and limited understanding of their own faith. This is why the Christian student studies other religions.

B. Religion Defined

Religion can be defined as the attempt to live harmoniously with the power or powers a person believes are controlling his living area or world.

The English word "religion" comes from the Latin word, "*religio*." There is no clear agreement as to the original meaning of the word. It has been said that the root came from "*lig*," which means "to bind." Therefore, religion would signify a binding relationship between man and his god. Some have said that the root is "leg," which means "to take up, gather, count, or observe." The meaning suggests the observation of the signs of divine communication. Still others say both meanings are accurate and have significance.

Secular religions, without a belief in God or the supernatural, and involving no form of worship or liturgy, still are world views which seek to explain the "why" of existence. Man asks this question above all others. Because they have their own "creeds," "scriptures," "clergy," and closely knit groups, they may accurately be labeled religions.

C. Religion is in All Cultures

In all history and every civilization man has, in some form, worshiped or given homage to any number of "deities" thought to be more powerful than himself. Ancient societies that are being uncovered with today's technologies all show signs of some form of religion with its practice.

Religion meets a need in man. Help that is offered through faith gives confidence to him in the outcome of the troubles we face in life. The power and strength that the believer feels, the ability to carry, or at least bear, burdens without complaint, the ability to find solutions to the problems of good and evil, the offer of hope for a better future, and the working plan of salvation are just some of the needs that religion

meets. One man of God said,

"The distinguishing function of religion, in contrast with that of philosophy or ethics, or any of the idealizing or cultural activities, is to give a human being the supreme satisfaction of his life through a vital relationship with what he recognizes as the superhuman Power, or Powers, in the world."

Religion means different things to different people. The rituals and practices that are performed are as varied as the religions are themselves. All religions/faiths are not the same. They are not just separate, individual pathways leading to the same god/God. Though there are similar teachings occurring in more than one religion, there are differences between them with as much contrast as black have with white.

D. Orthodox Beliefs of Christianity

There are three (3) branches of Christianity. They are Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant. There is a general agreement among them as to many essentials of the faith, but there are also rather divergent doctrinal disagreements. In the matter of final authority, there is agreement among these branches of Christianity regarding the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. However, there is also a divergent opinion in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox branches of the Church, which go beyond the Protestant Bible, as to their source of authority; thereby leaving them open to question.

The Roman Catholic Church that has been in existence for nearly nineteen (19) centuries accepts the sixty six (66) books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God. However, they also accept the Apocrypha as being inspired of God. Then, with another divergence, they consider church tradition as being as authoritative as the Scriptures.

The Eastern Orthodox Church accepts the sixty six (66) books of the Old and New Testaments as God's inspired revelation. However, though they do not use the Apocrypha, they do add their church tradition and see it as just as authoritative as the Scriptures.

The Protestant Church, just over five (5) centuries old, holds that Scripture alone is the final authority when it comes to matters of faith and practice. The Scriptures testify that they are complete in what is revealed and that they are the standard and final authority on all matters of doctrine, faith, and practice. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training and righteousness" (2Ti.3:16 NASB).

1. In the Scriptures we find the doctrine of God.

This doctrine holds that there are three (3) persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that these three (3) are one (1) God, being the same in substance, and equal in power and glory.

2. In the Scriptures we find the Person of Jesus Christ.

He is central to the Christian faith. His identity, as founder of the faith, Jesus Christ, is of monumental importance to have a proper view of Who He is.

3. Jesus was one hundred percent (100%) human.

Although supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, Jesus Christ, was also fully man. We can see this from several things the Scriptures tell us.

- a. He grew intellectually and physically (Lk.2:52).
- b. He desired and needed food (Mt.4:2).
- c. He became tired (Jn.4:6).
- d. He needed sleep (Mt.8:24).
- e. He cried (Jn.11:35).
- f. He died (Jn.19:33).

4. Jesus was one hundred percent (100%) God

Jesus of Nazareth was a man. He was God in human flesh. The Scriptures clearly teach that He was Immanuel, God with us, a man. They likewise make it clear that He was God.

5. Jesus made Divine claims about Himself.

There are many references by Jesus and His disciples as to whom He was. John 1:1, John 14:9, John 5:18, Titus 2:13, and John 13:19 are just a few of the references that clearly point out the Divinity of Christ.

6. Jesus did divine works while here on earth.

The list of works of Jesus, according to John (Jn.21:25), were of a staggering nature. Some of the works attributed to Christ as well as to God are listed below.

- a. Christ created all things (Jn.1:3; Co.1:6; He.1:10).
- b. Christ upholds all things (Co.1:17; He.1:3).
- c. Christ directs and guides the course of history (1Co.10:1-11).
- d. Christ forgives sin (Mk.2:5-12; Co.3:13).
- e. Christ bestows eternal life (Jn.10:28; 1Jn.5:10).
- f. Christ will raise the dead at the resurrection (Jn.11:25; Jn.5:21, 28, 29).
- g. Christ will be the judge of all men in a final judgment (Jn.5:22, 27; Mt.25:31-46; 2Co.5:10).

7. Jesus possessed Divine attributes.

- a. We can see these attributes by demonstration.
 - 1) Jesus exercised authority over nature (Mk.4:35-41).
 - 2) Jesus knew what was happening when He was far away from the scene (Jn.1:47-50).
 - 3) Jesus knew the thoughts of men (Lk.6:8).
 - 4) Jesus had authority over life and death (Lk.7:11-17).
- b. We can see these attributes by association.

Christ demonstrated the ability to do the impossible things that only God could do. These attributes were attributed to God and were also attributed to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, therefore, possesses the metaphysical attributes of God. These attributes could be called the essence of God. Listed below are some of these attributes.

1) Christ was/is self-existent.

Christ is not dependent on anyone or anything for His existence. All other life is dependent on Him (Jn.1:4; Jn.14:6).

2) Christ was/is eternal.

As this attribute is used of God, it means to be without beginning or end (1Jn.5:11-20).

3) Christ was/is all knowing.

This attribute, also known as omniscience, is the quality of possessing all knowledge. This is knowledge of what will happen, the same as what did happen. Biblical evidence for omniscience that is attributed to Christ is found in three (3) areas.

- a) It is shown in the opinion of the disciples (Jn.16:30; Jn.21:17).
- b) It is shown in the testimony of Scripture (Jn.6:64; Jn.2:23-25).
- c) There are examples shown from Scripture (Lk.5:22; Jn.4:16-19; Jn.21:6; Mt.17:24-27).

4) Christ was/is all powerful.

God cannot do everything, for there are some things that God will not do, because they are forbidden by His Divine nature. In other words, the only thing God cannot do is sin. This attribute is also known as omnipotence (Mk.10:27; Jn.5:19).

5) Christ was/is present everywhere.

This is known as omnipresence. God is everywhere, at all times; there is not any place where He is not present (Mt.28:20).

8. God has moral attributes.

Christ possesses the moral attributes of God. These are attributes describing the character of God. God's attributes are qualities that are all true of God and do not exist in isolation. One of these attributes does not exclude any other attribute. The character of God is affected by those qualities which are true of His essence. There are four (4) of these attributes.

a. He is holy.

This means God cannot sin, and is pure. He is unspoiled by evil or sin, either by act or nature. Christ also possesses this attribute (Lk.1:35).

b. God is truth.

Truth is when our actions are consistent with our words and having those words and actions match with the real world (Jn.14:6).

c. God is love.

Unconditional love, in its nature, is an attribute of God (Jn.3:16).

d. God is righteous.

He is a righteous or just God. Righteousness means a standard. God's standard of love, justice, and holiness is what He expects in our daily lives. Only God's righteous standard is acceptable to Him. Christ was our perfect substitute, and was accepted in our place as our righteousness (Ro.5:9).

9. Jesus received worship as God.

Jesus allowed men to worship Himself, something that is reserved for God alone (De.6:13; Mt.4:10; Mt.2:2,11; Mt.28:9; Mt.28:17; Jn.9:38).

10. In the Scriptures we find the doctrine of the Church.

The true Church is made up of those individuals who have placed their faith and trust in Christ as their Savior. It is not just attending church or having one's name on a membership list. This does not make a person a member of Christ's true Church. It requires the transforming work of the Holy Spirit,

bringing change in the heart of the repentant sinner that qualifies a person for membership in the true Body of Christ.

11. In the Scriptures we find the atonement.

The Deity of Christ, sinless and perfect, was satisfactory to God as a just substitute and punishment for the sins of the world.

12. In the Scriptures we find the doctrine of salvation.

The doctrine of salvation is connected with the death of Christ, as atonement, on the cross. Christ's death satisfied God's requirement of punishment of sin. He was the sacrifice for the world's sins. The Bible teaches that salvation is by grace. It is not earned, but is a free gift of God to all those who believe in Christ. Receiving Christ by faith causes a person's sins to be forgiven and they become children of God, a new creation in Christ Jesus (Ep.2:8-9; Ti.3:5; Jn.1:12; Ep.1:7; 2Co.5:17). Nothing or no one can add anything to the completed atoning work of Christ. It is simply received by faith, and by faith alone.

13. In the Scriptures we find the doctrine of man.

God created us male and female, in His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. He gave us dominion over the creatures of the earth (Ge.1:26).

14. In the Scriptures we find the Deity of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is personal and is God, the third (3rd) Person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit displays attributes as God.

- a. The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ep.4:30).
- b. The Holy Spirit can be resisted (Ac.7:51).
- c. The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Ac.5:3).
- d. The Holy Spirit can speak (Ac.21:11).
- e. The Holy Spirit can think (Ac.15:28).
- f. The Holy Spirit can teach (Lk.12:12).

Thus, we see that the Holy Spirit is personal. He is spoken of as a Divine person, having the attributes of God. The Holy Spirit is all powerful (Lk.1:35-37), eternal (He.9:14), and all knowing (1Co.2:10-11). The Scripture teaches that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God (Ac.5:3-4).

The Holy Spirit also was/is involved in Divine works, including creation (Ge.1:2; Job 33:4), the new birth (Jn.3:5), the resurrection of Christ (Ro.8:11), and the inspiration of the Bible (2Pe.1:20-21). To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is the only listed unforgivable sin (Mt.12:31-32). Thus, we conclude that the Holy Spirit is God, the third (3rd) person of the Holy Trinity.

E. Conclusion

The teachings from the Scriptures on the person of Jesus Christ are very clear. He was fully God and at the same time fully man. To deviate from this position is heretical. The various religions of the world attempt to make Jesus something less than God, but they cannot go to the Bible for proof.

Bible believing Christians knows that God is personal, eternal and triune. The cults all deny one (1) or more of these essential Bible doctrines.

PART I - SECULAR RELIGIONS

I. ATHEISM, AGNOSTICISM AND SKEPTICISM

Religion has been defined as "whatever a man is deeply concerned about spiritually." Even the atheist attempts to make sense of and explain the reality around him. There are those who believe that some "higher power" form of god brought this world into existence. However, the atheist, agnostic, and skeptic give an alternative, naturalistic explanation for this world.

The word "atheism" comes from the Greek prefix "a," meaning "no" or "non," and the noun "*theos*" which means "god" or "God." An atheist believes that there exists positive evidence that there is no God. All of existence can be explained naturally rather than supernaturally, in the atheist's mind. Atheists are convinced that all religious belief, evidence and faith are false.

There are two (2) basic kinds of atheists. First is those who are sincerely convinced that God, or gods, does not exist. The second kind is those who assert that there is no place for God, or gods, in this world. The first kind of atheist is usually considered moral and upright. But this is not so with the second, for they are seen as anarchists, without law, and a threat

Homework Section

MIS – 340 Comparative Religions
4th Revision, January 2007
International College of Bible Theology

STUDENTS

STUDENTS: If you are not born-again, please refer to the Salvation message at the beginning of your Course Commentary.

STUDENTS: Be sure to read the commentary thoroughly at least twice.

Please write your name on each homework sheet, each quiz, each exam, and on any other work that you submit.

Be sure to check grammar, spelling and sentence structure on all work you submit. Grading is based on homework, quizzes, exams, grammar, spelling, attendance, participation, etc.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READ: {The Bible as pertaining to the course and look up the
{Scriptures referred to in the commentary.
{Commentary and text books if required for the course.

COMPLETE: {Homework, which can be done open note: Answers to homework
{questions are found in the course commentary and/or Bible.
{Quizzes and exams are to be done by closed notes.
{Essay/term paper, if applicable, according to the
{requirements of the study level of the student.

Homework I, Intro

Name _____

1. The study of comparative religion can often leave the student with a sense of bewilderment.

True False

2. Most of the world's faiths seem to be a mixture of good and bad with many persons or principles responsible for the universe.

True False

3. Christianity is compatible with cults.

True False

4. Most of the people living in the world today are very aware of the basic beliefs of their own religion.

True False

5. Religion signifies the binding relationship between man and God.

True False

6. Religion:

- A. Is universal
- B. Meets a need in all peoples.
- C. Means different things to different people.
- D. All of the above

7. There are three branches of Christendom.

True False

8. The doctrine of God states there are two persons in the Godhead.

True False

9. Central to the Christian faith is the identity of its founder Jesus Christ and it is of monumental importance to have a proper view of who he is.

True False

10. Jesus did not possess divine attributes.

True False

11. Christ was dependent upon the Father for existence.

True False

Matching:

___ 12. Omniscience

___ 13. Omnipotence

___ 14. Omnipresent

A. God is everywhere

B. God is all powerful

C. God has all knowledge

14. Truth does not require our actions to match our words.

True False

15. The true Church is those who have placed their faith in Christ as Savior.

True False

16. We believe that salvation is by grace, a free gift from God to all those who believe in Jesus Christ.

True False

17. The Holy Spirit is personal and is God, not the third person of the Holy Trinity.

True False

18. To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin.

True False

Homework II, Part I

Name _____

1. Religion is sometimes defined as whatever a man is deeply _____.

2. To the atheist, all of existence can be explained naturally rather than supernaturally.
True False

3. An agnostic is one who believes there is evidence to prove there is a God.
True False

4. Marxism is a world view, a way of looking at and explaining the world.
True False

5. George Hegel developed a system to explain change, called "dialectics."
True False

6. Marx went further than Feuerbach, calling for a revolution in man to the degree that he no longer needed religion.
True False

7. Marxism is thoroughly religious.
True False

8. Marx rejected Hegel's total materialism.
True False

9. Secular Humanism does not challenge Christian philosophies.
True False

10. Secular humanism is a collection of ideas, which bind together into a _____ system.

11. The "Humanist Manifesto I" had 12 major themes.
True False

12. Adolph Hitler and World War II had nothing to do with the optimism of the 1933 "Manifesto."
True False

13. Existentialism is not a philosophy but a label for several widely different revolts against traditional philosophy.
True False

14. There is no single existentialist position.
True False

Homework III, Part II, Chp. I-III

Name _____

1. Hinduism is one of the oldest and most complex religious Systems.

True False

2. Hinduism is not one religion but rather a family of religions.

True False

3. Hinduism does not tolerate any other religion.

True False

4. Hindu scriptures are divided into two classes - *sruti*, or "what is heard" and *smriti*, "what is _____."

5. Veda, literally meaning wisdom or knowledge is the term applied to the oldest of the Hindu _____.

6. The Ramayana is 1 of 3 epic tales of India.

True False

7. Moksha, also known as *mukti*, is the Hindu term used for the liberation of the soul from the wheel of fortune.

True False

8. The word karma literally means action and has reference to a person's actions and consequences thereof.

True False

9. The _____ system is a unique feature of the Hindu religion.

Match the following:

___ 10. Brahman

___ 11. Manu

___ 12. Head

___ 13. Hands

___ 14. Thighs

___ 15. Feet

A. Vaisyas/Craftsmen

B. Kshatriyas/Warriors

C. Created Manu, the first man

D. Sudras/servants

E. Four types of people

F. Brahmins/most holy

16. Salvation for the Hindu can be achieved in one of four ways.

True False

17. Hinduism's "supreme being" is a personal Brahman.

True False

18. Hinduism says that salvation can be obtained only 1 way, just as Christianity.

True False

19. In Jainism the path to salvation is one of rigid _____.

20. Jainism is a religion of _____.

21. Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism have much in common.

True False

22. The founder of Buddhism was:

Match the following:

___ 23. First Noble Truth

___ 24. Second Noble Truth

___ 25. Third Noble Truth

___ 26. Fourth Noble Truth

A. Cause of suffering

B. Existence of suffering

C. Ending of all pain via the eight-fold path

D. Ending of suffering

27. The "eight-fold path" is supposed to end pain for all who achieve it.

True False

28. Right contemplation has to do with the "Four Noble Truths" of Buddhism.

True False

29. Early Buddhism was confined largely to India.

True False

The 5 precepts that all Buddhists should follow are;

30. _____

31. _____

32. _____

33. _____

34. _____

Homework IV, Part II, chp. IV-VIII
Name _____

1. Nichiren Buddhism has experienced growth for 50 years, started by a fisherman.

True False

2. Nichiren was the target of persecution by only the common people.

True False

3. Zen Buddhism has become widely known in the West.

True False

4. Central to the practice of Zen is *zoozen*, the method of sitting in meditation.

True False

5. Zen meditation is done daily at whatever time is convenient.

True False

6. The sudden illumination or enlightenment of Zen is known as *satori*.

True False

7. *Satori* can be repeated and willed into existence.

True False

8. Much is known and verifiable about the life of Confucius.

True False

9. The age in which Confucius lived was filled with peace and harmony.

True False

10. Confucius wrote commentaries, called "Five Classics," on some ancient manuscripts.

True False

11. One of the Five Classics, "Shih Ching," is a history of preceding dynasties.

True False

12. Confucius teachings came to us in 4 books, written by his disciples.

True False

13. A common feature of Chinese religion prevalent at Confucius' time was the veneration of ancestors.

True False

14. Filial piety can be described as devotion and obedience by the younger members of the family to the elders.

True False

15. Loyalty and devotion to the family takes a low priority in Chinese life.

True False

16. Confucianism deals with the ordering of society, but not the moral conduct of those in the society.

True False

17. A cardinal belief of Confucianism is that man is basically evil.

True False

18. Confucius taught an ethical philosophy that became the state religion of China.

True False

19. Taoism teaches that the less government, the better, and rulers lead with action.

True False

20. Tao Te King teaches that mankind's chief aim is to conform his existence to the 'way of the Tao.

True False

21. The positive side of life is called "yang" and the negative side is 'yin."

True False

22. Shinto is the national religion of Korea.

True False

23. Shinto is one of the oldest of all the world's religions.

True False

24. Shinto has a founder, sacred writings and an authoritative set of beliefs.

True False

25. The basic place for worship in Shinto is an altar built into every home.

True False

Homework V, Part II, chp. IX –X

Name _____

1. Zoroaster lived 600 years before the birth of Christ in Babylonia.

True False

2. The sacred scriptures of the Zoroastrians are known as the *Avita*.

True False

3. According to Zoroaster, there is one true deity to be worshipped and his name is Ahura-Mazda (wise lord).

True False

4. Ahura-Mazda has always been the more powerful of the two spirits.

True False

5. Christianity traces its roots to historic Judaism.

True False

6. The land of Israel has always remained the Promised Land.

True False

7. The cycle of Jewish holy days is called the round table.

True False

Matching the following:

___ 8. Sabbath

___ 9. Passover

___ 10. Shavuot

___ 11. Rosh Hashanah

___ 12. Yom Kippur

___ 13. Sukkoth

___ 14. Hanukkah

A. Tabernacle or Booths

B. Day of Atonement

C. Head of the year

D. Holy day of rest

E. Miracle of oil

F. Festival of spring

G. Feast of Weeks

15. Modern Judaism can be divided into 3 groups:

16. Orthodox Judaism observes most of the traditional dietary and _____ laws of Judaism.

17. _____ Judaism is sort of a happy medium between Orthodox and Reform Judaism.

18. _____ Judaism is the liberal wing of Judaism.

19. Judaism holds no concept of _____ sin.

20. _____ for sin is achieved by works of righteousness.

Homework VI, Part II, chp. XI

Name _____

1. The Muslim (Moslem) faith is a major driving force in the lives of many of the nations of the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa.

True False

2. The word Islam means 'to rebel, cause change.'

True False

3. Muslim means 'the one who submits.'

True False

4. "Allah" is the one true god of Islam.

True False

5. Sufis are those Muslims known as:

6. Anyone can enter the *Ummah*, the community of faithful Muslims.

True False

7. The teachings of Islam are comprised both of faith (*iman*) and practice or duty (*din*).

True False

8. There are 10 articles of faith which are the main doctrines of Islam.

True False

9. According to Islam, each man or woman has 3 recording angels.

True False

10. Muslims consider the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be part of their sacred books.

True False

11. The last days will be a time of resurrection and judgment in Islam.

True False

12. Ramadan is a holy time for the Muslim and consists of 2 weeks time.

True False

13. The family is very important in the social _____ of Islam.

14. Marriage and the sanctity of the union are highly regarded.

True False

15. The historical foundation for the Koran (*Qur'an*) comes from the _____.

16. Sikhism is an attempt to harmonize 2 of the world's greater religions, _____ and Islam.

17. The Granth Sahib is written in 6 different languages and several dialects making it easy for all to understand.

True False

18. The Sikhs treat their sacred book with much reverence, almost to the point of _____.

19. The Sikh religion teaches that salvation consists in knowing god, or in obtaining god, or being adsorbed into god.

True False

Homework VII, Part III, chp. I-IV

Name _____

1. A cult is a group of people placing their trust, faith and belief around someone's _____ of the Bible.

2. People having emotional difficulties or who are having an identity crisis are particularly vulnerable to cults.

True False

3. Many of the cults today do not believe in and use their leader's sacred book with the Bible being given all authority.

True False

4. Each cult has the same theology concerning Jesus.

True False

5. Cults can be recognized by their denial of the Holy Trinity.

True False

6. Cult doctrines have a firm foundation

True False

7. The leadership of cultic groups consider themselves to be special messengers of God.

True False

8. Cults teach that faith in Christ alone will save you.

True False

9. The one sure mark of a cult is that it denies Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

True False

10. Hare Krishna is _____ in doctrine and believes that every individual must go through a series of successive lives to rid himself of the debt of his actions.

Matching:

___ 11. Krishna

___ 12. Reincarnation

___ 13. Karma

A. Series of successive lives

B. Debt of actions

C. Supreme personality

14. ISKON practices _____, teaching that all gods are one.

15. Jehovah's Witness official name is the _____

16. The theology of Jehovah's Witnesses denies every cardinal belief of historic Christianity.

True False

17. To the Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus is equal to God.

True False

18. Salvation is regarded as a free gift in the Jehovah's Witness belief.

True False

19. The Watchtower publication says that there is no place of everlasting punishment.

True False

20. Mormonism is also known as the:

21. The basis of Mormonism is a vision that Joseph Smith had.

True False

22. The Book of Commandments has undergone numerous changes and constitutes one of the Mormon sacred works and is retitled *Doctrines and Covenants*.

True False

23. The Mormons consider Joseph Smith a martyr for the cause.

True False