

THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION: Understanding & Application

- **What is the GOSPEL?**

1 Cor 15:1-4 ¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

...THE GOSPEL IS NOT OUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY... **IT IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE BIRTH, LIFE, WORK, DEATH, RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

- **WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY**

Christianity begins with JESUS (break it down)

- CHRIST- the anointed one
- IAN - from, related to or like (Christ-likeness)
- ITY - degree of a quality, state or condition (Christ-likeness)

CHRISTIANITY - is a relationship with the true and living God through the person of Jesus Christ (**the anointed one**) by whom we are forgiven of our sins and escape the righteous judgment of God, because of the righteousness of christ.... that has been imputed (**as if our own**) into us as believers (**Christ-likeness**)

Christianity speaks to the CREATION history of mankind. Christianity is not man-made but is a religion given to us by God.

CHRISTIANITY is...*United in thought and *Governed by God

WE ARE A SPIRIT LIVING IN A BODY THAT POSSESSES A SOUL...

John Wick 3- Man spends his whole life trying to get back to where he started.

AS CHRISTIANS WE SPEND OUR WHOLE LIVES TRYING TO GET BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED... IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- **WHAT IS RELIGION?**

1. Man's expression of his acknowledgment of the Divine
2. The different ways that mankind has developed to express his consciousness that there is something other than (higher than) himself in this world
3. Features: History, Concept of Deity, Concept of Mankind, Concept of Salvation, The answer to the problem of the human condition, Concept of Worship, Recording of Scriptures, Basic Geography.

- **WHAT IS THE CHIEF END OF MAN?**

Man's chief end is to glorify God (1) and to enjoy Him forever (2)

(1) 1 Corinthians 10:31; Rom. 11:36, (2) Ps. 73:25-28

- **WHAT IS GOD?**

GOD is a SPIRIT (1) infinite, (2) eternal, (3) and unchangeable, (4) in His being, (5) wisdom (6) power, (7) holiness, (8) justice, goodness, and truth (9).

(1) John 4:24, (2) Job 11:7-9 (3) Ps. 90:2 (4) James 1:17 (5) Exod. 3:14 (6) Ps. 147:5
(7) Rev 4:8 (8) Rev 15:4 (9) Exod. 34:6-7

The VALUES of the Christian Religion

These Eight fundamental values are biblical, societal, practical and personal. Values such as these influence behavior and action. They also have the capacity to inspire and encourage. An initial review of values produced a list of over 100 biblical values but today we are just highlighting eight of them.

- **Grace & Mercy** - withholds the deserved & distributes the underserved
- **Hope** – that God is always present
- **Faith** - the means to real depth in relationships of all kinds
- **Love** – unconditionally
- **Justice** – for all (not 'just-me') in favor of the disadvantaged.
- **Joy** – the source of our strength that is impossible to legislate,
- **Service** – all others centered
- **Peace**– not just the absence of fighting but that passes understanding

***THE VALUE OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION BECOMES MORE EVIDENT WHEN IT IS COMPARED TO THE TEACHING OF OTHER WORLD RELIGIONS.**

The Benefits of the Christian Religion

- 1 – Receive a personal connection with Jesus Christ (John 15:15-17)
- 2 – Receive the Holy Spirit as a help and companion in your life (John 16:13. Rom 8:26)
- 3 – Receive victory over sin ... It doesn't mean that you are without sin, but that temptation is overcome before it can overtake you (1 Cor 10:13)
- 4 – Take on the virtues of Christ and be transformed into His image (Gal 5:22)
- 5 – Happiness in the earth (Jer. 29:11, Matt 6:25-33)
- 6 – Peace and rest – a life without worry (Rom 8:26; Matt. 11:28)
- 7 – Life in eternity as Jesus' bride (Rev. 7:16-17) (John 11: 25-260)

The Great Commission is one of the most significant passages in the Holy Bible. First, it's the last recorded personal instruction given by Jesus to His disciples. Second, it's a special calling from Jesus Christ to all His followers to take specific action while on this earth.

Matthew 28:19–20 contains what has come to be called the Great Commission:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

The Great Commandment is Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," before also paraphrasing a second passage; "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:36–40

"We've got to keep the Great Commandment, as we fulfill the Great Commission."

***It's not works - but - its the work! Kingdom Work! Fueled by Faith, Grace, & Mercy!**

VIDEO CHAT 3-REASONS WHY CHRISTIANITY IS SUPERIOR

1. Superior Revelation of God

- a. Pure Spirit with conscious, will, power, knowledge, moral force and communicative power.
- b. Christianity explains what kind of being God is as well as what he wants from us and for us in the clearest of terms.

THERE IS NO MYSTERY!!

2. Superior Leader

- a. God Himself as the leader in the form of a human being JESUS CHRIST. The leader is always alive and present to direct & encourage His followers in every generation.

- i. Muhammed & Buddha are dead

- ii. OUR LEADER IS ALIVE!!**

3. Superior Solution to the problems of humanity

- a. Identifies the underlying problem-DISOBEDIENCE/SIN
 - i. that causes human suffering, which is separation from God through disobedience, which is sin-which leads to guilt, shame, rebellion, death, judgment, and condemnation
- b. Provides a Solution
 - i. God, Himself takes responsibility for paying off mankind's moral debt through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. God does for humans what humans cannot do or themselves (eliminate guilt, by eliminating the debt) no other religion even deals with the issue.
 - 1. Buddhism-denies that sin exists
 - 2. Hinduism-accept your position and spend the afterlife trying to work yourself into perfection
 - 3. At best other religions offer death as the ultimate. Eastern religions offer a paradise.
 - iii. Christianity actually changes things
 - 1. People don't find salvation based on their ability to practice their religion or observe moral codes as in

the case of every organized religion (based on law...the principle of law says you have to do something)

2. Christianity is faith-based salvation...in other religions-man pulls himself up to God by works, In Christianity God reaches down and brings man up to Himself.

OFFERS, A BETTER HOPE.

- a. Freedom from guilt
- b. Peace of mind
- c. Security-the humanity of Jesus makes us sure
- d. Loving Relationships
- e. Greater Insight
- f. Spiritual Renewal
- g. Personal
- h. Intimate
- i. Historical Data
- j. Eyewitness accounts
- k. A relationship for all eternity