



## Message-based Study

Date: May 29, 2022

Message Series: Tough Questions; Real Answers:  
"Aren't All Religions Basically the Same?"

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### Connection

What is a special food you enjoy making for friends? What, in your opinion, makes this food so good?

### Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

### Content

**Faith matters fall into the category not of "preference" but of "truth."**

1. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." (Saint Augustine). Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. Can you attest to the truth of this verse? What has been your personal experience with faith and religion over your life?

2. "Aren't all religions basically the same?" people contend. Consider that question, looking at the chart below. Where do you see similarities between these world religions?

	ISLAM	HINDU	BUDDHISM	JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY
<b>VIEW OF GOD</b>	One God, Allah	Monist (God in all) Pantheist (God is impersonal, an essence)	Some worship many gods. Some say there is no god.	One God of Abraham, Issac, Jacob	One God, Trinity
<b>MAN'S DESTINY</b>	Join Allah for eternity of pleasure	Become one with supreme being in Nirvanah	Hope for eternal nothingness, everything to be wiped out	Some say nothing after death, some say heaven	Eternity in Heaven (new heaven and new earth)
<b>HOW TO ACHIEVE DESTINY</b>	Believe 5 doctrines, perform 5 activities, good must outweigh bad	Series of reincarnations, reaps in next life punishment and rewards	Release from reincarnation by following 4 truths and 8 paths	Turn to God, live moral life, live as a good Jew	Accept Christ through faith
<b>MEANS</b>	Works, uncertainty	Works, uncertainty	Works, uncertainty	Works, uncertainty	Faith, certainty on merits of Christ

Differences matter! Where are the differences in this chart? (Circle above) In what way do these differences matter?

The question we are asking is, "Can all religions be equally true and valid at the same time?" What does the law of non-contradiction logically demand that we conclude?

3. How do you see the following verses being played out in our culture?

Isaiah 44:20

Romans 1:25

II Timothy 4:4

4. In what way do these verses shed light on the question, "Aren't all religions the same?"

John 14:6

Acts 4:12

4. God's salvation plan for mankind uniquely satisfies His justice (intense opposition to evil) and His grace (passionate love for people). No other religion does this. And this is an offer available to every person. What phrases in the following verses proclaim that salvation through Jesus is offered to everyone?

I Timothy 2:3-4

II Peter 3:9

### **Commitment**

Where are you in your faith journey; have you come to believe that Jesus exclusively has made the way for you to know God? yes no. Whether "yes" or "no", describe where you are in your thinking below:

If you answered the above question "no", what are some remaining questions or issues you need to have addressed? If you answered the above question "yes", write a prayer here for someone you'd love to come to know Jesus.

What would be a next step for you?

I will \_\_\_\_\_.



**Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.**

Spend a few minutes writing a brief 1-2 sentence summary of the gospel so you are ready to **share your story** when opportunity arises, in the midst of a culture which is confused about the truth claims of Christianity.