



Deeply Rooted in Faith:

A STUDY OF WORLD RELIGIONS



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

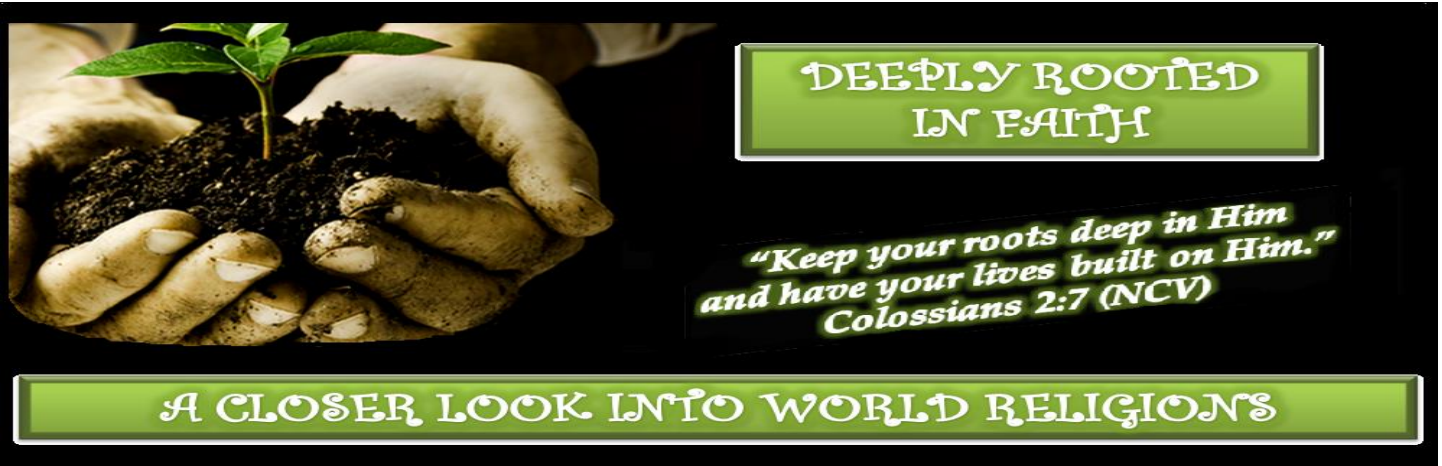
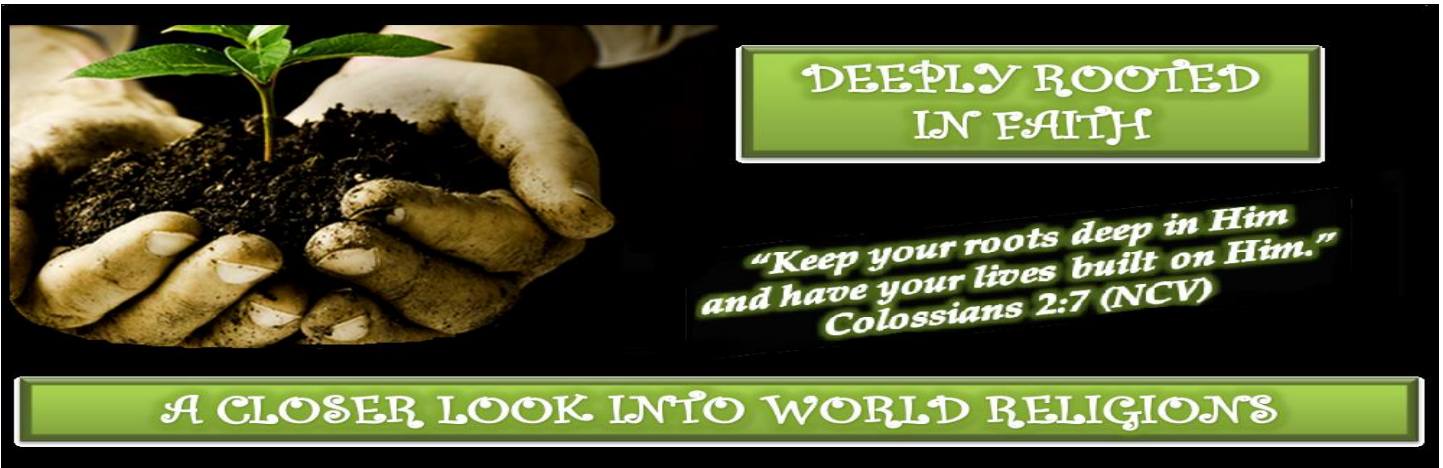


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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Jim Smeal, Dr. Steven Guy, C. Wayne Kilpatrick, H. I. Hester, Dr. Edgar Elliott, Dr. Ray Hendrix, J. Vernon McGee, Roger Eastman, Lewis M. Hopfe, Mark Woodward, James Burton Coffman, Dave Miller, and various other sources.



INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: We often realize that we are in the minority as Christians. We are surrounded by hundreds of different world religions. In fact, it seems that new cult movements are springing up all over the planet. I thought it would serve us well to study some of the major religions of the world. How do we proceed? How do we start? Well, I think we need to question how we got here. How did we come to have so many religions in the world? There are about twelve characteristics of primitive religion that have their origins soon after Creation. Each can be found in the religions we will discuss over the next several weeks. Let's study them

Discussion:

I. REVERENCE

II. RITUAL

III. MYTHS

IV. FETISHES

V. SHAMANS

VI. DIVINATION

VII. PRAYER

VIII. ANIMISM

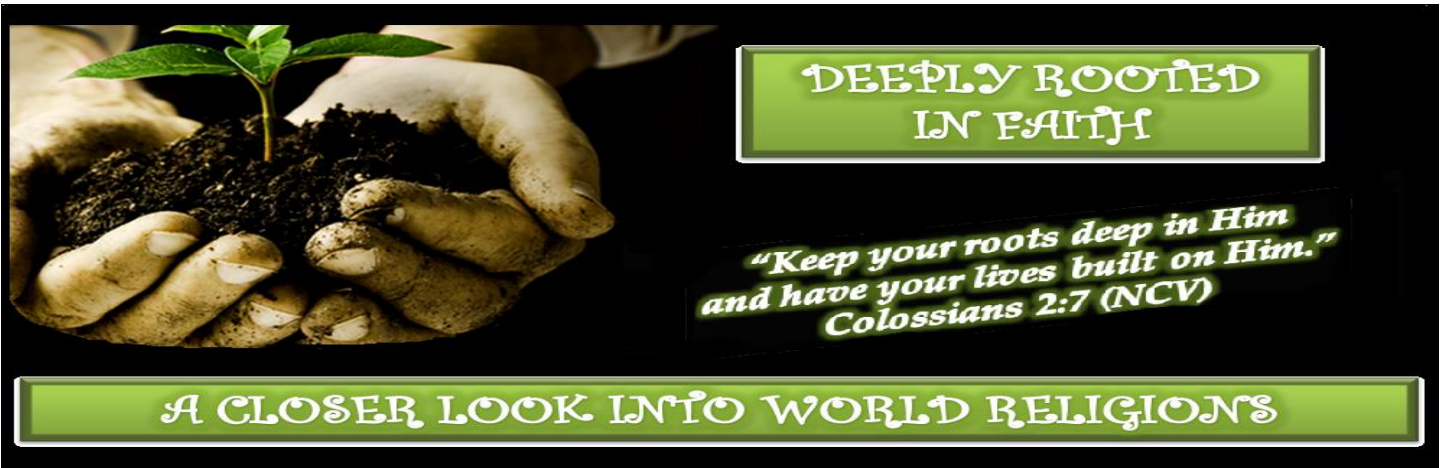
IX. TABOO

X. SACRIFICE

XI. FATALITY

XII. WISDOM

Conclusion: Where do we go from here? The best way to move forward is for us to look at these religions chronologically. We will consider Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shintoism, African religions, Judaism and Islam. We need to learn how to have dialogue with these religious people. When Paul encountered different religions he met the people on common ground (**Acts 17:30**). God has brought all religions to the cross (**John 3:16**). God has made Jesus both "Lord and Christ" (**Acts 2:36**). Therefore, we are commanded to "repent and be baptized" for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38**). It is at that point, after being buried in baptism and dying to the life of sin, that we are given a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**). Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Hinduism

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Scholars and anthropologists believe that Hinduism precedes Judaism and has its roots in the Patriarchal age. Hinduism is credited for the root system of many Indian religions. Our goal is to get a basic understanding of this world religion and then see where we can find common ground to reach them with the good news of the gospel. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of Early Hinduism

- A. The early roots of Hinduism (2,000 BC)
- B. The sects of Hinduism (Saivism, Shaktism, Vaishnavism, Smartism)
- C. The sacred writings of Hinduism (The Veda's = Rig, Sama, Yajur, Atharva)
- D. The gods of Hinduism (Brahma, Sheva, and Vishnu = Brahman)
- E. The historic development of Hinduism (Aryan influence)

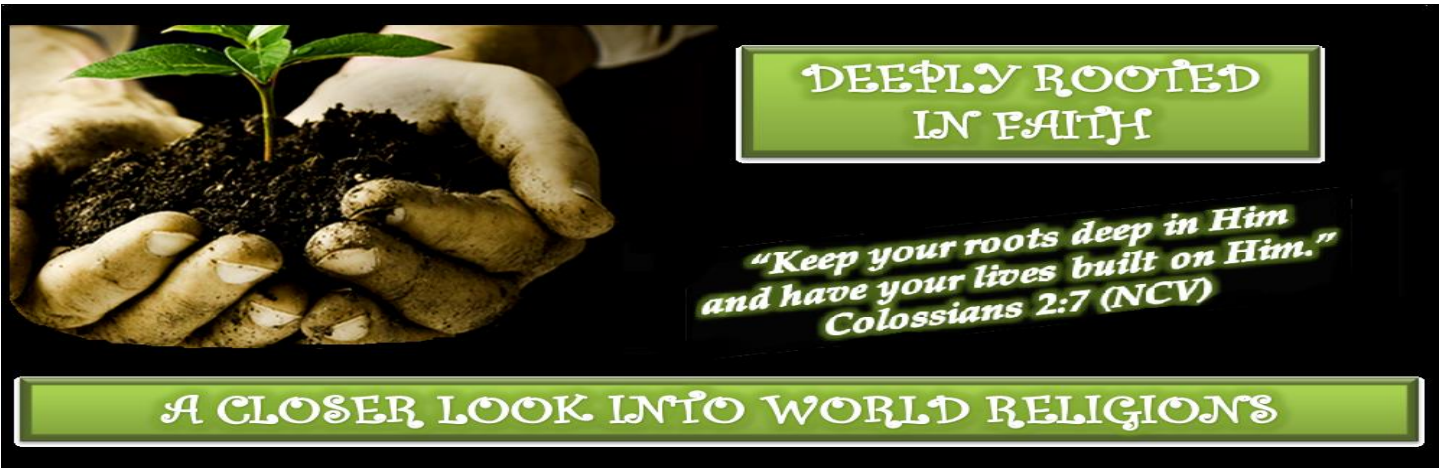
II. Teachings of Hinduism

- A. The caste system (Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vashya, Shudra)
- B. The concept of reincarnation (Samsara = Circle of Life)
- C. The concept of karma ("Good begets good, and bad begets bad")
- D. The concept of nirvana (Karma Yoga, Raja Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Jnana Yoga)
- E. The stages of life (Student, Householder, Nomad, Holy Man)

III. Christianity & Hinduism

- A. Human Rights (**Matthew 7:12**)
- B. Fear of Islam (**Matthew 5:38-48**)
- C. Relationships (**John 3:16**)
- D. Outreach (**John 4:39-42, Acts 8:1-25**)
- E. Evangelism (**Acts 8:26-40, Acts 17:32-34**)

Conclusion: God is not the author of confusion (**I Corinthians 14:33**). God hopes to bring all religions to the cross! Jesus died for all men (**John 3:16**) and He is both "Lord and Christ" (**Acts 2:36**). We need to "repent and be baptized" for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38**). We can be given a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**). Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Many of us are fascinated by Indian religions. We have considered Hinduism, and now we will look at Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. We need to remember that Hinduism gave rise to these other Indian religions and is the root of the religious tree. Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of Buddhism

- A. The early roots of Buddhism (mid-late 400's BC)
- B. The life of Gautama Siddhartha (560-480 BC)
- C. The sects of Buddhism (Theravada, Mahayana, Zen)
- D. The teachings of Buddhism (Darma, Sangha, 4 Noble Truths)

II. Backgrounds of Jainism

- A. The early roots of Jainism (Mahavira, between 9th to 6th century)
- B. The sects of Jainism (Digambara, Svetambara)
- C. The teachings of Jainism (**Ahimsa**, Satya, Asteya, Brahmacharya, Aparigraha)

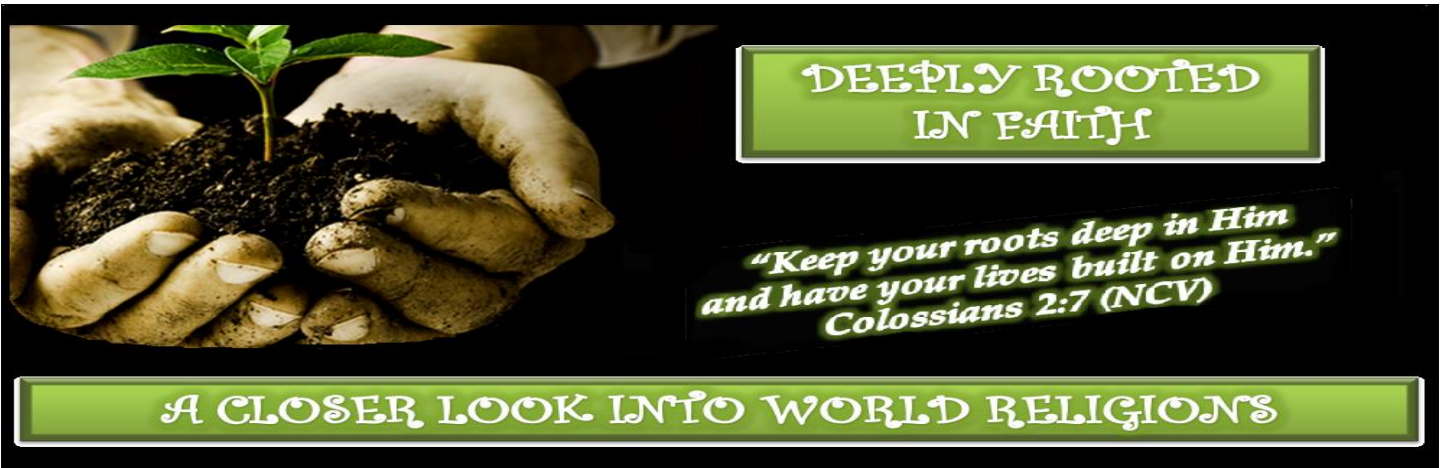
III. Backgrounds of Sikhism

- A. The early roots of Sikhism (15th century)
- B. The sects of Sikhism (Udasis, Sahajdharis, Keshadharis, Nirankaris)
- C. The teachings of Sikhism (The teaching of Nanak)

IV. Christianity & The Indian Religions

- A. The wisdom of the people.
John 16:13, John 8:32, II Timothy 2:15
- B. The value of the soul.
John 3:16, Mark 8:36, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 22:37, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16
- C. The pursuit of suffering.
Psalms 62, II Peter 3:9, Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:1-2, II Timothy 3:12
- D. The need for good works.
John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:5, 8, II Timothy 1:9
- E. The obligation to help the needy.
James 1:37, Proverbs 31:20, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:32-37, Acts 6:1-7

Conclusion: Be careful in rendering judgment/criticism towards other people. God is the Creator of all. We need to find common ground and dwell on things of good report (**Philippians 4:8**). Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Confucianism and Taoism

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Remember that there are twelve common characteristics in all primitive religions. We have studied the Indian religions. Now we are going to consider the Eastern Asian religions. We need to broaden our understanding of these different religions. Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of Confucianism

- A. The early roots of Confucianism (ancestor worship, spiritual realm, etc.)
- B. The life of Confucius (550-479 BC)
- C. The teachings of Confucianism (man, propriety, education, government)
- D. The Life of Lao Tzu (6th century BC)

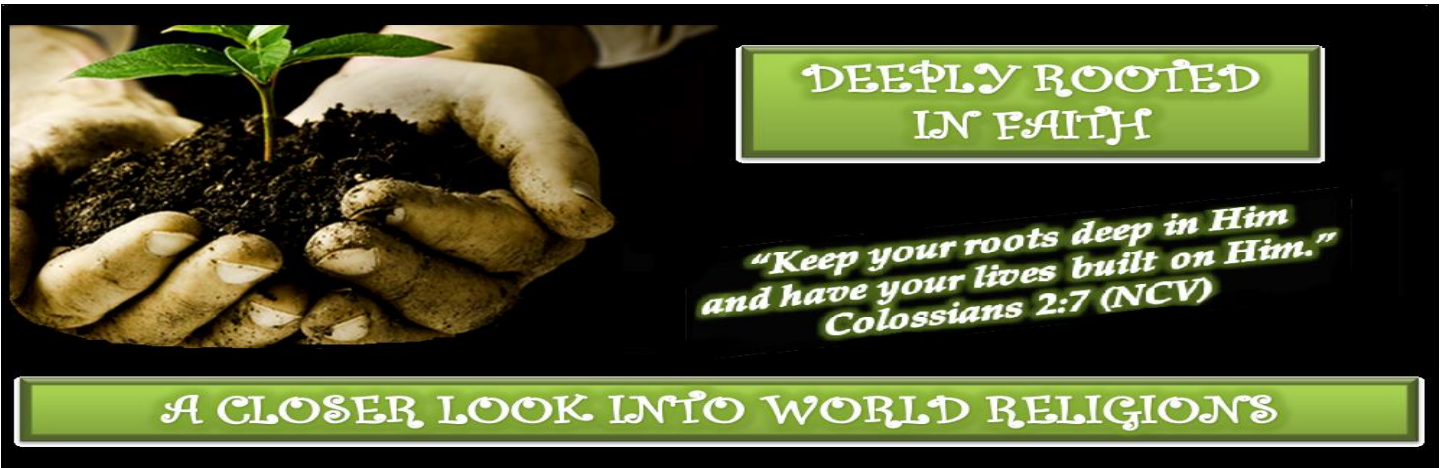
II. Backgrounds of Taoism

- A. The early roots of Taoism (pronounced Daoism)
- B. The early sects of Taoism (philosophical, religious, folk)
- C. The teachings of Taoism
 - (1) *The basic unity or harmony behind the universe is indefinable.*
 - (2) *Life is the greatest of all possibilities and possessions.*
 - (3) *Life should be lived simply.*
 - (4) *Pomp and glory are to be despised.*
 - (5) *Harmony of all things.*

III. Christianity & The Asian Religions

- A. The difficulties of Marxism
Matthew 2:1-12, Philippians 4:7, John 8:36
- B. The need for morality
Acts 8, John 14:6, Proverbs 14:12, 16:25, Matthew 7:12
- C. The joy of contentment
Philippians 4:10-13, I Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 6:25-34
- D. A profound respect for the elderly
I Timothy 5:1-20, James 1:27, Acts 6:1-7, Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31
- E. The desire for harmony
Psalms 34:14, Colossians 3:15, Hebrews 12:14, I Corinthians 1:10

Conclusion: We are still growing in our faith! People need ministry and servanthood (**Acts 1:1**). Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Shintoism, Legalism, and Zoroastrianism

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: For as long as there have been communities and cultures there have been religious people (monotheistic and polytheistic). In our lesson today we will move into Japan and Persia to see some more religions that are very prominent. Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of Shintoism

- A. The early roots of Shintoism (3rd century BC)
- B. The teachings of Shintoism (Nihongi and Kojika)
- C. The sects of Shintoism (Sectarian Shinto and State Shinto Religion).

II. Backgrounds of Legalism

- A. The early roots of Legalism (7th century BC)
- B. The teachings of Legalism (Shang Yang's writings)
- C. The conflicts of Legalism
- D. The communist roots in Legalism
- E. The assimilation of beliefs

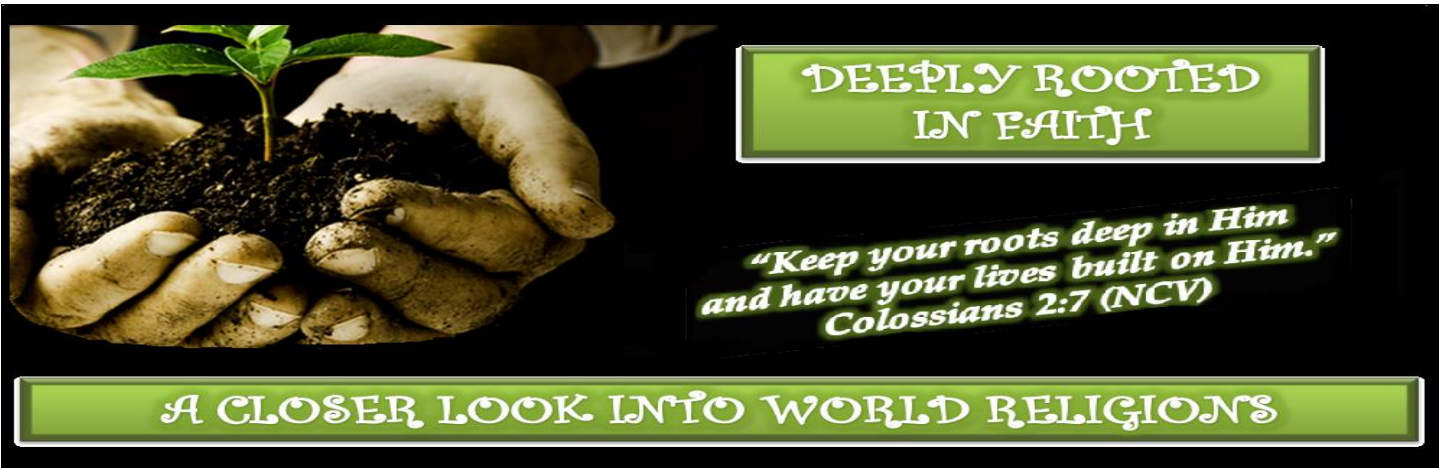
III. Backgrounds of Zoroastrianism

- A. The early roots of Zoroastrianism (6th century BC)
- B. The life of Zoroaster (7th Century BC)
- C. The teachings of Zoroastrianis (The Gathas)

IV. Christianity & The Eastern Religions

- A. The difference between God and Satan.
Isaiah 14:1-23, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Jude 6, Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, John 1:1
- B. The fight between good and evil.
II Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 6:10-18, I Corinthians 15, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:1-8
- C. The need for a pure mind and conscience.
Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:23, I Peter 1:13, James 1:14-15
- D. The fear of a dead or angry god.
Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 4:15, I Peter 5:7, John 3:16
- E. The belief in a higher standard of living.
II Corinthians 13:11, I Peter 2:21-25, Romans 3:23, 6:23, James 3:2, I John 1:8-2:1, Philippians 2:5

Conclusion: God created every human on this planet! We need to love one another! Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Judaism (Part 1)
Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: For as long as there have been communities and cultures there have been religious people. In our lesson today we will begin a two part series on Judaism. Let's study together. . .

Discussion:

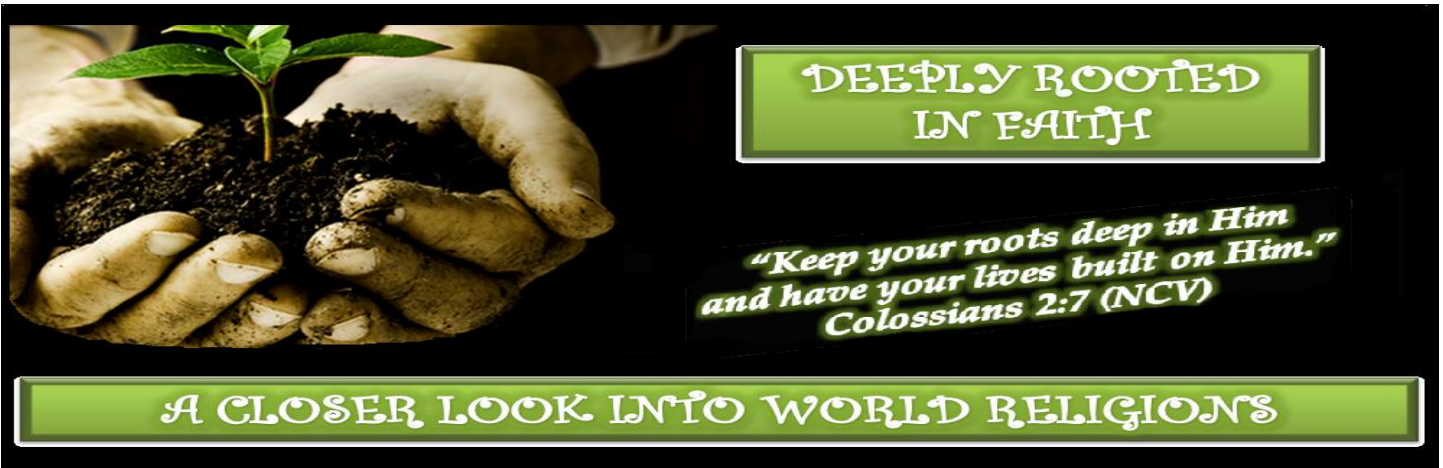
I. Backgrounds of Judaism

- A. The Sister Religions (Judaism, Islam, Christianity)
- B. The Beginning of Judaism (2,000 BC)
- C. The Terminology of Judaism (Jew = Judah)
- D. The Heritage of Judaism (Sons of Abraham)
- E. The History of Judaism

II. The Teachings of Judaism

- A. The Population of Jews in the World (14-15 million).
- B. The Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament)
- C. The Divisions of Judaism
Reform (Left), Conservative (Middle), Orthodox (Right), Hasidic (Way Right)
- D. The Practices of Judaism
 - 1. Two Basic Symbols = The Menorah & The Star of David
 - 2. Statement of Faith for the Jews (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**) = Shema
- E. The Special Days & Occasions
- F. The Major Holidays

Conclusion: In our next lesson we are going to notice five things that we can do to better understand our Jewish neighbors and how to learn from each other when it comes to the ONE TRUE GOD. We need to remember that we have common roots with those who practice Judaism. Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian values. The Hebrew Bible is only a part of God's Holy Scriptures, but it must be studied. What we consider the Old Testament is supposed to be our tutor (**Galatians 3:23-29**). All of God's Holy Scriptures are inspired (**II Timothy 3:16-17**). We need to have a deep appreciation for the Old Testament. We need to study it and apply its wisdom and teaching. However, we must remember that the book of Hebrews reminds us that we are now under a new and better covenant with better promises (**Hebrews 8:6**). Are you under the new covenant? Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Judaism (Part 2)

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Last week we began a two part series on Judaism. We discussed the background, teachings, and practices of Jews today. In this lesson I want us to consider five things we can discuss with our Jewish friends and neighbors. Let's study together. . .

Discussion:

I. Covenant Election

Matthew 22:37-38, Matthew 22:39, Matthew 19:6, II Peter 1:10, I Peter 2:5-10, Colossians 3:11, Galatians 3:28, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 1:8

II. Evangelistic Outreach

John 15:1-8, Genesis 12:3, Psalm 2:8, Psalm 22:27, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 52:15, Romans 15:21, Psalm 46:10, Psalm 57:5, Psalm 67:2, Psalm 86:9, Isaiah 52:10, Habakkuk 2:14

III. The Providence of God

Romans 8:28, Genesis 12-50, Exodus, Ruth, Esther, I & II Kings

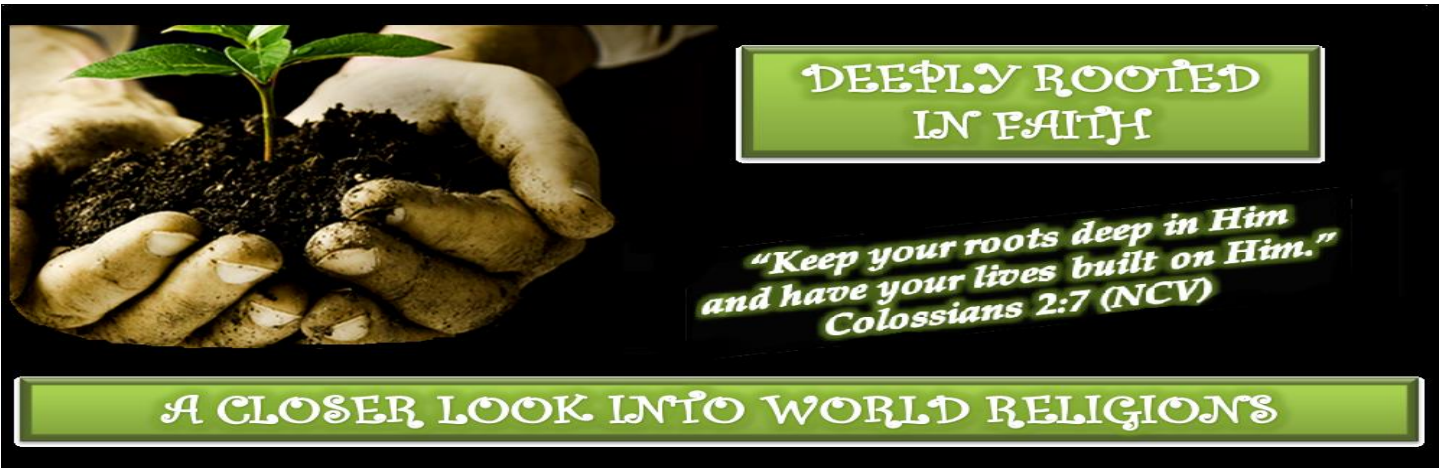
IV. No Eternality

John 14:1-6, Mark 12:18-27, Matthew 22:23-33, Luke 20:27-40, Acts 23:6-9, I Corinthians 15, Revelation

V. The Messiah

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, John 14:6, Acts 4:12

Conclusion: As we have already stated, we have common roots with those who practice Judaism. Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian values. The Hebrew Bible is only a part of God's Holy Scriptures, but it must be studied. What we consider the Old Testament is suppose to be our tutor (**Galatians 3:23-29**). All of God's Holy Scriptures are inspired (**II Timothy 3:16-17**). We need to have a deep appreciation for the Old Testament. We need to study it and apply its wisdom and teaching. However, we must remember that the book of Hebrews reminds us that we are now under a new and better covenant with better promises (**Hebrews 8:6**). Are you under the new covenant? Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Islam (Part 1)

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: This week we are beginning a three part series on Islam. We will discuss the background, teachings, and practices of Muslims today. Let's study together. . .

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of Islam

- A. Basic Facts About Islam (**Genesis 21**).
- B. The Life of Muhammad (571- June 8, 632 AD).
- C. The Ministry of Muhammad
 - (1) He taught monotheism, (2) He taught against idol worship, (3) He taught about the coming judgment, (4) He taught about faith, compassion, and morality, (5) He taught against materialism.
- D. The Spread of Islam (From Mecca to Medina in 622 AD - Hijra).

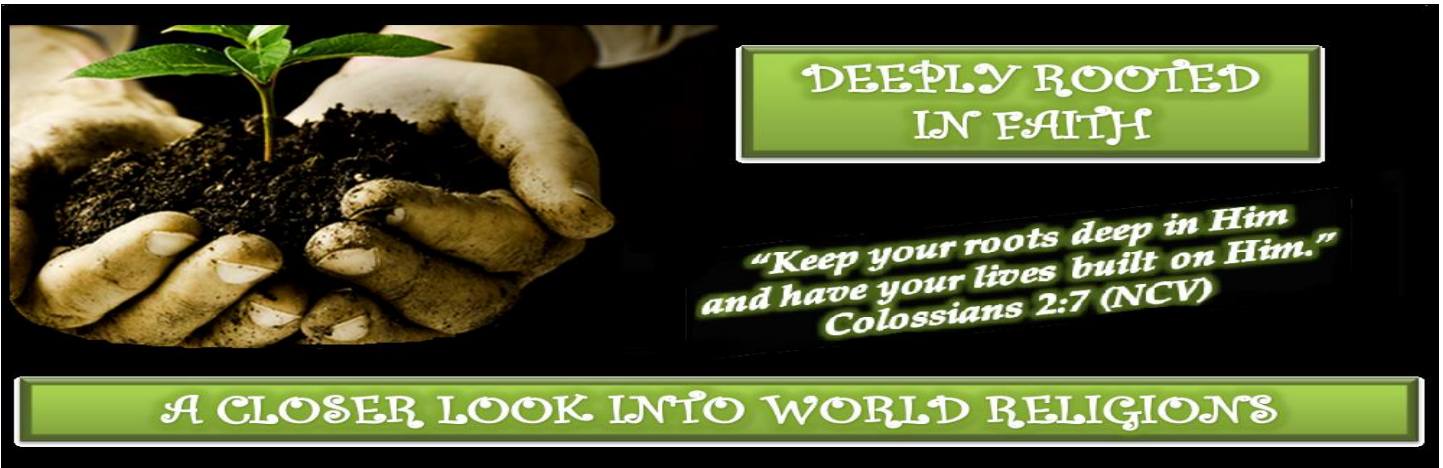
II. Teachings of Islam

- A. The Early Teachings of Muhammad (Qur'an)
- B. The Five Pillars of Faith
 - (1) The Creed, (2) Prayer, (3) Almsgiving, (4) Ramadan, (5) Hadj Pilgrimage
- C. The Newest Pillar for the Extremism of Islam (Jihad)
 - Daral-Salaam (house of peace) and the Dar-al-Harb (house of war).
- D. Additional Articles of Faith

III. Christianity & Islam

- A. The One True God
 - Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 44:6, 45:5-6, Mark 12:29-32, I Timothy 2:5, James 2:19**
- B. Prayer Time
 - Matthew 5:44, I Corinthians 7:1-16, I Peter 3:7, Ephesians 1:18, I Timothy 2:2**
- C. Giving to the Less Fortunate
 - Matthew 7:12, James 1:37, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:32-37, Matthew 19:16-30**
- D. Religious Celebrations
 - Romans 14:5-10, Leviticus 23, Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15**
- E. The Pilgrimage
 - John 14:1-4, Hebrews 11:16, 13:14, Revelation 20:2,10, 22:5, Matthew 5:11**

Conclusion: We need to pray for peace and we need to be on guard against Satan! Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Islam (Part 2)
Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: This week we are continuing a series on Islam. We will discuss the divisions of Muslims, some of their teachings, and how to convert them. Let's study together. . .

Discussion:

I. The Divisions of Islam

Orthodox, Conservative, Mystic, Liberal, Syncretist, Secularist, Communist/Socialist

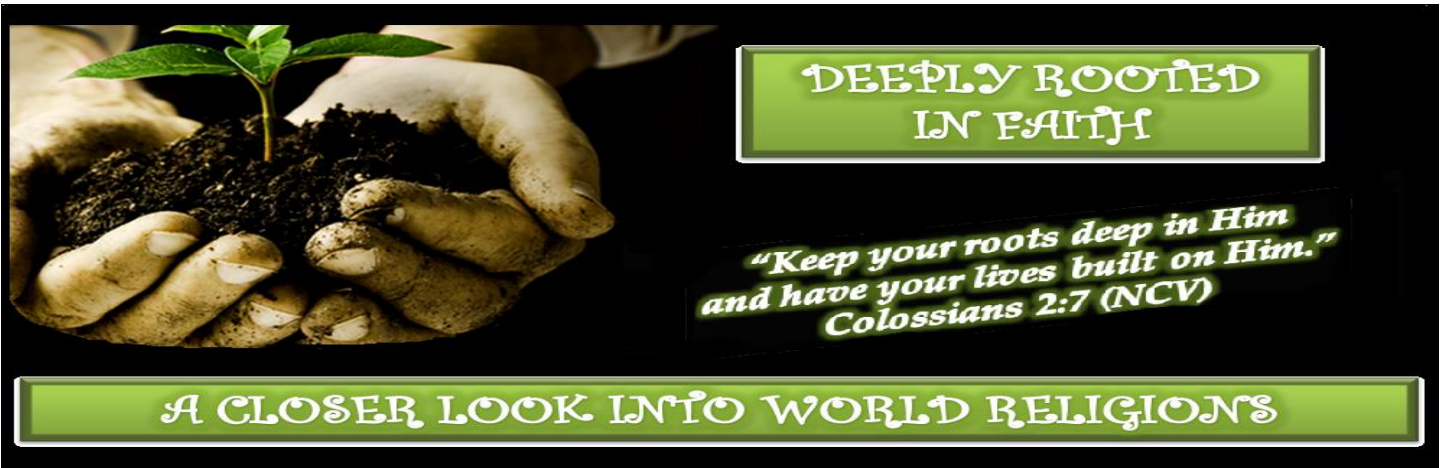
II. Fascinating Teachings of the Quran

- A. The Views on the Quran Itself
- B. The Views of Jesus & The Holy Spirit
- C. The Views of Mankind
- D. The Views of Warfare (Jihad)
- E. Various Other Teachings of the Quran

III. Christianity & Islam

- A. Choose Your Words Carefully
Colossians 4:6, Proverbs 25:11, Ephesians 4:15, James 1:26, Proverbs 16:24, Matthew 7:12
- B. Remember Family Ties
Exodus 20:12, Matthew 15:4, Ephesians 6:2, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4
- C. Seek The Mind of God
Genesis 1-2, John 3:16, Acts 17:30, Romans 5:7-8, II Peter 3:8-9
- D. Build On Your Strengths
Matthew 25:14-30, John 15:1-8, Romans 12:3-8, Galatians 6:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16
- E. Reveal True Honor
Matthew 15:8, Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:35, Romans 12:10

Conclusion: We need to pray for peace and we need to be on guard against the devil. We need to identify the works of Satan and the powers of darkness. We also need to remember that the teachings of many of these religions are false. They practice things that are in error when we compare them to the Word of God. But these people are not our enemies! Satan is our enemy! We must see these people as individuals with souls that can be touched. Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Islam (Part 3)

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: In this lesson, I want to discuss some additional thoughts on Islam. I realize that you may have many questions and are seeking answers. Let's study together. . .

Discussion:

I. Conflicts Between The Quran & The Bible

- A. The Consistency of God
- B. The Creation
- C. Abraham & Ishmael
- D. Great Bible Characters
- E. Great Historical Characters
- F. The Works of Mankind

II. Conflicts Between The Quran & The Quran

- A. The View of Christians
- B. The View of Muslims
- C. The View of Prayer
- D. The View of Giving
- E. The View of Punishment
- F. The View of Sacred Things
- G. The View of Warfare
- H. The View of Revelation
- I. The View of Recital
- J. The View of the Quran's Order

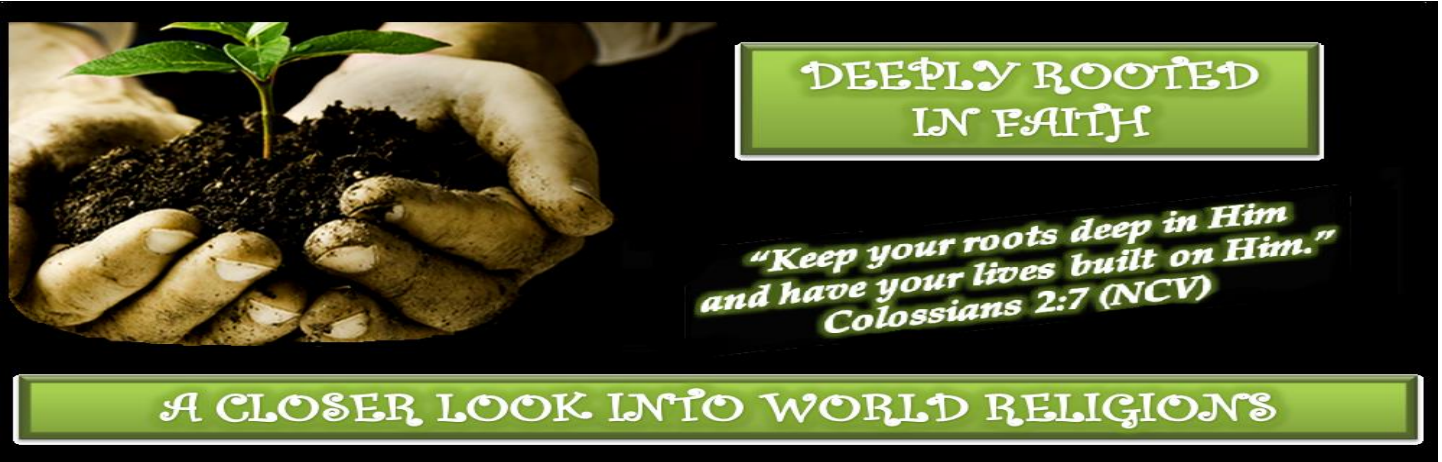
III. Conflicts Over Sharia Law

- A. The Teachings of the Quran
- B. The Teachings from Sunna
- C. Sharia Law Founders & Schools (Malik ibn Anas & Ibn al-Shaf'i)
- D. The Four Main Schools of Sharia Law (Hanbali, Hanifi, Maliki, Shafi'i)
- E. Sharia law conflicts with Western Culture.

IV. Christianity & Islam

- A. Pray For The Islamic People
- B. Pray For The Islamic Nations
- C. Pray For Our Nation

Conclusion: We need to pray for peace and be on guard against the devil. We need to pursue peace with our neighbor and remember that Satan is our enemy! Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



African Traditional Religions

Teacher: Ray Reynolds

Introduction: In this lesson we are going to look at some primitive and traditional religions found in Africa. As I summarize these religions, there is so much more beneath the surface that you should take the opportunity to do further study. Now, let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of African Traditional Religions

- A. The Facts About Africa (520 to 550 million people, 122 million sq miles)
- B. The Education of Africans (16-18% literacy rate).
- C. The Work of Africans (farming, crops, hunting, etc.)
- D. The Customs of Africa (living conditions, family traditions, etc.)
- E. The Religions of Africa (localized religions, mixing, adapting, etc.)

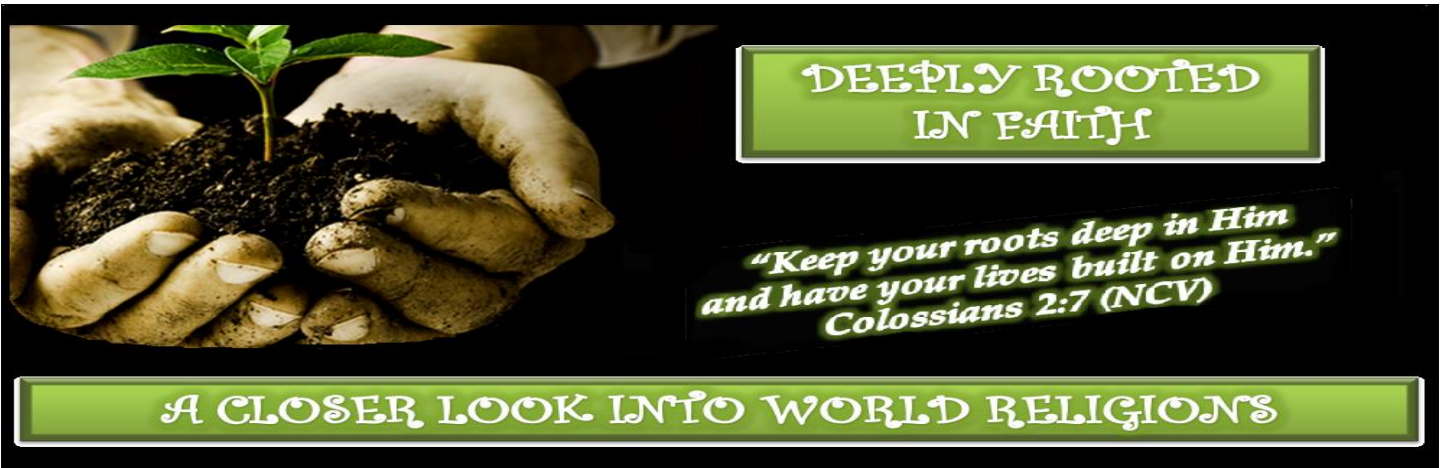
II. Teachings & Practices of African Traditional Religions

- A. Common Characteristics of African Traditional Religions
Oral Tradition, Archeological Evidence or Linguistic Sources, Continuing Practice, Art
- B. Common Practices of African Traditional Religions
Concept of Creation, Concept of a Spiritual Cosmos. Concept of a Divine Being, Concept of a Lesser God or Spirits, Concept of a Sacred Places, Spaces, and Symbols, Concept of a Persons
- C. Common Rituals in African Traditional Religions
Birth, Initiation, Marriage, Death, Sacrifices

III. Christianity & African Traditional Religions

- A. Break Down the Barriers
John 1:43-51, Luke 9:51-56, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16
- B. Learn the Language & the Culture
Matthew 9:35, John 3:2, Matthew 10:9-11, Matthew 11:9
- C. Consider the Content of the Message
John 8:32, Romans 1:16, I Peter 1:22-23, Titus 2:1-2, Ephesians 4:15
- D. Use Your Gifts & Talents First
Matthew 25:14-30, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:6-7, I Corinthians 12:27-29
- E. Don't Force The Issues
Matthew 11:5, 13:1-23, Mark 4:24, Luke 8:18, Matthew 10:42, I Corinthians 3:7

Conclusion: We need to be careful not to allow prejudice and ignorance to become a part of our lives. Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Native American Religions
Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: This week we are going to discuss the Native American Religions. My family has Cherokee blood, but my family spent much time on (or near) the Shawnee, Seminole, and Navajo reservations. We will discuss the background, teachings, and practices of their unique religion. Let's study together. . .

Discussion:

I. Backgrounds of Native American Religions

- A. The Facts About Native Americans
- B. The Faith of Native Americans
- C. The Myths About Native Americans

II. Teachings & Practices of Native American Religions

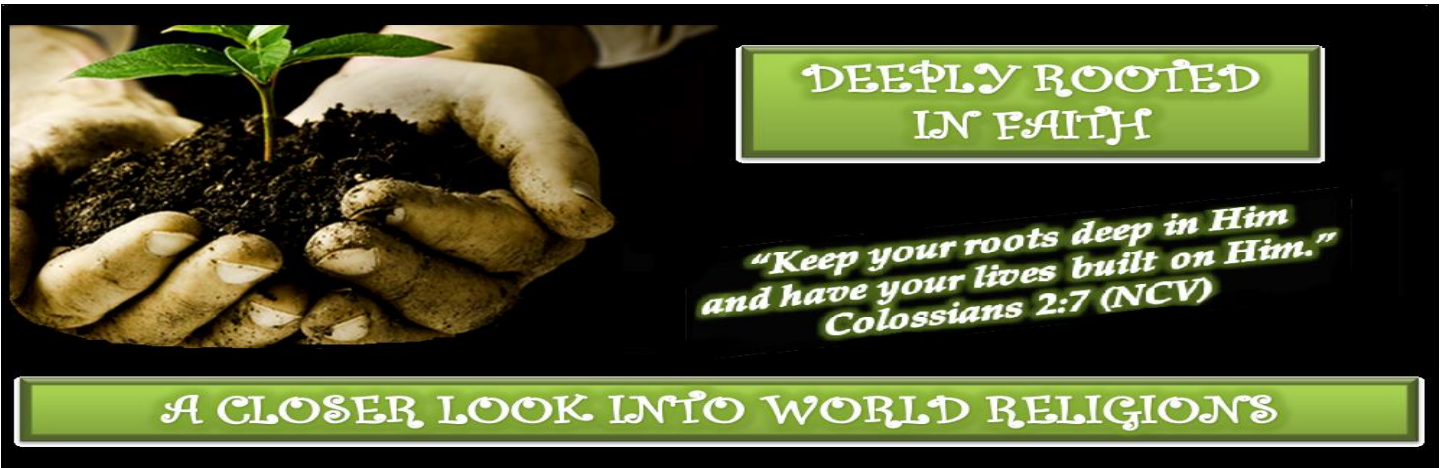
- A. There are several divisions of Native American Indians.

The Aztec Indians	The Southeastern Indians (Cherokee)
The Californian Indians	The Southwestern Indians (Navajo, Zuñi, Hopi)
The Inuit Indians	The South American Indians (Inca)
The Mayan Indians	The Northeastern Indians (Iroquois)
The Plains Indians	The Northwestern Indians
- B. The Christian influence on reservations.
 - Shakers, Feathers & Drums
 - Peyote, Dreams & Dances

III. Christianity & Native American Religions

- A. Break Down the Barriers
John 1:43-51, Luke 9:51-56, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16
- B. Learn the Language & the Culture
Matthew 9:35, John 3:2, Matthew 10:9-11, Matthew 11:9
- C. Consider the Content of the Message
John 8:32, Romans 1:16, I Peter 1:22-23, Titus 2:1-2, Ephesians 4:15
- D. Use Your Gifts & Talents First
Matthew 25:14-30, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:6-7, I Corinthians 12:27-29
- E. Don't Force The Issues
Matthew 11:5, 13:1-23, Mark 4:24, Luke 8:18, Matthew 10:42, I Corinthians 3:7

Conclusion: We need to remember that God created every human on this planet! He started with one man and one women in the garden nearly 6,000 years ago. We are all related and we at the core we all have some similar characteristics. We need to love our neighbors enough to have dialogue with them and engage them in communication. Do you have a new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**)? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Mormonism (Part 1)
Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: When we have our doors knocked by the L.D.S. (Mormons), we are often caught off guard. Have you ever studied Mormonism? If we are to give an adequate defense of our own faith (**I Peter 3:15**), wouldn't it help to discuss what others believe? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. When Did Mormonism Begin?

- A. The founder of Mormonism is Joseph Smith (12/23/05 in Sharon, VT).
- B. The beginnings of the Latter Day Saints in Palmyra, NY.
- C. The revival of Methodists and Baptists 1820 (really 1823).
- D. The revelation of the angel Moroni on September 21, 1823.
- E. The checkered past of the self-proclaimed prophet.
- F. The influence of Sidney Rigdon and the various names of the religious movement.

II. Where Did Mormonism Spread?

- A. The spread of Mormonism in Ohio.
- B. The spread of Mormonism in Missouri.
- C. The spread of Mormonism in Illinois.
- D. The spread of Mormonism in Utah.
- E. The spread of Mormonism around the United States.
- F. The spread of Mormonism around the world.

III. What About The Bible?

- A. The LDS church embraces the King James Version of the Bible.
- B. The LDS church embraces the works of their prophets and their own doctrines.
- C. The LDS church teach that the Book of Mormon is inspired of God.

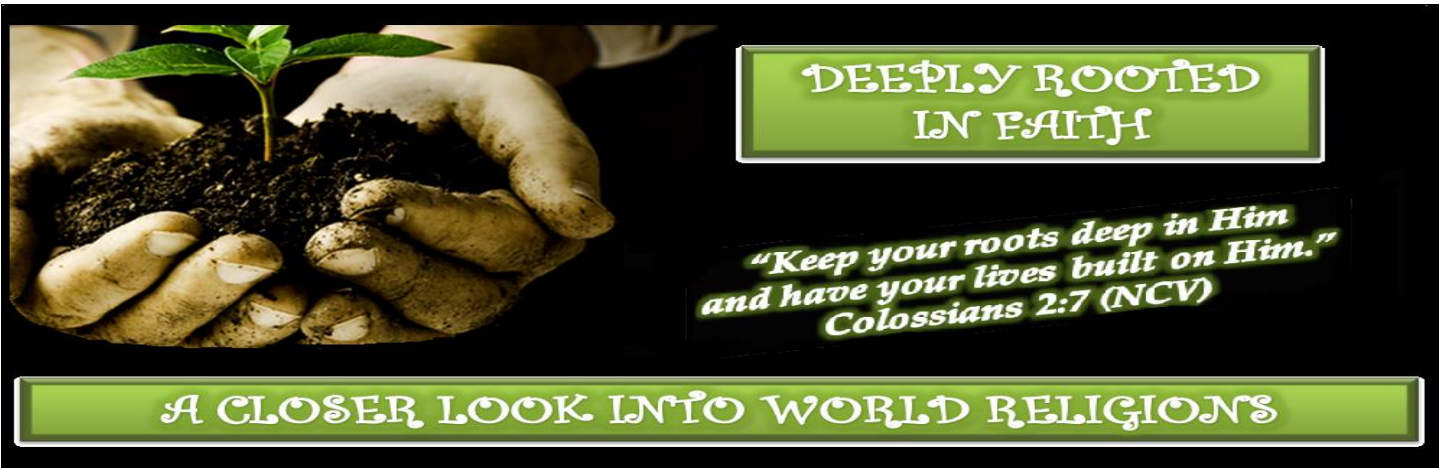
IV. What About The Book of Mormon?

- A. The Book of Mormon can be seen in overview for its content.
- B. The Book of Mormon contains some strange teachings and coincidences.
- C. The Book of Mormon has made nearly 4,000 changes since the 1830 edition.
- D. The Book of Mormon has been examined for 175 years, what do we know?

V. What Can We Learn From The Mormons?

- A. The need for better teaching of our youth.
- B. The passion for missions and outreach.
- C. The blessing of historical record and genealogy.

Conclusion: We need to seek the Bible for answers. Do you have faith in God or men? Are you a New Testament Christian? Will you stand up for what you believe? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



Mormonism (Part 2)
Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: When we have our doors knocked by the L.D.S. (Mormons), we are often caught off guard. Have you ever studied Mormonism? If we are to give an adequate defense of our own faith (**I Peter 3:15**), wouldn't it help to discuss what others believe? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. What Are The Sources of Authority?

- A. The LDS church considers the *King James Version* a source of authority.
- B. The LDS church considers the *Book of Mormon* a source of authority.
- C. The LDS church considers the *Doctrine and Covenants* a source of authority.
- D. The LDS church considers *The Pearl of Great Price* a source of authority.
- E. The LDS church considers the teachings of the prophets a source of authority.
- F. The LDS church allows the president and apostles to make changes.

II. What Are The Fundamental Doctrines?

- A. The Stick of Judah and Ephraim
- B. The Practice of Celestial Marriage
- C. The Practice of Polygamy (Past & Present)
- D. The Practice of Baptism for the Dead
- E. The Practice of Good Deeds and Benevolence
- F. The Need for Missionary Service (Rite of Passage)

III. What Can We Learn From The Mormons?

- A. The need to be patriotic.
- B. The blessing of dedicated and faithful members.
- C. The danger of adding to or taking away from the Bible.
- D. The consideration of the character of our teachers, preachers, and leaders.
- E. The consistency of our teaching and preaching.
- F. The desire to seek the image and example of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Conclusion: In our next lesson, we will compare their own doctrine/teachings with their own Scriptures and contrast those to the Holy Bible. We will see what they teach concerning the Godhead, the progressive nature of God, the spirit of man, the temple, celestial marriage, polygamy, baptism for the dead, genealogical research, achieving godhood, the influence of Joseph Smith, the priesthood of the church, proportionate grace, the president of the LDS and its quorum of twelve apostles, how to be saved, the spreading of the gospel, and much more. We need to seek the Bible for answers. Do you have faith in God or men? Are you a New Testament Christian? Will you stand up for what you believe? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?



DEEPLY ROOTED IN FAITH

*"Keep your roots deep in Him
and have your lives built on Him."
Colossians 2:7 (NCV)*

A CLOSER LOOK INTO WORLD RELIGIONS

Mormonism (Part 3) **Sermon by Ray Reynolds**

Introduction: When we have our doors knocked by the L.D.S. (Mormons), we are often caught off guard. Have you ever studied Mormonism? If we are to give an adequate defense of our own faith (**I Peter 3:15**), wouldn't it help to discuss what others believe? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. What Do They Teach About God?

<i>Their Doctrine</i>	<i>Their Scriptures</i>	<i>The Bible</i>
Many Gods	Only One God	Only One God
God Was A Man	God Always God	God Wasn't A Man
God Progresses	God Is Unchanging	God Never Changes
God Has A Body	God Is Spirit	God Is Spirit
God Cannot Create Man	God Made Man	God Created Man in His Image

II. What Do They Teach About Salvation?

<i>Their Doctrine</i>	<i>Their Scriptures</i>	<i>The Bible</i>
Abstinence	Judgment	God Sees The Heart
Baptism for the Dead	No Chance After Death	Live, Die, Judgment
Genealogical Research	Silent??	Avoid This Vain Practice
Celestial Marriage	Marriage Is Eternal	Marriage is Earthly
You Can Seek Godhood	This Is Possible	Only God is God

III. What Do They Teach About Church Leadership?

<i>Their Doctrine</i>	<i>Their Scriptures</i>	<i>The Bible</i>
God & Jesus Appeared	This Happened	No Man Can See God
Joseph Smith, Prophet	Revelation Given to Him	There Will Be False Prophets
Priesthood, Apostles	No Appearance Recorded	Christ, Our Great High Priest
President of the Church	Salvation By Christ Alone	Jesus Came to Save

IV. What Other Teachings Could Be Considered?

<i>Their Doctrine</i>	<i>Their Scriptures</i>	<i>The Bible</i>
Lord's Supper Observed	Water Instead of Wine	Bread and Fruit of the Vine
Proportionate Grace	Grace After Works	Grace & Faith, Not Works
Some Sins Remain	Blood of Jesus Sufficient	Blood Cleanses All Sin
Brothers: Jesus & Lucifer	Christ is God, Lucifer an Angel	Jesus is God, Lucifer is Satan
Salvation in Degrees	Satan Teaches No Hell	Believe or Be Condemned
The Gospel Was Lost	Few Humble People	The Word Endures Forever
God Reveals Great Things	Things Are Withheld	The Gospel is For All
Polygamy Commanded	Polygamy Condemned	One Man & One Woman
Dark Skinned Condemned	All Are Like God	No Respector, Saves All

Conclusion: We must let the Bible have the final say! Do you have faith in God or men? Are you a New Testament Christian? Will you stand up for what you believe? Is your faith deeply rooted in Christ?