



Confucianism and Taoism

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (10/ 3/10 - PM)

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?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Confucius"