



INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (9/5/10 - PM)

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?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Religion"