

# CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

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## SERMON NOTES

Week 5 September 11, 2022

“Christianity”

John 1:14, 18, 3:16; I John 4:8, 11-12

Romans 7:15; Ephesians 2:8-10



### I. Am I Loved?

- A. The Christian faith begins with a belief that there is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. For Christians, the most important attribute of God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. In Christianity, God doesn't send a book to show us He loves us. He sends a \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Is There Meaning and Purpose to My Life?

- A. The primary purpose in our life is to \_\_\_\_\_ other human beings.
- B. Our calling is to wake up every morning and pay \_\_\_\_\_ to who needs love right now.

### III. Can I Be Forgiven?

- A. There is something in us that's \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Christians believe that God can forgive you and redeem you through Jesus Christ. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.

### IV. Is There Hope in the Face of Despair?

- A. When Jesus talks about everlasting or eternal life he means something that starts \_\_\_\_\_ and goes on forever.
- B. The resurrection of Jesus means that there is always \_\_\_\_\_.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 12-17, 2022*

## INTRODUCTION

Many people believe that “all religions are the same.” After examining four of the world’s most popular religions, this week we turned our attention toward Christianity. So what is it that separates Christianity from the other four world religions?

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### Monday: Acts 2:22-47

Many people are Christians because they believe the eyewitness testimonies regarding Jesus’ life. How Peter changed in just 50 days! The intimidated disciple who denied Jesus because his nerve failed (cf. Matthew 26:69-75) became the bold apostle in Acts 2. Based on what you know about people, do you think it likely that a made-up story about Jesus rising from the dead would have produced a change like that?

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### Tuesday: Matthew 8:14 – 9:13, 35-38

Many people are Christian because they find Jesus the most authentic, compelling, moving picture of God and his love that they can imagine. How did Matthew express the reason for Jesus’ compassion when he saw the crowds? Is your attitude toward those with different beliefs or lifestyles one of condemnation; or more like the spirit Jesus showed in this passage?

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### Wednesday: Luke 19:1-10, John 8:1-11

Many people are Christians because Jesus offers forgiveness - not cheap acceptance, but costly grace. Somehow, in Zacchaeus, the self-serving tax collector, Jesus saw a man who could be generous. To the townspeople’s amazement, he turned out to be right. Do you know anyone who radically reoriented their life after meeting Jesus? What good qualities has Jesus drawn out or magnified in you?

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### Thursday: John 3:1-8, 16-21

In John 3:16, we find the essence of Christian theology. How did Jesus connect the ideas of “birth” and “new life” in this section? In what ways (if at all) do you believe your eternal life has begun due to the impact of God’s love on your life? How has God brought you from the darkness into the light?

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### Friday: 1 John 1:1-2:6, 4:7-12

Following Christ moves us to love our neighbors and our enemies. Which people do you find it hardest to love as God loves them? In what ways has God’s love, and the love of other people you know, helped you to keep living in love even when you face trouble, confusion, harassment or life knocking you down?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Christianity distinguishes itself from other world religions by emphasizing God’s unconditional love and His solution to the broken human condition. Christians believe that Jesus came to show us the depth of God’s love. Jesus suffered and died so that we may be forgiven and redeemed. We can’t do anything to save ourselves. Then Jesus rose from the dead to say that there is always hope and the worst thing is never the last thing.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) God, B) love, C) person. IIA) love, B) attention. IIIA) broken. IIIB) save. IVA) today, B) hope.*