

[Note: You may notice that this week's articles have a little different style than most and there's a good reason for that. In an effort to more effectively reach the lost, we are hoping to produce a number of videos on various subjects. We will begin with a couple of videos on why we must put our faith in Jesus and will follow those with the necessity of obedience, how to know what God wants, etc. The following are scripts from our first two videos that we hope to complete soon.]

Coexist

By John R. Gibson

Coexist. You've probably seen this bumper sticker urging people to peacefully coexist with one another. But what exactly is the word referring to? Is this a way of urging Democrats and Republicans to stop the political wrangling and seek to be more civil toward one another? Is it a futile plea to stop the trash talking between Alabama and Auburn fans? No, this is about religion. When you look closely at the word you see that several of the letters are taken from various world religions. This is a plea for folks of every religion to accept one another and peacefully coexist side by side.

Certainly we ought to agree that adherents to the various world religions, whether Christian, Muslim, Jew, Hindu, or anything else, should be able to live in the same communities without seeking to harm others and should speak kindly to our neighbors of every religious identity. But if we apply the word coexist to all religions and mean by this that we should view all approaches to God as equal, that is to say, one religion is as good as another, we have missed something very important. Shortly before being brutally killed on a cross, Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." God did not send His Son into this world to suffer the horrible death He died as one of many alternatives, but because this was mankind's one hope.

In 1 Tim. 2:3-6 we read, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all..."

While we can appreciate the sincerity and zeal of many adherents of different religions, the reality is that Jesus is the one and only way to salvation. But though this may seem harsh to some, the good news is that while Jesus came into the world as one of Jewish descent, He is not a Jewish Savior or a white Savior or a black Savior or an Oriental Savior. He came with the desire that all be saved and instructed His apostles to preach to all nations. His salvation is not limited to any one race, ethnic group, nation, region of the world, etc.

The God of heaven wants all to be saved, but this can happen only in Jesus. Would you like to know more about Jesus? Please feel free to contact us that we might help you come to know the One who is way, the truth, and the life.

Why Believe in Jesus

By John R. Gibson

In a video entitled *Coexist* we spoke of Jesus as the only way to Father, the One to whom every nation, tongue, and race must turn for salvation, but some may wonder why we think Jesus is any better than Buddha, Mohammed, Moses, et al and that is a legitimate question. Think with me for a few minutes about why you should choose Jesus and Christianity over other religions.

Let me begin by saying that no one should choose Jesus or reject Him because of tradition. And don't pick your religion based on what you think best fits you and your lifestyle. In John 14:6 Jesus spoke of being the truth and we believe you should follow Christ because there is a solid foundation of facts on which to build your faith.

Near the end of His life Peter assured his readers in what would today be the country of Turkey that he had not followed some "cunningly devised fables," but insisted that he and the other apostles were "eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Pet. 1:16). While there is more we could consider about this eyewitness testimony, let's focus on the claim that He was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. Rom. 1:4

Listen carefully to this reading from 1 Cor. 15:1-8. "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

On a number of occasions Jesus had told His disciples He would be killed, but then rise again the third day. Yet, even those closest to Him had trouble believing this and were surprised to find the tomb empty on the third day. However, over time He appeared to the apostles and more than 500 witnesses and all doubt was erased. We might add that most of these apostles would end up losing their lives because of this faith, yet not a one ever renounced it. When One can rise from the dead as He foretold, then you know you can and should take seriously everything He says, including the claim to be the one way to the Father. If you have any doubts about putting your faith in Jesus we urge you to pick up a Bible and begin reading about His life. Consider the testimony of men and women who committed their lives to a faith built on a solid foundation.

And if we can help you in this journey to faith, please let us know.

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