

# FINDING GOD

Guiding people of various religions and beliefs  
toward an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ

- By Cheri Henderson -



BibleSprout

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## **Acknowledgements**

Now and forever, I must first thank my Lord and Savior, who is my life, my breath, my hope, my strength, my provision, my redemption, my companion and guide, and my righteousness. Praise and glory to His name. I thank Him also for my husband and family, who support and encourage me and who sometimes call me out when I need it. For all of this I am grateful. I also thank Chris Carberg for believing in my work and for being thoroughly unashamed of the gospel. Finally, I thank you for your interest in reaching the world for Christ. Let's do this thing.

## Foreword

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. – Acts 1:8*

It used to be you had to travel the world to tell the world the good news about Jesus' atonement for our sins. Now the world is at our doorstep. This presents us with a new challenge: How can we help people from such disparate cultures come to an understanding and acceptance of the gospel, a concept as foreign to them as their worldviews are to us?

As a longtime Christ-follower and writer, I've researched the most prominent religions and created paths from each worldview to Christ. The result is a Scripture-laden, easy-to-use tool you can use to help friends, family members, neighbors and colleagues come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Be creative in how you use this material, whether as fodder for a Bible study or by sharing pertinent portions via hardcopy or email. The important thing is that you share. God calls us to be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15), and we will all be held accountable for our stewardship of the gospel. It is our gift to share. Share it generously.

As you share, please share your stories with us about how God uses this material in your evangelistic efforts. May God help us all to finish our races strong!

## About the Author

Cheri Henderson is a blood-bought child of God, a wife and mother and grandmother, a writer and editor, and a musician. She is passionate, bold, insightful, often silly, and slightly hyperactive. The author of [halffullandoverflowing.com](http://halffullandoverflowing.com), Cheri maintains a writing

career despite the constant company of her English setter mixes, Churchill and Pepper.

## Introduction

As this book was coming together, I returned from a mission trip to a culturally diverse area. Unbelievers wanted to hear about what I did, and believers wanted to hear about what God did. I chose to focus on what God did. So when an unbelieving colleague heard God used our team to help about 30 people commit their lives to Christ, she was appalled.

“Don’t these people already have native faiths?” she asked incredulously. “Why would you take that from them?”

To her and all like her, I offer an analogy: If you asked someone for directions to California and instead got sent to Maine, would that person’s directions be helpful to you? Of course not, because you wouldn’t arrive at your intended destination. In fact, you would be as far from it (in terms of the continental United States) as you could be.

So it is with other faith systems. We as Christians are privileged to know there is only one way, one truth and one life (John 14:6). Jesus alone is our ticket to heaven – and not just heaven but a full and abundant life here and now (John 10:10).

We have each been appointed as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Like earthly ambassadors in foreign lands (for we are strangers and aliens here), we must first understand the culture we’re addressing. This guide will enlighten and equip you for the task at hand. I pray it also inspires and compels you forward in your witness.

Each section of this book contains a brief overview of a faith system, followed by a path from that worldview to Christ. The paths are written so that you can share the words directly with the person to whom you’re witnessing. Do this orally or by sharing the material as a hardcopy or via email. The important thing is that you share.

It’s time for the church to be the hands, feet and mouthpiece of Christ.

Let's get started.



## *Christianity*

**Origins:** Christianity has its origins in the Old Testament, which prophesied hundreds of times of a Coming Redeemer or Messiah. Shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus were His followers first called Christians.

**Beliefs:** Christians believe in one God – the God of the Old and New Testaments – who expresses Himself as Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. They believe the Bible is the inspired, all-sufficient Word of God (1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). It teaches all have sinned and must be reconciled to God (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21). This reconciliation takes place through faith in Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, whom He sent to take the punishment for the sins of the world (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 1 Timothy 1:15). One day the wicked and the righteous (who are righteous only by their faith in Christ) will be resurrected and will face judgment. The wicked will be judged for their works and sentenced to the lake of fire; the works of the righteous will be judged to determine the extent of their reward for their faithfulness.

**Their Holy Book:** The Bible

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Jesus is the promised Redeemer, “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). He is central to the Christian faith. Jesus came the first time to bring salvation; He will come again to bring judgment (Matthew 25:31-46).

**Followers:** About 2 billion

**Teachings on Salvation:** Salvation is by faith through grace (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16). Those who trust Jesus as Savior and

Lord will be united with Him eternally at death; those who deny Him will be eternally separated from God in hell (1 John 5:11-12).

## **The Cultural Christian Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

### **Who is Jesus?**

More than likely, you've heard the words of Jesus throughout your life. You've probably sung Christmas songs about Him, and you've heard Bible stories about Him. The concept of Jesus gives us warm fuzzies. You've probably even heard people say – or maybe even said yourself – “He was a great teacher, and we all need to model ourselves after Him.”

But Jesus is much more than a storybook character, much more than a good teacher, much more than a good example to us. He is Emmanuel, God among us.

As C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*:

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”*

Or in the words of the Bible itself:

*In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Colossians 2:9)*

*He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:15-16)*

### **But Is the Bible True?**

It's pretty tough to believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be if you don't even believe that the whole Bible is true. But the Bible is, in fact, the single most corroborated work of antiquity. The fact that it has been carefully translated throughout the centuries continues to be affirmed as archeologists discover ancient manuscripts. Secular historians confirm its historical accuracy. And scores of fulfilled prophecies confirm its source could only be God Himself.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, instruction, rebuking and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)*

Speaking of scores of fulfilled prophecies, Jesus Himself fulfilled 324 Old Testament prophecies. To help us get our heads around the statistical significance of all that, let's play a game of visualization. Imagine that Jesus only fulfilled, say, eight prophecies. That alone is akin to covering Texas with 2 feet of quarters and asking a blindfolded person to pick out a marked one on the first try. So does the evidence show that the Bible and Jesus Himself are authentic? I'd put my money on it.

### **What Does That Mean for Me?**

That's a valid question. Does Jesus want you to acknowledge Him as a great teacher and a good moral example? Absolutely. Does Jesus

want you to live out His example on the earth? You bet. But He wants more from you – and still, somehow, less.

See, the more that He wants is your complete surrender to Him. He wants you to receive Him, to believe in His name and to become His child.

*Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

But He asks less of you than you would expect. Because in the eyes of the world, we have to work our way to heaven. But by God's grace, Jesus completed the work of our salvation on the cross. The good works you accomplish as His child are attempts to live out His love through your life. That's why the gospel is such good news.

*For it is by grace we are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Someday you will face judgment . . .

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

. . . and you will realize, on that day, that what you have done with Jesus matters. Are you ready to face Him as Judge or as Savior and Lord? Let today be the day of salvation.

## *Judaism*

**Beliefs:** As God's chosen people, Jews believe in one eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God who revealed Himself in the Scriptures revealed to His prophets, of whom Moses is preeminent. They believe God is a rewarder of good and a punisher of evil, and that He will send His Messiah to deliver His chosen people. Jews, like Christians, believe in the resurrection of the wicked and the righteous.

**Their Holy Book:** Known among Jews as the TANAKH, a Hebrew acronym for the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament), the Nevi'im (the prophets), and the Ketuvim (writings). It contains 39 books.

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah because they expected Him to fulfill all the messianic prophecies in His first coming instead of fulfilling the remainder with His second coming.

**Followers:** 13.7 million, with 43 percent living in Israel

**Teachings on Salvation:** Unlike Christianity, Judaism does not teach the existence of original sin. Instead, they believe they are saved first by being a member of God's chosen people, and second by obeying the Torah. Salvation is a matter, then, of works and free will.

### **The Jewish Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

#### **Waiting for Messiah**

God's chosen people are precious in God's sight. For 6,000 years, you've been waiting on Him. Waiting on a Deliverer. Waiting for your Messiah.

The Old Testament points to His coming. It also points to our sinfulness.

*Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:1,2)*

### **A Child Is Born**

Messiah would come to us as a child, God in flesh, might in the form of a helpless babe.

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

### **A Final Sacrifice**

The Scriptures tell us Messiah must suffer to bridge our great chasm of sin that separates us from God.

*But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. . . . Therefore, I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:5,6; 12)*

Messiah would die as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. No longer would a priest need to make atonement. No longer would blood need to be shed for the remittance of our sins. Messiah would become the spotless, perfect Lamb.

That perfect Lamb – that precious Babe, that suffering Servant – is Jesus.

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)*

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)*

*"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." (Revelation 5:12)*

### **A New Covenant**

Through Messiah, God offers you a new covenant, a perfect covenant of grace through which you may know perfect peace.

*Look, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by their hands to lead them out of the land of Egypt. I disregarded them, says the Lord, because they did not continue in My covenant. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. And each person will not teach his fellow citizen, and each his brother, saying "Know the Lord," because they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins. (Hebrews 8:8-12; Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

Your Messiah has come. And when He comes again, He will come as a conquering King, He will establish His throne in Jerusalem, and His saints will reign along with Him.

*And just as it is appointed for people to die once – and after this, judgment – so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)*

*At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky; and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30)*

Will you reign along with Him? Will you receive your Messiah?



## *Islam*

**Origins:** In the sixth century A.D., a trader named Mohammed claimed to have visions of the angel Gabriel, who laid out the precepts and practices of the Islam faith.

**Beliefs:** Muslims, who believe there is one God whom they know as Allah, accept the Old Testament prophets. "Islam" actually means "submission to God."

**Their Holy Book:** The Quran, which they believe Gabriel dictated to Mohammed

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** They view Jesus merely as a prophet, and they do not acknowledge His death and resurrection.

**Followers:** More than 1 billion people worldwide follow Islam, and its followers are generally found in what's known as the 10/40 window, the area between 10 degrees latitudinal north and 40 degrees latitudinal north ranging from the eastern side of North Africa to the western side of Asia.

**Teachings on Salvation:** Islam is a works-based religion, and salvation can be achieved – though is not guaranteed – through strict obedience to God's law and Muhammad's doctrine. A Muslim's path to heaven requires following the five pillars: confessing faith in Allah and his messenger, Muhammad; praying five times daily; giving to the work; fasting throughout Ramadan; and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

### **The Islamic Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

## **One True God**

You believe there is one god, and you believe God demands and deserves wholehearted obedience. You believe Jesus was sent to earth by God. On these points, you share common ground with Christ-followers.

*You believe there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble! (James 2:19)*

## **Who God Is**

Like you, we believe in one god, and that He expresses Himself through the persons of the God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. We believe Jesus is fully God:

*In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Colossians 2:9).*

As God, Jesus is eternal, and He came to earth as a man to show people the way to God:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)*

## **Why Jesus Came**

Jesus came because God is holy, perfect, loving and just. He desires a relationship with each and every one of us. He desires a relationship with *you*. And instead of requiring you strive continually to come to Him, He has come to you.

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory or the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).*

Because God is just, He will not allow sin to go unpunished. But we are all sinners, and we can never be made sinless – unless One who is without sin takes our place. That's what Jesus did for us.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

## **How We Are Saved**

Jesus' death and resurrection are facts testified to not just in the Bible but in recorded history. He died so we can live; He rose again so we can have victory over death for all eternity. If we believe that Jesus is God's Son, that He took our punishment for us, we can know that we will live eternally with Him.

*When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4,5).*

God is also a generous but jealous God. He has given Himself freely for our sake, but we must acknowledge that faith in Him alone through Jesus Christ is the only way we can be saved.

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6).*

## **It Is Finished**

When Jesus drew His last breath, He uttered, "It is finished." Redemption was accomplished. Revelation of God has ceased.

*In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His*

*powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:1-3).*

He sat down because He was done. It is finished. And now it's time for your new beginning.

### **The Freedom You Can Know**

You can be set free from the burden of your sins, from the burden of wondering where you will spend eternity. Jesus has made a way for you, a way paved by His great love and unearned favor. Just as people like you all over the world are coming to know Him through dreams and visions, you can come to know Him too. You can start your new life now.

## ***Hinduism***

**Origins:** An Eastern religion, Hinduism evolved over time in India as a conglomeration of belief systems.

**Beliefs:** Hindus believe in a transcendent Supreme Being who sustains the universe, which they believe goes through unending cycles of creation and destruction. It is only possible to know the Supreme Being through the intervention of a spiritual master and through multiple spiritual disciplines, including meditation and pilgrimage. They also believe in the notion of karma, the idea that “what goes around comes around.”

**Their Holy Books:** The Vedas and the Agamas

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Hindus view all paths to God as valid, so Jesus is on equal footing with the bases of all other belief systems.

**Followers:** Estimated at 950 million

**Teachings on Salvation:** Reincarnation recurs until all karmas are resolved. Respect, selflessness, obedience and pacifism all contribute to resolving karmas.

### **The Hindu Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

#### **All Is God**

All is God. When Christ-followers look at the created world, they see God reflected in everything. But God, who is our Creator, is not a created being. He is sovereign, all-knowing and all-powerful. And He alone is God.

*“For in Him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are His offspring.” Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man’s design and skill. (Acts 17:28-29)*

*Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:23b-25)*

*This is what the Lord says – Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: “I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.” (Isaiah 44:6)*

### **The One Reality**

You have a soul. You know that. You were created for eternity. And in reality, you get only one chance to get it right.

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

Everyone will have one of two eternal destinations: heaven or hell. And you can’t work your way to heaven.

*For it is by grace we are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Problem is, every one of us has failed. We’ve lied, we’ve cheated, we’ve stolen, we’ve hurt people. Every single one of us.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

And God – who is holy and just – cannot allow sin to go unpunished, and He cannot allow sin to enter heaven. But He has made a way.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

### **The One Way**

God loved us so much that He came down to earth clothed in flesh so that He and He alone could justify us, knowing our efforts would always fall short. But He gives us only one path to eternity with Him. That path is through Jesus.

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6).*

Jesus wants you to know Him and Him alone, to trust Him and Him alone and to be devoted to Him and Him alone. Then – and only then – can you experience eternal life with God. Are you ready to experience all that God has for you? Are you ready to devote your life to Him?

## *Sikhism*

**Origins:** The Sikh faith originated in 15th-century India, where Guru Nanak preached a monotheistic faith of neither Hindu or Muslim origin.

**Beliefs:** The words of the faith's first hymn, written by Guru Nanak, summarize the Sikh belief system: "There is only one God. Truth is his name. he is the Creator. He is without Fear. He is without hate. He is timeless and without form. He is beyond death, the Enlightened One. He can be known by the grace of the Guru [God]." Though unknowable, God teaches those who would follow. They believe God is reflected in nature. Followers are measured by their devotion to God – developed through singing hymns and meditation – and their service to their communities. Sikhs view all people as equal and denounce castes and bigotry.

**Their Holy Books:** The Guru Granth Sahib, a collection of hymns describing God's nature and detailing the importance of meditation

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Sikhs do not believe Jesus is God because their belief system dictates that God is neither born nor can die. They generally accept Jesus as a prophet.

**Followers:** Estimated between 23.8 million and 27 million

**Teachings on Salvation:** Sikhs believe they are united with God, ending the cycle of suffering and death perpetuated through reincarnation, when they fully renounce any attachment to material things.

**The Sikh Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**



## **Our Creator God**

We have a great Creator God. He is one, He is eternal, He loves us, and He desires a relationship with us. That is why He came to earth as a man – God in flesh – as Jesus.

*He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:15-16)*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. . . . The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-4;14).*

## **Our Just God**

Problem is, our sins separate us from God. You yourself have felt the weight of your sins. They are not hidden from God. He is all-knowing. He knows you cannot save yourself – even if you try for all eternity – because your efforts will be tainted by your sin.

*For it is by grace we are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Just as sin is real, death is real. Judgment is real. And we have only one life in which to get right with God before we face that judgment.

## **Our Savior God**

God is just, but He is also loving. While you've been trying to find Him, He has been seeking you. He desires for you to be united with Him in Christ. Only by embracing Christ can you find eternal life – and peace and purpose in this life.

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)*

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6).*

God is here, and He is calling to you. He is worthy of your worship. Are you ready to surrender your heart to Him?

## ***Buddhism***

**Origins:** A nontheistic religion derived from a variety of belief systems, Buddhism is largely based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, aka Buddha, who lived several centuries before Jesus.

**Beliefs:** Buddhism teaches the Four Noble Truths, which explain the nature of suffering and discontentment; and it calls believers to follow the Eightfold Path: right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

**Their Holy Books:** The Pāli Tipitaka – a source of rules for monks and nuns and a source of doctrinal clarification – and the Mahayana sutras, which tradition dictates are the original teachings of Buddha

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Buddhists do not believe in God and do not believe in Jesus, though their scriptures foretold of a Holy One who would come and show them a new way.

**Followers:** Estimated between 350 million to 550 million

**Teachings on Salvation:** Heaven and hell are not fixed eternal destinations but are temporary holding places. People can work their way out of hell based upon previous merit, and people in heaven experience greater sensual pleasures than those in hell. In fact, Buddhists believe heaven and hell are not just experienced after death but are also earthly experiences. Reincarnation is also possible, according to the Buddhist worldview, with a person's rebirth based upon his last living thought in his previous life. The ultimate goal is work one's way to the state of nirvana, the highest state of being and unique to each individual.

## **The Buddhist Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

### **God Is Real**

Life is hard, and we make it harder through our desire and our greed. Peace seems so far away, and our striving sometimes seems to be in vain. If life could only be simpler.

Guess what? It is.

You may worship many gods. We have a new one for you. His name is Jesus, and He alone is the one true God.

*Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:23b-25)*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1,14)*

### **Hope Is Here**

Your words, your actions, your thoughts, your speech – all the things you *do* – cannot save you. But Jesus can.

*For it is by grace we are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

God recognizes our failures, and He has made a way by reaching down from heaven to earth through Jesus, God in flesh. He did the

work of redeeming our souls, knowing we couldn't do it for ourselves.

*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

### **Freedom Is Yours**

All your life, you've sought the truth. At the same time, the Truth has been seeking you.

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)*

Jesus is calling out to you. He offers you the one real Truth that will set you free. Then you will be assured of an eternity with Him – an eternity better than any Nirvana you've longed for. Are you ready to accept the Truth? Are you ready to accept salvation through Jesus?

## **New Age**

**Origins:** Though it truly began in the Garden of Eden, where the serpent proposed a broader path than the narrow one God truly offers, it has roots in Eastern religions.

**Beliefs:** It is characterized by harmony and enlightenment with all paths leading to God. God is in everything; everything is one; man himself is God; reality is relative as it is created in the mind; and personal experience validates truth. Karma, the idea of “what goes around comes around,” is another popular belief among New Agers. New Agers attribute mystical properties to quartz crystals and vortexes, and they often rely upon tarot cards or psychic readings for guidance.

**Their Holy Books:** As a conglomeration of belief systems, New Age has various holy books, including *Course in Miracles* by Helen Schucman.

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** New Agers do not acknowledge a personal God but instead think of the whole of the cosmos as God. At most, Jesus was a teacher whose exclusive claims they choose to discount.

**Followers:** About 3.5 million worldwide

**Teachings on Salvation:** Because of the religion’s roots in Eastern religions, New Agers often accept the concept of reincarnation, through which people live multiple lives until they finally earn a place in paradise

**The New Age Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

## **Why Truth Matters**

There is no absolute truth.

You've heard that, and you may believe it. Maybe you think that truth is revealed to individuals at different times and in different ways. What's true for you today may not be true for you next year, or even tomorrow.

So the one truth that many acknowledge is that absolute truth doesn't exist. But there's a problem with that very reasoning. If no absolute truth exists, then the very concept of no absolute truth cannot exist. That philosophical reality in itself points to a universal truth. Christ-followers call that universal truth God.

*Your word is truth. (John 17:17b)*

## **Why God Matters**

You acknowledge a force that is at work throughout the universe. That force is God. Christ-followers believe God is personal, eternal and supreme over all creation, and He has manifested Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

*He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:15-16)*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)*

## **Why Jesus Matters**

Jesus reached down from heaven to offer salvation to mankind. That's a tough concept to get our heads around. What kind of God would do that?

Someone once explained it through a story about a farmer. Seeing a storm on the horizon, he brought his livestock into the barn. Outside the barn was a flock of birds frantically flying to and fro, sensing the oncoming storm. Wanting to protect them, the farmer tried to shoo them into the barn, but they were all the more frightened. He tried to lure them in with seed, but they still wouldn't come into safety.

"If only I could become a bird so they would follow me," the farmer thought. And at that moment, Jesus became real in that farmer's heart. He fell to his knees and prayed.

God is kind. He is compassionate. And He is Jesus. And that's the truth.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)*

### **Why Eternity Matters**

Someday you and I will die, and we'll stand before God.

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

Problem is, every one of us has failed. We've lied, we've cheated, we've stolen, we've hurt people. Every single one of us.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

And God – who is holy and just – cannot allow sin to go unpunished, and He cannot allow sin to enter heaven. But He has made a way.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*



Jesus is a gift for you to accept and cherish. Are you ready to accept that gift?

## ***Taoism***

**Origins:** Like other Eastern religions, Taoism has not firm origins but emerged as a composite teaching several centuries before Christ.

**Beliefs:** Taoism is as much a philosophy as it is a religion. Taoists have many gods and goddesses, none of whom are eternal or omnipotent. All deities are the products of celestial energy. Taoist teachings emphasize harmony among humanity, nature and the divine. Behavior and interactions with others are important in the Tao culture. Like Hindus, Taoists believe the earth is in an endless cycle of creation and rebirth.

**Their Holy Book:** Taoists do not have one particular holy book but instead look to stories, such as those about Laozi, a man whose very existence is questioned among historians but who has been immortalized in the Tao faith.

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Because they do not embrace monotheism or the concept of an eternal and omnipotent God, Taoists do not view Jesus as relevant, though as pantheists they do not openly reject other faiths.

**Followers:** From 2.7 million to 20 million

**Teachings on Salvation:** Taoists do not believe in eternal redemption. Salvation, as they understand it, means living in harmony with nature and the cosmos as they participate in the earth's endless cycle of destruction and creation.

### **The Taoist Path To Accept Jesus Christ**

## **The Way**

There is one way. You have sought it. The way you seek is a force, an eternal spirit. Christ-followers believe that eternal spirit is the God of the Bible.

*God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)*

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 40:28)*

This one eternal spirit is the Creator and Sustainer of all the universe.

*“For in Him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are His offspring.” Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man’s design and skill. (Acts 17:28-29)*

## **The Truth**

You shun the God of the Bible because you believe there is no absolute truth. Everything is relative. Maybe you think that truth is revealed to individuals at different times and in different ways. What’s true for you today may not be true for you next year, or even tomorrow.

So the one truth that many acknowledge is that absolute truth doesn’t exist. But there’s a problem with that very reasoning. If no absolute truth exists, then the very concept of no absolute truth cannot exist. That philosophical reality in itself points to a universal truth. Christ-followers believe God is the source of all truth and that His Word – the Bible – is His revealed truth.

*Your word is truth. (John 17:17b)*

The existence of absolute truth means there is right, and there is wrong. We call wrong *sin*. And the truth is, you are a sinner. Everyone is. No matter how hard you try to become one with God, you will fail because you are imperfect.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

## **The Life**

The Bible – which is truth – teaches that we don't get opportunity after opportunity to get it right in this world. Life begins, and it ends. We live, we die and we face judgment.

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

But though God is just, He is also merciful, and He has made a way for us to experience eternal life. That life can be found in Jesus Christ.

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)*

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6).*

Are you ready to ensure you will experience eternal life with God?  
Are you ready to accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

## ***Mormonism (LDS)***

**Origins:** Mormonism originated in the early 1800s when founder Joseph Smith began having visions at the age of 14 in which Jesus, angels, John the Baptist and various apostles appeared to him to reveal to him the “true” faith.

**Beliefs:** Mormonism does not subscribe to the doctrine of original sin and does not teach the existence of hell. Instead, those who die enter one of three heavens of escalating value. The third heaven itself has three levels. Those who reach the highest level can receive their own planets where they will become gods and goddesses. Because of the emphasis on works, Mormons tend to be very moral people who strive for sexual purity and abstain from alcohol, tobacco and drugs. They also emphasize caring for the poor.

**Their Holy Books:** The King James Version of the Bible with Mormon annotations, *The Book of Mormon*, *The Doctrine and Covenants* and *The Pearl of Great Price*. Unlike Christianity, which has a closed canon and teaches all revelation has ceased, Mormonism has an open canon and is receptive to new revelation from its leaders.

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** God is flesh, and Jesus is a created being – the first of God’s spirit children. According to Mormon teachings, God was once man on another planet and became a god through obedience. He begat spirit children through his various wives. The Mormon concept of the Trinity acknowledges not a three-person godhead but three distinct gods.

**Followers:** 14.1 million

**Teachings on Salvation:** Salvation, according to Mormon doctrine, is based upon forgiveness of sins and universal resurrection. The term “salvation by grace,” when used within LDS circles, refers to this resurrection. Sacred texts specifically teach salvation is not by faith alone.

## **The Mormon Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

### **Of God and Gods**

Someday, you hope to be as you believe God is – a powerful creator and with an eternity in which to achieve increasingly greater things. The good news is that God has a wonderful eternity available to you. First you need a right understanding of who He is.

**First**, the Bible tells us clearly and repeatedly that there is only one God.

*This is what the Lord says – Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: “I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.” (Isaiah 44:6)*

*There is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. (Isaiah 45:21)*

*To whom will you compare Me or count Me equal? To whom will you liken Me that we may be compared? (Isaiah 46:5)*

**Second**, God is not an exalted man. Nor does He change.

*God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should change His mind. (Numbers 23:19)*

**Third**, God is spirit.

*God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)*

**Fourth**, God is eternal.

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 40:28)*

**Last**, no god will come after Him.

*“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)*

### **Of Scripture and Scriptures**

“But the Bible is corrupted!” you may exclaim. “Besides, the Bible isn’t the complete revelation of God!” you may add.

*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! (Galatians 1:8)*

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, instruction, rebuking and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)*

In fact, we face God’s judgment if we add to or take away from His revelation.

*I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from his his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)*

*Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you. (Deuteronomy 4:2)*

The Bible is, in fact, the single most corroborated work of antiquity. The fact that it has been carefully translated throughout the centuries continues to be affirmed as archeologists discover ancient manuscripts. Secular historians confirm its historical accuracy. And scores of fulfilled prophecies confirm its source could only be God Himself.

### **Of Sin and Judgment**

Sin is real. Judgment is real. And someday you will die, and you will stand before God to answer for your sins.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

God – who is holy and just – cannot allow sin to go unpunished, and He cannot allow sin to enter heaven. But He has made a way.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

Salvation is real. It is available to you through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6).*

Are you ready to accept the gift of eternal life?





## ***Jehovah's Witnesses***

**Origins:** In the late 19th century, Chase Taze Russell founded the belief system with his teachings disputing the Trinity, the immortality of the soul, predestination and the literal return of Christ.

**Beliefs:** They are called Jehovah's Witnesses as followers of Jehovah, their name for God, and they do not accept the Christian doctrine of the triune God. Theirs is a works-based faith in which witnessing is essential. With no recognized clergy, all members are on equal footing and are equally responsible for evangelism. Believers who reach an age of accountability are baptized by immersion and immediately contribute to evangelism efforts. Members study and memorize scripture. They are famous for door-to-door evangelism and the distribution of the publication *The Watchtower*.

**Their Holy Book:** The New World Translation of the Bible, which is said to have been edited to conform with the organization's doctrine

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Jesus, to them, is the first of God's creations but is not deified, even though they believe His death paid the punishment for sins. As a created being, they believe He is beneath Jehovah God. Jehovah's Witnesses believe Jesus rose from the dead as an immortal spirit being. They discount the cross as a pagan symbol and say instead that Jesus died on stake.

**Followers:** About 8 million

**Teachings on Salvation:** Their salvation doctrine is based on Revelation 7:4-8, which tells of 144,000 Jews – 12,000 from each of

the 12 tribes of Israel – who will be saved. Followers interpret that to mean only 144,000 total people will enter heaven. Those who enter will be saved by faith plus works such as morality, witnessing and obedience to God. Because Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in hell, they teach the rest of humanity will remain in the grave.

## **The Jehovah's Witness Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

### **The Alpha and the Omega**

Jehovah God is worthy of all worship and glory. As Creator and Sustainer of all created things, He is mighty, and He is worthy of all our worship and praise. He is the Alpha and the Omega.

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)*

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be His God and He will be My Son." (Revelation 21:5-7)*

Jehovah alone is the First and the Last; He is the living one who holds the keys to death and Hades.

*When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last." (Revelation 1:17)*

*I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Revelation 1:18)*

Did you catch that? God "was dead"! But when did God die?

### **One True God**

You worship the one true God, Jehovah. Christians do as well. But we recognize that the eternal Godhead – though one God – expresses Himself through the persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." (Genesis 1:26)*

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)*

Each personality of the three-in-one Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – are equally God. And Jesus Christ came to earth as God in flesh, fully God yet fully man.

*In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Colossians 2:9)*

*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5)*

And as the long-awaited Messiah, as Jehovah God expressed in flesh, Jesus is worthy of glory, honor and worship.

*When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the home, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. (Matthew 20:10-11)*

## **Why Jesus Died**

Jesus died so we wouldn't have to. Dating all the way back to the Garden of Eden, a blood sacrifice has been required for sin. But only God Himself – perfect and sinless – could ultimately pay the price for our atonement.

*For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)*

Death had no victory over Christ. He rose again so that we may live eternally with Him. His resurrection, witnessed by more than 500 people, is historical fact testified to in secular history.

*Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have. (Luke 24:39)*

He came that you could be assured of an eternity in heaven with Him. Only a cruel god would have required Jesus' death if it didn't complete the work of our justification. But we don't serve that kind of God. Our God is merciful. Our God came to us to do what we couldn't do for ourselves. All that is required is that you believe.

*For it is by grace we are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

*Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

And someday He will come again – a glorious sight to those who believe, and a fearsome one to those who don't.

*At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky; and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30)*

Where will you spend eternity? Are you assured a place in heaven? You can be. Jesus is calling your name. Will you declare Him your Savior and Lord?



## ***Atheism***

**Origins:** Greek philosopher Diagoras of Melos, who lived five centuries before Christ, is often considered the first atheist, having criticized religion. Around the same time, philosophers such as Leucippus and Democritus tried to explain the world in terms of materialism. Similarly, Plato's uncle Critas denounced religion as a human invention created to frighten people into submission.

**Beliefs:** Atheists do not believe in the existence of a God and are often hostile to the very concept. They view religion as harmful and instead value science, reason, freedom of thought, and the human experience.

**Their Holy Books:** Not applicable

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** In the minds of atheists, Jesus is a vehicle of conformity and control for the universal Christian church.

**Followers:** About 136 million and steadily declining

**Teachings on Salvation:** Because they do not believe in God, they do not believe in eternity. People cease to be upon death.

**The Atheist Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

### **You Believe**

Whether you want to admit it or not, you have a belief system. You are a person of faith. And your faith teaches you that the infinite complexity of the universe is the product of random mutations. The odds of evolution occurring, according to British mathematician

Richard Penrose, is  $10^{10123}$ . That would make you a freakishly wonderful accident. Believing in those odds takes faith.

Even secular scientists like renowned atheist Richard Dawkins acknowledge the problem with that view. See, evolution and increased complexity are in direct violation of Newton's Second Law of Thermodynamics. Said Dawkins, "We have seen that living things are too improbable and too beautifully 'designed' to have come into existence by chance."

Are you ready to take your chances?

### **We Believe**

Christ-followers don't place their faith in numbers; they place their faith in a sovereign, eternal God, and He has made Himself known through Jesus Christ.

*He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:15-16)*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. . . . The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-4;14).*

Do we understand how an eternal God could exist? No. But if we served a god whom we could comprehend, he would be a small god indeed. And God, in His infinite grace, knew we were too small, too weak and too imperfect to save ourselves, so He came to earth as a man who took the punishment for our failings on Himself.



*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)*

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6).*

## **What If?**

You probably believe that there's nothing beyond this life. But if you're willing to bank on the impossible odds of evolution, is it so far-fetched to consider another long shot – that you could be wrong?

But let's start by supposing you're right and we're wrong. If that's the case, we as Christians have lived our lives with purpose and grace, and the planet is a better place for us. In other words, we may all have the same non-destination, but at least we've made the most of our journey. We still win.

But let's suppose that we're right and you're wrong. If we are right, all of us will face judgment. (And, in case you're still into odds, you may be interested in knowing that it would be exponentially easier if we covered Texas with 2 feet of quarters and asked a blindfolded person to pick out a marked one on the first try than it would be for Jesus to fulfill 324 Old Testament prophecies. Actually, the playing field would be level if Jesus fulfilled just eight prophecies. Just saying.)

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

Some of us – those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord – will be saved. The rest will face eternal condemnation.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

Are you ready to take a chance on eternity? Are you ready to trust Jesus?

## ***How to Get Saved Now***

If you believe Jesus is who he says He is and you are ready to be forgiven of your sins and live a new life in Christ, pray this simple prayer:

*Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God, that You died for my sins and the sins of the world, and that You rose again from the dead, defeating death and hell. Jesus, I know I'm a sinner, and I can't save myself. Please save me from my sins and be my Savior and Lord. Help me to live a new life in You. I pray this in Your mighty and holy name. Amen.*

If you prayed that prayer and take God at His word, you are now a child of the living God, and no one can snatch you out of the Father's hand (John 10:28). You are a new person!

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **Some Next Steps:**

1. Tell someone about the decision you've made. The Bible tells us, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

2. Find a church. Click [here](#) to find a church near you where you can grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and enjoy fellowship with other Christ-followers.

3. Learn more about what it means to be a Christ-follower. Try this [30-day study](#) that will walk you through your new life in Christ.

4. Get baptized as a public demonstration of your new faith in Christ. Baptism is a symbol of our new identity in Christ, as [Romans 6:4](#) explains. [Acts 8:35-38](#) provides a beautiful picture of baptism as a sign of obedience.