

CHAPTER and VERSE.

honest questions about the Bible

Part Five: Isn't the Bible Just Another Religious Book? Sermon Study Guide 8/7/16 *The Story Houston*

"Your word is Truth." - Jesus, in John 17:17

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

Today we'll be comparing the Bible to other sacred texts, pointing out important differences while also searching for some common ground. Today's question is, "Isn't the Bible just one more religious book?" How would you have answered that question *before* hearing today's message?

"There are those who hate Christianity and call their hatred an all-embracing love for all religions."
G.K. Chesterton

Wait. What's wrong with "an all-embracing love for all religions"?

Anyone who is informed and true to their faith must acknowledge their belief in the exceptionalism of the path they've chosen. **All religions cannot be equally true, because they make very different truth claims.** Write some of the truth claims made by various religions below:

Judaism

Islam

Mormonism

Hinduism

We can _____ without being _____.

So...what makes the Bible exceptional?

Make your notes on this section of the sermon here:

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In what important ways does the Bible differ from other major sacred texts like the Quran, the Book of Mormon, the Vedas, and the Tao Te Ching? (make notes of any points that resonate with you)

Given our belief in the Bible's unique exceptionalism, how should Christians behave in relationship to people of other faiths?

Luke 9:49-56 "Master," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." **"Do not stop him,"** Jesus said, **"for whoever is not against you is for you."** As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, then he and his disciples went to another village.

Romans 2:13-16 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. **They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.**) This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Five Things to Remember When You're a Christian among Non-Christians:

1. Be willing to _____.
1 John 1:9
2. Be _____.
James 2:13
3. Don't make _____ against _____.
James 1:26
4. It is _____ to find _____.
Acts 17:16-34
5. Focus on _____.
1 Corinthians 1:20-25

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What did you find most helpful or inspiring about today's message? What questions remain for you?