

Investigating Christianity 01: "An Introduction"

Colossians 1 and 2

September 24, 2023

Main idea: In this lesson we are going to examine the reality of God, and man's search for meaning through his Creator.

Skepticism Today

Today's skeptics are unlike the skeptics of the 90's or early 2000's. Thirty years ago, a skeptic generally rejected all ideas about God; even His existence. Today's skeptic is much more likely to believe in a god of sorts, but any attempt to define or package this god is rejected wholly. Today's skeptic doesn't trust any one revelation of God. So, while the world is becoming increasingly religious, any one religion may also be becoming increasingly watered down and diluted.

Universal Hunger for God (Statistically, most of the world is religious)

1. **Christianity:** 2.2 billion
2. **Islam:** 1.6 billion
3. **Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist:** 1.1 billion
4. **Hinduism:** 900 million
5. **Buddhism:** 376 million
6. **Judaism:** 14 million

All Roads to God

There is a common belief worldwide that all religions are basically the same; that they contain basically the same truth, but they present the truth in different ways. We might call this viewpoint "**Universalism**" or "**Pluralism**". Every religion eventually reaches God. **There is only one glaring problem with this viewpoint** – All religions cannot be true. This is because **all religions are not the same**. They each possess **mutually exclusive teaching** that is in contradiction and opposition to the others.

Important Distinctions of Christianity

1. **Jesus Christ was God – Colossians 2:9-10.** Jesus Christ was not a prophet or representative of the Creator; He was the Creator.
2. **Jesus Christ is Preeminent – Colossians 1:15-17.** Rather than conceding the idea of Christ as one god among many, the Bible establishes Him as God alone – the preeminent Lord of the universe.
3. **Jesus Christ is Sufficient – Colossians 2:6-8.** Only Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ is sufficient. There is no additional need for laws and regulations, practices, and rituals to remain connected to our Creator.

Family Night Big idea – Read Colossians 1:15-23

It is important to teach your children that everyone makes a personal decision about what they believe; even those who say they do not believe. Faith has never been thrust on anyone.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What does v.15 say about the Son? According to v.16, who created the universe? Read v.22. What did Jesus do for us?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "According to Paul, who was Jesus? Why is it 'easier' to claim all religions are basically the same? What does this passage say that is in direct contradiction to other world religions?"

Prayer "Father, thank You for Your Son Jesus. Strengthen our faith in Him. Amen.

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church Wednesday, September 27th.

Gravity: Meet today in the Community Room.

Today's Songs

Battle Belongs.....Phil Wickham

Amazing Grace.....Chris Tomlin

All My Fountains.....Chris Tomlin

Bring Your Phone Sunday

On October 1st and again on October 8th, we are asking everyone to bring their phones into the service. We will take a few minutes to log in to your GCC account and update everyone's contact information.

Boo Bash

Families are invited to a Boo Bash on Wednesday, October 25th from 5:30 to 7:30. There will be a costume contest, Trunk or Treat, Pancake Supper and games. Kids and their parents are invited. Arrive by 5:45 to register for the costume contest. Contest starts at 6pm.

Velocity Bonfire

Overnight Bonfire for Velocity is October 6th at 7:30. Bring your camping stuff to spend the night.

Baptism Service

October 29th. Use the Communication Card if you have questions.