



PERSONAL EVANGELISM

It is sure
good to
know the Lord.

Joseph F. Pope
Helen Pope

LESSON 11



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Different Ways of Understanding God

Every religion has a

- 1) Leader
- 2) Mediator
- 3) Form of worship

Wrong ways of understanding God

There are many different ways of understanding God in the world). (These different views worship God in different ways. There are biblical ways of understanding God, and ways that are not supported by the Bible

Wrong ways of understanding God are those

- 1) **who do not believe Jesus Christ is God.**
- 2) **who believe a person can get to heaven by going through a religious ceremony.**
- 3) **who believe a person has to obey the laws of its religion to get to heaven.**
- 4) **who teach that repentance and accepting Jesus Christ are not enough to get to heaven.** (They say there need also be deeds or actions.)

The church at Corinth was warned about wrong religions (2 Corinthians 11:2-4).

Paul says,

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 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! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!"

Galatians 1:6-9

In this lesson we will learn about some religions.

It is easier to reach a person for Jesus Christ when we know what he believes.

People who have wrong understanding of who God is, are very hard to deal with. When they are willing to listen to what the Bible says, talk to them. When they will NOT listen to what the Bible says, do not waste your time with them. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to open their eyes. Pray that they would be set free so they can see the truth.

DO NOT ARGUE WITH THEM!

If you have questions, you may contact Tribal Trails at 306-961-2588 or by email at tribaltrails@ncem.ca or website at <http://www.tribaltrails.org/>.

Comparison of different ways of understanding God

Source of information	The Bible	www.adventist.org/beliefs/ accessed May 2015	http://www.spiritualabuse.org/aof.html accessed June 2015	www.watchman.org/prOfile/branpro.htm accessed May June 2015	www.beliefnet.com accessed May 2015	www.jw.org accessed May 2015	www.bahai.org/ accessed May 2015
	Bible	Seventh Day Adventism	Oneness	Branham	Mormon	Jehovah Witness	Bahatism
Bible	The Word of God was complete with the Bible. It is the inspired Word of God. “All Scripture is God-breathed . . .” (2 Timothy 3:16); “. . . no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. 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 1:20,21). Revelation 22:18,19; Galatians 1:8,9)	The Holy Scriptures - they believe are the infallible revelation of God's will - thought inspiration	They believe the Bible being the inspired Word of God	They believe the Zodiac and the Egyptian Pyramids are EQUAL to scripture	The Holy Bible (King James version) The Book of Mormon, subtitled since 1981 "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" The Doctrine and Covenants of the LDS Church The Pearl of Great Price - containing the Book of Moses, the Book of Abraham, Joseph Smith (Matthew) Joseph Smith (history) the Articles of Faith	New World Translation	A Bahá’í accepts the divine authority of the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh and of these appointed successors; with the writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha.

	Bible	Seventh Day Adventism	Oneness	Branham	Mormon	Jehovah Witness	Bahatism
God	<p>God is real. God is spirit, infinite, and eternal. God is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. <i>“Abraham . . . he called upon the name of the (Yahweh) LORD, (El Olam) the Eternal God.”</i> (Genesis 21:33)</p> <p>God is a triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>“As soon as Jesus was baptized, . . . the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”(Matt 3:16,17)</p> <p>God created the heaven and the earth in the beginning. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).</p> <p>“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them” (Gen 1:26,27)</p>	<p>They believe that God is the Sovereign Creator, upholder, ruler of the universe.</p> <p>that He is eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent.</p> <p>That the Godhead, the Trinity, comprises God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>They believe in one God</p> <p>oppose the concept of the Trinity;</p> <p>believe that God manifested, or made himself known as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Holy Ghost in emanation.</p> <p>They do not view God as three separate but equal persons.</p> <p>Their belief on the Godhead is often referred to as "Oneness" or "Jesus Only"</p>	<p>They believe God is NOT omnipresent</p> <p>deny the Trinity:</p> <p>there was only one Person (Jesus) going under different titles or modes at various times in history.</p> <p>teach a variation of a second century heresy taught by Sabellius known as Modalistic Monarchianism or Patripassianism</p>	<p>They believe in a "Godhead" of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three separate entities united in purpose.</p> <p>God the Father lives in heaven with His wife, the Heavenly Mother; Christ, their only begotten Son; and "exalted" Mormons, who become God-like in heaven.</p> <p>God has a perfect body, which looks like ours.</p>	<p>Believe God is the Creator and Supreme Being, view God as the Father, an invisible spirit "person" separate from the Son, Jesus Christ;</p> <p>is "infinite, but approachable"; he is not omnipresent; his personal name is Jehovah</p>	<p>They believe that there is only one God, the Creator of the universe who has absolute control over His creation (omnipotence) as well as complete knowledge of it (omniscience),</p> <p>God is ultimately unknowable;</p> <p>names – Allah or Yahweh, God or Brahma</p>

	Bible	Seventh Day Adventism	Oneness	Branham	Mormon	Jehovah Witness	Bahatism
Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus Christ is God; is equal with God, the same in being, equal in power and glory; is God and also man "The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). (John 10:30; Phil 2:5-11; Heb 1:4-14). Jesus Christ died on the cross for the salvation of all " . . . we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Rom 5:10). Jesus Christ arose from the dead (Luke 24:36-48; John 20:19,20,26,28) Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man. " For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus . . ." (1 Tim 2:5,6).</p>	<p>They believe Jesus Christ is very God, and that He has existed with the Father from all eternity. Adventists hold that Christ ministered his blood in the first section of the sanctuary (the holy place) until October 1844; after that time he entered the second section of the sanctuary (the Most Holy Place, or Holy of Holies) in fulfillment of the Day of Atonement.</p>	<p>They believe one true God was manifest in the flesh, in His Son Jesus Christ. "in him [Jesus] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9) Therefore, Jesus in His humanity was man; in His deity was and is God. His flesh was the lamb, the sacrifice of God. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man.</p>	<p>They deny the Deity of Jesus Christ: Branham said; "The man, the body was not Deity, but Deity was in the body" The Spirit left Jesus in Gethsemane and He became just a man when God looked down upon the body He had to die a man</p>	<p>They believe Jesus Christ is God's firstborn son. Jesus is Lord and Savior; God of this earth creator of all in heaven and earth as directed by God the Father one in purpose with the Father and the Holy Spirit a Godhead of three separate members.</p>	<p>They believe that Jesus is God's "only-begotten Son", and that his life began in heaven. He is described as God's first creation and the "exact representation of God", but is believed to be a separate entity and not part of a Trinity. Jesus is said to have been used by God in the creation of all other things. they believe that the Archangel, Michael, "the Word" of John 1:1, and wisdom personified in Proverbs 8 refer to Jesus in his pre-human existence and that he resumed these identities after his ascension to heaven following his death and resurrection. Jesus did not become God again after his resurrection to heaven but, rather, a distinct spiritual being.</p>	<p>They believe Manifestations have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad. Bahá'u'lláh, the latest of these Messengers, explained that the religions of the world come from the same Source and are in essence successive chapters of one religion from God</p>

	Bible	Seventh Day Adventism	Oneness	Branham	Mormon	Jehovah Witness	Bahatism
Holy Spirit	<p>The Holy Spirit is a person. He does what only a person can do. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26; 16:8; Romans 8:14,26; Acts 5:1-11).</p> <p>A person receives the Holy Spirit when he accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour, ". . . When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit" (Eph 1:13).</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>The Holy Spirit is a personal being, sharing the attributes of deity with the Father and the Son.</p>	<p>They teach</p> <p>A person must be filled with the Holy Ghost, with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues (a language that is not known by the believer), in order to be saved</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>The angel accompanied Branham throughout his lifetime and even directed him in every aspect of his personal life.</p> <p>Branham said the angel gave him his power – not the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Baptism with the Trinitarian formula of Matthew 28:18 ("in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy") is unacceptable to God.</p>		<p>They believe</p> <p>The Holy Spirit is described as God's "active force", rather than the third part of the Trinity.</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>God is transcendent and unknowable.</p> <p>However, He has sent, and will continue to send, great prophets to humanity, through which the Holy Spirit has revealed the "Word of God."</p>

	Bible	Seventh Day Adventism	Oneness	Branham	Mormon	Jehovah Witness	Bahaism
Fall of man	All have sinned. People are sinful “ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Rom 3:23) (Gen 6:5; Psalm 53:3; Rom 1:28-32; 1 John 1:8-10.)	They believe Man was created sinless, but by his subsequent fall entered a state of alienation and depravity.	They believe In the beginning, God created man innocent, pure, and holy; but through the sin of disobedience, Adam and Eve, the first of the human race, fell from their holy state, and God banished them from Eden. Hence by one man's disobedience, sin entered into the world (Gen 1:27; Rom 3:23, 5:12)	Branham believed that some humans are descended from the serpent's seed and are destined for hell, which is not eternal, however. The seed of God, i.e., those who receive Branham's teaching, are predestined to become the Bride of Christ	They believe Humans did not inherit guilt or a sinful nature from Adam and Eve's original sin. The Fall was a planned blessing from God, enabling people to experience human bodies, procreate, experience the joy of redemption, and to do good . Satan and his demons pervade the earth as spirits tempting all to sin.	They believe Satan persuaded Adam and Eve to obey him rather than God, raising the issue—often referred to as a "controversy"—of whether people, having been granted free will, would obey God under both temptation and persecution. Witnesses believe that Satan and his demons influence individuals, organisations and nations, and that they are the cause of human suffering.	They reject the concept of "original sin" or any doctrine that teaches people are basically evil or have intrinsically evil elements in their nature

	Bible	Seventh Day Adventism	Oneness	Branham	Mormon	Jehovah Witness	Bahatism
Satan and evil powers	<p>Satan was created by God, but he rebelled against God. "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will . . . (Isaiah 14:12-15) Called Satan (Matt 4:10) devil (Matt 13:39) dragon (Rev 12:9) serpent (Gen 3:1) adversary (1 Peter 5:8) Lucifer (Isa 14:12)</p> <p>Demons and evil spirits - followers of Satan - Matthew 8:31</p> <p>The destiny of Satan and the evil spirits, demons is eternal fire (Matthew 25:41)</p>	<p>They believe prior to the beginning of human history, a dispute occurred in heaven between God and Lucifer (Satan) over "the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe." Lucifer was subsequently cast out of heaven, and, acting through the serpent in the Garden of Eden, led Adam and Eve into sin. God has permitted Lucifer's rebellion to continue on Earth.</p>	<p>After 1000 yr kingdom, there shall be a resurrection of all the dead, who will be summoned before the great white throne for their final judgment, and all whose names are not found written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone, which God hath prepared for the devil and his angels, Satan himself being cast in first (Revelation 20:7, 15; 21:8)</p>	<p>The Serpent Seed teaching is a belief that Cain was produced through sexual intercourse between Eve and the serpent in the garden. The curse of the Serpent's Seed he believed is the cause of all mankind's problems and women are to blame and it is evident in their temptation of men. -William M. Branham.</p> <p>Branham also believes that the Serpent Seed was the missing link between man and monkey</p>	<p>Satan and his demons pervade the earth as spirits tempting all to sin. God gave people free will, and Satan's temptations are a blessing from God so that people can show their faith by resisting</p> <p>Satan rules the earth and causes misery to mankind</p>	<p>They believe that Satan was originally a perfect angel who developed feelings of self-importance and craved worship that belonged to God</p> <p>They believe that Satan is God's chief adversary and the invisible ruler of the world. They believe that demons were originally angels who rebelled against God and took Satan's side in the controversy.</p> <p>They do not believe that Satan lives in Hell or that he has been given responsibility to punish the wicked. Satan and his demons are said to have been cast down from heaven to the earth in 1914, marking the beginning of the "last days".</p> <p>At Armageddon, Satan is to be bound for 1,000 years, and then given a brief opportunity to mislead perfect humanity before being destroyed</p>	<p>The Bahá'í Faith rejects the concept of "original sin" or any doctrine that teaches people are basically evil or have intrinsically evil elements in their nature...</p>

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Salvation	<p>Jesus Christ paid for sin by His death ““He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24); Hebrews 9:28; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 5:12-19</p> <p>We believe that Jesus Christ died for 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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved” (Romans 10:9, 10)</p>	<p>They believe That the vicarious, atoning death of Jesus Christ, once for all, is all-sufficient for the redemption of a lost race</p> <p>the winning of men back to a love relationship with God that is not yet completed</p>	<p>They believe the doctrine of full salvation is such: "repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance</p>	<p>They believe those who receive Branham’s teaching, are predestined to become the Bride of Christ</p>	<p>For salvation Show faith in and obedience to God and Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Adhere to the practices, requirements, commandments, laws, and sacraments of the faith as. Baptism at age 8 is necessary, the age of accountability, and be confirmed as a member of the church. Confess all sins to God, and major transgressions to a presiding officer as well.</p>	<p>They believe Jesus is the key to salvation, that "there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved" (Acts 4:12)</p>	<p>They believe Pride or self-centeredness is one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual progress. The soul animates the body and distinguishes human beings from the animals. Spiritual progress grows and develops only through the individual's relationship with God, as mediated by His Messengers</p>

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Death and after	<p>The believer is with Jesus after physical death, "I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. (Philippians 1:23,24) 2 Corinthians 5:1-8.</p> <p>There is a place of eternal punishment "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them" (John 3:36). (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 20:10-15; Revelation 21:8).</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>Death is a state of unconscious sleep until the resurrection.</p> <p>They base this belief on biblical texts such as Ecclesiastes 9:5 which states "the dead know nothing", and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 which contains a description of the dead being raised from the grave at the second coming. These verses, it is argued, indicate that death is only a period or form of slumber.</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>in the rapture of the believers, millennium, final judgment</p> <p>After 1000 yr kingdom, there shall be a resurrection of all the dead, who will have to stand before the great white throne for their final judgment..</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>that ALL denominations were the Mark of the Beast</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>At death a person's spirit immediately joins the spirit world, will be assigned to paradise or spirit prison depending on thoughts, words, and actions, righteous.</p> <p>Believers will live in a state of paradisiacal happiness.</p> <p>Unbelievers and sinners live in misery in spirit prison but will have the opportunity to repent, accept the gospel, receive ordinances performed for them by the living, and move to the lowest level of heaven.</p> <p>At the Final Judgment and Resurrection, people will be assigned to a one of three kingdoms of heaven; only a few, the most wicked sinners, will suffer eternal torture in the outer darkness</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>At death a person ceases to exist A minority will rule in heaven with Christ, but the majority will live forever on earth, not in heaven. (Rev 5:10.)</p> <p>The kingdom is said to have been the focus of Jesus' ministry. God's kingdom is a literal government in heaven, established in 1914, ruled by Jesus Christ and 144,000 humans raised to heaven.</p> <p>The kingdom is viewed as the means by which God will accomplish his original purpose for the earth, bringing about a world free of crime, sickness, death and poverty, and ultimately transforming the earth into a paradise</p>	<p>They believe</p> <p>in an afterlife in which the soul is separated from the body. At death, according to the Bahá'í faith, the soul begins a spiritual journey towards God through many planes of existence.</p>

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Distinctive teachings		<p>Adventists reject dispensationalist theology and the pretribulation rapture, believing that the church will remain on earth throughout the end-time crisis. They reject any form of the rapture.) Believe that the millennial reign of Christ will take place in heaven, not on earth, and will involve all of the redeemed people of God, not just national Israel</p> <p>They believe to keep the Sabbath, are commandment keepers</p> <p>Follow the tabernacle pattern for future events.</p>	Groups within the organisation try to enforce strict rules of dress and social conduct	<p>William Branham had many visions, made prophecies, most of which did not happen.</p> <p>Branham said - "Jesus did not say no man could know the year, month or week in which his coming would be completed. I sincerely believe and maintain as a private student of the Word along with divine inspiration that 1977 ought to terminate the world systems and usher in the millennium."</p>	They teach the angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith	<p>They teach</p> <p>A minority will rule in heaven with Christ</p> <p>The majority of good people will live forever on earth - not in heaven</p> <p>Jesus acts as the mediator of a "new covenant" referred to in Jeremiah 31:31, Luke 22:20, and Hebrews 9:15; 12:24, directly mediating only for those going to heaven (the 144,000).</p> <p>Watch Tower Society</p>	One of the fundamental doctrines of the Bahá'í Faith is the unity of the world's great religions

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