

What About Religion "X"? : Tools to Expose the Deception

Part 1

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : June 2, 1998

Last Updated : January 15, 2025

A Backslidden Christian Embraces Islam, Answers Can Be Found In God's Word, I Am An Archeologist Of The Word, Purpose Of WordWeaver's Work, Learning God's Truth One Step At A Time, Recommended Articles, Qur'an And Islam, Identify Your Enemy, Enslaved By A Spirit Of Deception, Only Begotten Son Of God, Jesus Was More Than A Wise Teacher And Prophet, Wide Gate To Destruction, Enemies By Choice, Families Divided By Christ, Persecuted For Our Faith, Passive Rebellion By Nonbelievers, Brevity Of Human Life Span, Now Is The Day Of Our Salvation, Recognize And Understand Your Enemies, A Cloak Of Deception, Accountable For Knowing The Truth, This Is The Condemnation, Necessity Of The Blood Atonement, Lies Of The Urantia Book, Saved By Faith In Jesus Alone Without Good Works Or The Law

Some time ago, a dear sister in the Lord approached me with a serious problem she was having regarding a certain family member -- a former Christian from childhood -- who had chosen to convert to the Islamic faith after entering a relationship with a Muslim man. It seems that just as much as this dear sister and her husband were hopeful of converting this couple to the Christian faith, the Muslim couple was also determined to persuade the Christian couple to embrace the teachings of Islam's prophet, Muhammad, as they are taught in the Muslim holy book, the Qur'an, or Koran, if you prefer.

Whenever I am confronted with such situations where my advice is requested, my first reaction is always to seek the Lord in prayer, as I certainly do not want to provide my answers, but rather the Lord's answers. If there is one thing I emphasize over and over again in my writings, it is that God not only knows all of the answers, but He has also already given us many of them. These answers can be found in His Word. That is, in the Holy Bible. Just as much as the Lord esteems His

Word above His very Name, in similar fashion, we should also esteem His Word in our lives, even more than our necessary food. Consider the following verses where this truth is made quite evident:

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Psalms 138:2, KJV

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

Job 23:12, KJV

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4, KJV

Tragically, while many Christians know that this is true, due to time constraints, or perhaps due to a lack of skill in studying God's Word, some people find it difficult to immediately locate the answers that they need in the Bible. Thus, they require the help of someone who is more familiar with it. It is at this point that my work as a Christian writer enters into the picture. Similar to a lot of other archeologists of the Word of God, I have simplified the work for some Christians by mining God's wonderful gold for them, and by clearing away the piles of theological rubble and the doctrines of men which have buried the truth for literally centuries. Once I have extracted this precious gold, I have then associated certain nuggets -- or verses of Scripture -- with other nuggets, in order to show how they fit together.

My work is also very similar to what one does on a weaver's loom, or else when one crochets a particular pattern into a piece of fabric. Each verse in the Bible is like a different colored piece of thread. To a novice in the Word of God, all of these various strands may at first appear to be thrown together in one large, unorganized pile of confusion. He may stare at this pile in bewilderment, not having the slightest idea regarding where to begin to sort out all of the various colors, so that he can weave them together into the proper pattern.

Picking up a thread at a time, over a number of decades now, I have done exactly that. As each new thread, or verse, has been woven into the fabric, the pattern has become clearer and clearer. Obviously, I don't understand it all yet, but I continue to slowly work on the project one thread at a time. By God's Grace, I will continue to work on it until that day in which the Lord calls me Home. This act of creating the pattern one step at a time seems to be revealed in the Bible in the following two verses:

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

Isaiah 28:9-10, KJV

Returning to this dear sister's problem regarding her family member who had converted to Islam, as on other occasions, after prayerfully reading her touching letter, I immediately realized that it was not really necessary for me to write a long response to her, being as much of the counsel which I could offer her was already included in articles which I have already written. Thus, the purpose of this article is to point the way to other articles which contain the answers which she -- and other people who find themselves in similar situations to her own -- may need and want to read.

While my first recommendation will be specifically geared towards the blatant deceptions and fallacies which are found in the religion of Islam, please note that all of the other articles which I recommend here can easily be used to refute the lies of any belief system which refuses to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the only Captain of our Salvation, the only Mediator between God and man, and the only High Priest who intercedes for us before the Throne of the Father.

The very first series which I believe that a person should read, should they be confronted with the Islamic deception, is "Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?". There are two specific reasons regarding why I am suggesting this particular series. First of all, it is important that one recognizes who his enemy is. By using the word "enemy", I am not necessarily referring to the person who has embraced the

lies of a certain non-Christian religion. I am referring to the deceptive spirit of that particular religion, to which a person has yielded himself. Whether he realizes it or not, such a person has in fact become enslaved to that particular antichrist spirit. Please consider the following verses and be warned:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:1-3, KJV

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Romans 6:16, KJV

Concerning the first set of verses above, if you read the series entitled "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", you will come to understand that what John is really saying is that anyone who denies that Jesus is the only begotten, -- or born-in-the-flesh -- Son of God, is antichrist. This is what I believe John means when he writes the phrase "is come in the flesh". It's important to realize that there are many people -- including Muslims and participants of other non-Christian faiths -- who do believe that Jesus was born in the flesh. They believe that He was a wise man, and they also revere Him as a holy prophet, a great philosopher and a wonderful teacher. However, such people deny Jesus' Divinity as the only begotten Son of God, and the one and only Messiah and Savior of the world, as ordained by God the Father.

This is one of the key points of the aforementioned series. Thus, I encourage you to read it in its entirety -- please don't just skim through it -- as I believe that it will give you a much expanded understanding regarding the full nature and identity of Jesus Christ.

Sadly, as I point out in articles such as "All Are Given a

Chance, But . . .", "Not Everyone is a Child of God" and "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?", there will be many people who hear the Salvation message and the Good News regarding Jesus Christ, who will reject it. Thus, if having heard the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a person then continues to resist it, sadly, by his own choice, he has not only made himself the enemy of God through his rebellion, but in essence, he has likewise made himself your enemy as well. As the woman who wrote to me had discovered, this can occur even within our own households and immediate families, and it can be a very difficult situation to deal with for those of us who love the Lord. Consider the following set of verses:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

Matthew 12:30, KJV

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Matthew 10:34-38, KJV

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Mark 13:12-13, KJV

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and

two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Luke 12:51-53, KJV

According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, in the New Testament, the words "foes" and "enemies" are derived from the Greek word "echthros". Pronounced ech-thros', this word means hated, odious, hateful, hostile, hating, and opposing another. Thus, as I said a minute ago, by opposing the truth of the Gospel which we share with them, people become our and God's enemy. Consider the following verses where this thought is further confirmed:

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

Romans 5:8-10, KJV

"As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes."

Romans 11:28, KJV

"(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:"

Philippians 3:18, KJV

"For it pleased the Father that in him [Jesus] should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:"

Colossians 1:19-22, KJV

In the case of interfaith or multi-faith families, it should

be mentioned here that while a Christian may never actually be persecuted in a physical sense, he may very well become the object of verbal or emotional persecution, because of the wayward beliefs of the opposing party. While some people of other faiths -- such as certain Muslims -- will even claim to be very opened-minded towards Christianity, and may even be willing to discuss the common points between your faith and theirs, the fact of the matter remains that within their hearts, they are simply exercising passive rebellion against God. Furthermore, if a Christian continues to press such an individual with the truth regarding Jesus Christ, they will eventually be forced to reveal their true colors.

In short, the time will inevitably arrive -- as it does with all men everywhere -- that said persons are going to have to make a choice one way or the other; either in complete favor of Jesus Christ, or else against Him, exactly as Jesus stated in the Gospel of Matthew. For nonbelievers, it is also very important to realize that there is no guarantee of tomorrow. While some of them may foolishly procrastinate and say "I'll think about it later", they should consider the truth of the following verses which reveal the brevity of the human life span, and the important fact that now is the time to repent -- or have a change of mind and heart -- and to accept God's Gift of Salvation:

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalms 90:10, KJV

"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away."

Psalms 144:4, KJV

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:7-8, KJV

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Luke 12:20, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready."

John 7:6, KJV

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

Acts 17:30, KJV

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Romans 13:11, KJV

"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

2 Corinthians 6:2, KJV

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Hebrews 9:27, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14, KJV

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

1 Peter 1:23-25, KJV

If you are interested in acquiring more in-depth knowledge and understanding regarding persecution against Christians, and how we should react to it, I encourage you to read the series called "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution", as well as "He Who Fights and Runs Away: Choose Your Battles Wisely".

In stating that we each need to recognize our enemies, I am referring to the fact that one needs to fully understand the mentality of the person who holds to the non-Christian faith. In this particular case, we are dealing with the mentality of the Muslim, based upon their holy book, the Qur'an. To fully combat the deceptions of Islam, a Christian needs to not only understand what Muslims are taught about their own faith, but one must also understand how Muslims are taught to view the Christian faith as well. In this regard, "Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?" will serve our purpose well.

In addition to assisting you in understanding what Muslims actually believe, this series will both prepare you and protect you from some of the lies which will undoubtedly be thrown at you, should the time arrive when you must confront a Muslim. By already knowing what is contained in their holy book, you will be one step ahead of your adversary. Don't be surprised if your enemy is amazed by how much you actually know about the Qur'an after having read this series, because I have invested a lot of time and effort in it for your sake. As Jesus said concerning the unbelieving Jews of His day:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."
John 15:22, KJV

In other words, in the context of this article, once you have shared the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a person, in the Lord's mind, that individual no longer has any excuse for hiding behind the cloak of lies and deceptions that Satan has cast upon them by means of his many false religions. As the Lord's special emissary who has delivered the message to that person, it is as if God is saying to them "Look; I have given you the truth. So what are you going to do with it?" In other words, whether they receive it or reject it, on the Day of Judgment, God will certainly hold them accountable for having known the truth. Consider the following verses which confirm this point:

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
Romans 14:12, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body,

according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

"Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

1 Peter 4:5, KJV

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:17, KJV

Thus, exactly as occurred with the ancient Jews, as a result of your faithful witness, such unbelieving persons are now forced to either humbly come to the Light of Christ, or else to further withdraw themselves into the darkness of the sins of rebellion and unbelief, by becoming even more deceived by the lies of the Father of Lies. In other words, the Devil himself. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12, KJV

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:5, KJV

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

John 3:17-19, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:5-7, KJV

Clearly then, the decision is to either come to the Light of Jesus Christ, or to knowingly and willingly choose to remain in spiritual darkness by one's own choice. As we plainly see by the previous verses, if one chooses the latter option, he condemns himself, and will be judged accordingly.

In dealing with individuals of non-Christians religions, one of the primary difficulties seems to be in helping them to understand the significance and the necessity of the Blood Atonement of Jesus Christ. As we Christians know and accept, Jesus' loving Sacrifice is the very foundation of our faith, without which there is absolutely no hope of forgiveness, or of obtaining Eternal Life. To assist you in explaining this most vital element of our Christian faith, I have written an article entitled "The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words". I was motivated to write this particular article as a result of the deception of the followers of the Urantia Book, who falsely claim that the Atonement Doctrine is an invention of the Apostle Paul, and is not found in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

In order to expose this demonic lie that is promoted by the Urantians, in the aforementioned article I rely heavily upon Jesus' actual words as we find them in the four Gospels, and thus explain why His Sacrifice was a necessary and integral part of our Heavenly Father's Salvation plan. If a Muslim -- or a believer of any other non-Christian religion -- really reverences the words of Jesus Christ as they claim, then "The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words" will provide Christians with powerful information which will help them to bring such nonbelievers to a point of decision; either in favor of, or fully against, the teachings of Jesus Christ. If you use what you learn in the aforementioned article in your witness, you will find out very quickly whether or not a nonbeliever truly accepts what Jesus taught concerning Himself.

Another stumbling block one often encounters when endeavoring to bring a non-Christian to the saving Grace which is found in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone, is the fact that many religions teach that Salvation -- and thus inheriting Eternal Life -- is the result of leading a good life. In other words, such false religions teach that our ability to receive this most precious Gift is based upon our own good deeds, and other meritorious works of the flesh.

As you may know, even within our own faith, there are certain denominations and people who emphasize the importance of good works, and who erroneously claim that the Biblical doctrine of "Sola Fide" -- that is to say, "by faith alone" -- is not enough to save us. They insist that our Salvation is based on both faith in Christ and good works. However, personally, I am convinced that "Sola Fide" is soundly supported by verses such as the following:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Acts 13:39, KJV

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the

justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Romans 3:20-28, KJV

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

Romans 8:10, KJV

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:4, KJV

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Romans 11:6, KJV

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified . . . I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

Galatians 2:16, 21, KJV

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:11, KJV

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Galatians 5:4, KJV

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

Philippians 3:9, KJV

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

James 2:10, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

What About Religion "X"? : Tools to Expose the Deception

Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : June 2, 1998

Last Updated : January 15, 2025

Jewish Legalism: Mosaic Law And The Traditions Of The Elders, Influence Of Mosaic Law On Modern Law, Liberal Laws Strive To Invalidate God's Word, Prophetic Link Between Old Testament Priesthood And Priesthood Established By Christ, Jesus Died Only Once For Our Sins, Salvation Plan In Three Dozen Verses, Message To The World Tract, God's Saving Grace vs Good Works, The Tools For The Job, Watch Out For The Devil's Devices, The Hope That Is In You, The Futility Of Using Pressure Tactics While Witnessing, Only God's Fruit Will Remain, Sword Of The Spirit, God's Word Will Accomplish Its Purpose, Free Will And Personal Choice, Closing Remarks, Recommended Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, contradicting the Scriptures which I shared with you at the end of part one, as I explain in the controversial series entitled "Welcome to Greater Israel, USA", in certain cases -- such as with Judaism -- good works are demonstrated by observing certain

laws and regulations. With the Orthodox Jews, this means strict adherence to the Mosaic Law and the traditions of the Jewish elders and rabbis. If you are at all familiar with the four Gospels, then you will no doubt know that this was a constant point of contention between the Lord Jesus and the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees, as becomes rather evident by verses such as the following:

"In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Luke 12:1, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."

Matthew 16:6-12, KJV

"Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

Matthew 15:1-6, KJV

"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

Mark 7:6-13, KJV

Certain other religions -- including Islam -- recognize and respect the merit of the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament. In fact, many laws which are in existence today in various parts of the world, find their origin in the Laws which were first given to Moses on the summit of Mount Horeb, or Sinai. Sadly, as I explain in "When Sin is No Longer a Sin", in many places these God-given and time-honored Laws are now being replaced by much more liberal laws which endeavor to invalidate God's Word, and give people a license to sin, while maintaining a supposedly "clean conscience". However, God is not amused by such foolish and rebellious violation of His eternal Laws.

At any rate, this belief in the merits of the Mosaic Law can be used with some degree of success to find common ground with people who embrace other religions, and in some cases to wean them from their faith in good works, to the Saving Grace which is found in Jesus Christ alone. As the Apostle Paul so wisely wrote, "if righteousness come by the law [or by good deeds] then Christ is dead in vain." -- Galatians 2:21.

To better understand the prophetic link which exists between the rituals of the priesthood of the Old Testament era, and the priesthood which was established by Jesus Christ in the New Testament, I again encourage you to read "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?". This series shows the connection between the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews concerning

the order of the high priest Melchizedek, and the Levitical priesthood which existed up until the time that the temple was destroyed in 70 AD by General Titus and the legions of Rome. As you will learn, Jesus' final Sacrifice replaced the animal sacrifices which were offered by the Levitical priests. While it is somewhat heavy reading, it will nevertheless add to the foundation you have already established by reading the aforementioned articles. Allow me to share some sample verses from that series with you:

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin ONCE: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."

Romans 6:9-10, KJV

"But this man, [Jesus] because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did ONCE, when he offered up himself."

Hebrews 7:24-27, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in ONCE into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Hebrews 9:11-12, KJV

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear

the second time without sin unto salvation."

Hebrews 9:24-26, 28, KJV

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE for all."

Hebrews 10:10, KJV

"For Christ also hath ONCE suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

1 Peter 3:18, KJV

Another article which you will find helpful as you endeavor to win non-Christians to faith in Jesus Christ is entitled "A Verse a Day to Keep the Doubts Away!". This particular article contains about three dozen key verses which explain the Salvation Plan. No doubt, you will be familiar with many of them. These verses should prove to be extremely beneficial to anyone who is attempting to witness to family members and friends regarding the purpose for Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross. In fact, you may be inspired to try to memorize as many of these verses as you possibly can.

Directly related to the aforementioned article is "Message to the World". This article actually started out as a small Salvation tract which I designed on my computer many years ago, and then printed out at a print shop for distribution here in my part of the world. Later, I worked on the tract, amplified its contents by adding a lot of Bible verses to it, and converted it into a regular article for the Bill's Bible Basics website. From that time until now, thanks to the generous help of other online friends, "Message to the World" has been translated into six other languages. These are all available for download in PDF format on the Bill's Bible Basics website.

I also recommend that you consider reading "The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love!". This article further exposes the vanity of depending on our own good works in order to try to save ourselves. A few more articles which amply discuss the issue of God's Grace versus the Law, or Grace versus good works, are "Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace", "Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts", "The Gospel of Thomas: Introspection or Heaven-Spection", and "Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service". You will find

direct links for all of these articles at the end of this same article.

Directly related to my series "Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?" is another two-part article I authored in 2011 entitled "Prophetic Comparisons: Moshiach, Mahdi and Messiah". As its name suggests, this article points out the differences in understanding regarding the foretold messiah, between the three major monotheistic religions of the world. That is to say, Christianity, Judaism and Islam. I believe you will find it quite interesting and educational.

If you carefully and prayerfully read all of these articles -- as your time permits -- not only will you increase your personal understanding regarding God's Salvation Plan, but you will acquire a great wealth of Scriptural knowledge, and thus arm yourself with the important tools that you need in order to combat any false, erroneous, misleading or deceptive doctrine with which Satan might attempt to entrap you through these non-Christian belief systems, and perhaps by which your listeners themselves have been entrapped. Please keep in mind the Apostle Paul's admonition in the following verse:

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

Furthermore, you will be able to provide solid Scriptural answers to anyone who may question you concerning the hope that is in you. Exactly what is this hope? Please read the following verses and be inspired:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."
1 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by

reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."
Romans 8:18-25, KJV

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"
Colossians 1:25-27, KJV

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;"
1 Timothy 1:1, KJV

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
Titus 1:1-2, KJV

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"
Titus 2:11-13, KJV

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
Titus 3:7, KJV

"And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

Hebrews 3:5-6, KJV

"And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:"

Hebrews 6:11, KJV

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ . . . Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

1 Peter 1:13, 21, KJV

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

1 Peter 1:3-5, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

1 John 3:2-3, KJV

Before concluding this article, allow me to remind you that despite your earnest and sincere desire to witness to family members and friends, it is important for you to realize that no matter how faithful you may be to perform your witnessing tasks, you cannot win anyone to Jesus Christ. While it is in fact your Christian responsibility to share the Good News in whatever capacity or form the Lord shows you, as I explain in the in-depth series entitled "Christian Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare", please do not ever forget that it is only God's eternal Spirit which can truly convict a darkened heart in order to bring a person to the point of

repentance, and thus to the saving Grace of Jesus Christ.
Consider the truth that is revealed in the following verses:

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:44, KJV

"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 2:47, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

So while God may use you as His special messenger in order to reach out to a certain individual -- whether it is a friend, a relative, or even a total stranger -- it is only His Spirit which can cut through all of their defenses, and help them to recognize their need for Christ. As we learn in the Epistle to the Hebrews, God's Word is like a sharp, spiritual sword which cuts right to the heart. So even when it appears as if a friend or relative is not listening to you, and hardening their heart against you, don't lose hope. God's Spirit may still be working on their heart, and in their life, even if in their pride, they do everything possible to make you think otherwise. As we also read in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, God's Word always accomplishes the purpose for which He sends it forth. Consider the following verses and be encouraged:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11, KJV

To reiterate, any fruit which is not truly born of His Spirit will not survive. It will shrivel up and die, and eventually fall by the wayside, exactly as Jesus explains in the Parable of the Sower. In times past I have seen people pressured into repeating a Salvation prayer. In fact, many years ago, I was probably guilty of doing this a few times myself. It was not that the person really wanted to, or was ready to accept the Lord. Rather, it was a way to get rid of a rather insistent Christian who would not leave until he had brought the person to a decision. Now, years later, I question how many people are actually saved by such high-pressure witnessing tactics.

As I have stated so many times before, Salvation only results when one truly acknowledges his own sinful condition, and his need for a Savior, and then recognizes and accepts that Jesus Christ is that Savior. As I explain in the article "Free Will and Personal Choice", a person must choose to yield himself to God's Spirit of his own accord, and not because someone is standing beside him saying "You better do this or else!". It is through accepting the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ by our own free will that we manifest our love and appreciation towards God the Father. Anything short of this kind of voluntary act of submission to the Will of our Father will not suffice.

It is my hope that the recommendations which I have made herein will not only strengthen your personal faith, but that these articles will also assist you in your endeavors to witness to family members and friends who may embrace other non-Christian religions.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are

likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

A Fantastic Party: Are You Coming?

A Verse a Day to Keep the Doubts Away!

All Are Given a Chance, But . . .

Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution

Christian Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare

Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts

Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace

Free Will and Personal Choice

He Who Fights and Runs Away: Choose Your Battles Wisely

Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?

Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word

Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?

Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?

Message to the World

Not Everyone is a Child of God

Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service

Prophetic Comparisons: Moshiach, Mahdi and Messiah

Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed

The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words

The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?

The Gospel of Thomas: Introspection or Heaven-Spection

The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love!

The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!

To Pray or Not to Pray?

Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!

When Sin is No Longer a Sin

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>