
“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible
What Is Salvation?
Bible Study Series

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

LESSON NINE — Is Salvation By or Through Any Other? (Part 2)

Estimated Reading Time: 40 minutes

Lesson Nine of this bible study series presented information about religious or spiritual leaders who lived in the **B.C. period**, which means "**Before Christ**," now commonly referred to as **B.C.E.**, "**Before the Common Era**." This Lesson Ten presents information about religious or spiritual leaders who lived in the **A.D.** period, which stands for "**Anno Domini**," a Latin phrase meaning "**In the Year of the Lord**." It refers to the years **after the birth of Jesus Christ**. This period of time is now commonly referred to as **CE**, the "**Common Era**".

List of Religious (Spiritual) Leaders who lived in A.D.
In Chronological Order

5. **Pope, Catholic**—institutionalized in the 4th century
 6. **Muhammad** 570–632 A.D.
 7. **Dalai Lama, Gendun Drup** 1391–1474 A.D
 8. **Guru Nanak** 1469–1539 A.D.
 9. **Joseph Smith** 1805–1844 A.D.
 10. **Mary Baker Eddy** 1821–1910 A.D.
 11. **Modern Humanism (Various Thinkers)** 1600s–1800s A.D.
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5. The Catholic Pope

For over 1,500 years, the title of **Pope** has been associated with one of the most powerful and influential religious offices in the world. As the head of the **Roman Catholic Church**, the Pope is revered by millions as the **Vicar of Christ on Earth** as a spiritual father, teacher, and leader of the global Catholic community. But for those seeking eternal life and a right relationship with God, a crucial question must be asked: ***Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the Catholic Pope?***

Who Is the Pope?

The Pope is the **Bishop of Rome** and the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church. According to Catholic tradition, the “papacy” claims to trace its origin to Peter, one of Jesus’ twelve apostles,

whom Catholics believe was the first bishop of Rome. However, during the first through third centuries, the bishop of Rome was not yet recognized as the supreme authority over the church. Formal recognition of the Pope as the supreme authority in the church did not occur until A.D. 607 when Roman Emperor Phocas officially recognized Pope Boniface III as the "universal bishop". So, the claim that Peter was the first pope is questionable at best.

The current Pope, **Pope Leo**, assumed the papacy as the **266th Pope** of the Roman Catholic Church. While details of his background and tenure may differ from his predecessors, he continues the role historically held by the Bishop of Rome as the spiritual leader of over a billion Catholics worldwide. Like those before him, Pope Leo is viewed by the Church as the **Vicar of Christ on Earth** who serves as a **representative** or **substitute** of **Jesus Christ** in His physical absence, particularly in matters of **spiritual leadership and authority** over the Church.

Pope Leo is known for upholding the **doctrinal positions of the institutional Roman Catholic Church**, which have developed over centuries through **papal decrees, ecumenical councils, and sacred tradition**.

How Many Followers Does the Pope Have Today?

The **Roman Catholic Church** is the largest religious organization in the world, with approximately **1.3 billion members** globally. The Catholic Church is especially dominant in **Latin America, Europe, the Philippines**, and parts of **Africa**. It continues to exert influence on politics, education, and culture worldwide.

What Are the Pope's Teachings About Salvation and Heaven?

As the highest earthly authority in Catholicism, the Pope is seen as the **chief interpreter of Scripture and Church doctrine**, with the ability to speak "*ex cathedra*" (from the chair) on matters of faith and morals. When he does so, Catholics believe he speaks **infallibly**, that he is incapable of being wrong or making mistakes. Regarding **salvation and heaven**, the official teachings of the Catholic Church, upheld by the Pope, include the following:

Salvation:

- **Baptismal Regeneration** – Salvation begins with **baptism**, which removes original sin and initiates the believer into the Church.
- **Faith and Works** – Salvation is a process involving both **faith in Christ** and **good works**, including participation in the **sacraments** (especially the Eucharist and confession).
- **Penance and Confession** – Sins committed after baptism must be confessed to a priest and absolved through acts of penance.
- **Grace Through the Church** – The Catholic Church teaches that it is the **one true church**, and that saving grace flows primarily through it.

- **Purgatory** – After death, most believers go to **purgatory**, a place of purification, before entering heaven.

Heaven:

- Heaven is described as eternal union with God, the ultimate goal of the Christian life.
- Those who die in a state of **grace and friendship with God** will eventually enter heaven, either directly or after a period of purification.
- **Mortal sin**, a grave sin committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent, can cause a soul to be eternally separated from God unless repented of through confession to a priest.

The Pope affirms and teaches the **Church**, the **sacraments**, and **human cooperation have a part along with God’s grace** in achieving salvation.

Do Salvation and Entry into Heaven Come Through the Teachings of the Catholic Pope?

While the Pope often teaches moral truths and speaks reverently of Jesus Christ, the Pope’s **teachings include doctrines that contradict the Bible’s clear message of salvation by only through the grace and mercy of God through faith in and obedience to the commandments of Jesus.**

Key Biblical Teachings :

📖 **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** (Ephesians 2:8–9)

📖 **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...”** (Titus 3:5)

📖 **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** (Acts 4:12)

📖 **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (John 14:6)

📖 **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”** (1 Timothy 2:5)

The Bible teaches that:

- **Salvation is not mediated through a church, priest, or pope, but through Jesus Christ alone.**
- **No religious rituals or sacraments can save a soul, only faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross can justify a sinner.**

- The ideas of **purgatory, papal infallibility, confession to priests, prayers to saints, and veneration of Mary** as a co-redeemer all **lack biblical support** and introduce teachings contrary to Scripture.

While the Pope claims to be the head with spiritual authority over Christ’s church, the Bible teaches that **Jesus is the head of the church** (Ephesians 1:22–23) and that His Word alone is the final authority for all matters of faith and doctrine.

A Global Leader, But Not the Way to Heaven

The Pope holds an unparalleled position in religious history as a symbol of unity for over a billion people and as a voice in global ethical and spiritual matters. His message often includes elements of compassion, mercy, and moral responsibility.

Yet, from a biblical perspective, **salvation does not come through the Pope or the institution of the Catholic Church**. Salvation comes only through **Jesus Christ**, without the addition of church traditions, or human mediators.

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

While the Pope may be a respected religious figure, his teachings on salvation introduce man-made requirements and traditions that **obscure the simplicity of the gospel**. **Only Jesus saves**, and no earthly authority can replace or mediate the saving work of Christ on the cross.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

6. Muhammad, Founder of Islam

Few individuals in history have had a greater religious and cultural impact than **Muhammad**, the founder of **Islam**. To his followers, he is regarded as the final prophet and the messenger of God. His life and teachings have shaped civilizations, inspired empires, and formed the foundation of the world’s second-largest religion. Yet amidst the global reverence he receives, an essential question arises: **Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the teachings of Muhammad?**

Who Was Muhammad?

Muhammad ibn Abdullah was born around **570 A.D.** in the city of **Mecca**, located in present-day **Saudi Arabia**. He belonged to the **Quraysh** tribe, a prominent clan in Mecca. Orphaned at a young age, he was raised by relatives and became known for his honesty and trustworthiness, which earned him the nickname “*al-Amin*”, meaning “the trustworthy one.”

In his early forties, Muhammad began to retreat to a cave called **Hira** outside Mecca, where he reportedly received his first revelation from the angel **Gabriel** around the year **610 A.D.** These

revelations supposedly continued for over twenty years and were eventually compiled into what is now known as the **Qur'an**, the holy book of Islam. Muhammad claimed to be the final prophet in a line of prophets that included Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus.

Muhammed spent the remainder of his life preaching a monotheistic message, calling people to worship **Allah** (the Arabic word for God) and submit to His will. After years of opposition in Mecca, Muhammad and his followers migrated to **Medina** in 622 A.D., an event known as the **Hijrah**, marking the beginning of the Islamic calendar. He eventually returned to Mecca in triumph and died in **632 A.D.**

Islam, the religion Muhammad founded, has grown to become the **second-largest religion in the world**, with over **1.9 billion adherents** as of today. Muslims are found across the globe, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia, and parts of Europe and North America. While there are various sects within Islam, most notably **Sunni** and **Shia**, all Muslims regard Muhammad as the final prophet and the Qur'an as the ultimate source of truth.

What Were His Teachings About Salvation and Heaven?

Muhammad's teachings laid the groundwork for **Islam**, which means "submission" (to the will of Allah). The core of Islamic belief is found in the **Five Pillars of Islam**, which are:

1. **Shahada** – Confession of faith: *"There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."*
2. **Salat** – Prayer five times a day.
3. **Zakat** – Giving alms to the poor.
4. **Sawm** – Fasting during the month of Ramadan.
5. **Hajj** – Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, if able.

Salvation in Islam is **not based on any plan of salvation**, but on a combination of **belief in Allah, obedience to His commandments**, and the **balance of good and bad deeds**. Muslims believe that on the **Day of Judgment**, each person's deeds will be weighed. If the good outweighs the bad, and if Allah wills, the person may enter **Jannah** (paradise or heaven). Those whose deeds are found lacking are subject to punishment in **Jahannam** (hell).

The Qur'an teaches that Allah is merciful, but ultimate salvation is uncertain even for devout Muslims, because salvation depends on Allah's will. Muhammad himself was not presented as a savior but as the final and greatest prophet who delivered God's final message to mankind.

Do Salvation and Entry into Heaven Come Through Muhammed and his teachings?

While Muhammad taught submission to a singular deity and emphasized moral behavior, his teachings **contradict the gospel of Jesus Christ**. According to the Bible, salvation is not granted through submission to a religious code. Instead, salvation is the **gracious gift of God** offered through

Jesus Christ, who is not merely a prophet, but the **Son of God**, the **Lamb of God**, and the **only Savior** of mankind.

What the Bible Says :

📖 **“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”** (John 14:6)

📖 **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** (Acts 4:12)

📖 **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** (Ephesians 2:8–9)

📖 **“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either.”** (1 John 2:22–23)

The Bible teaches that **Jesus is the divine Son of God**, who came to earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for the sins of the world, and rose again. He is the **only mediator** between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). Muhammad, however, denied the deity of Christ, rejected the crucifixion and resurrection, and presented a different gospel based on human effort and submission to the Qur’an.

The teachings of Muhammed, the Qur’an, is a different gospel, different from the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul issued a strong warning about **"another gospel"** in his letter to the **Galatians**. Here’s what he said:

Galatians 1:6–9:

6 *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,*

7 *which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.*

8 *But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

9 *As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

Key Points from Paul's Warning:

- Paul expresses **astonishment** that the Galatians were so quickly abandoning the true gospel.
- He makes it clear that **there is no other true gospel other than the gospel of Jesus Christ**—anything different is a **perversion**.
- Paul warns that even if **he himself** or even **an angel from heaven** were to preach a different gospel, that person should be **accursed** (Greek: *anathema*, meaning devoted to destruction)

or condemned). Note that Muhammed claimed he received his revelation from the angel Gabriel.

- He **repeats** the warning for emphasis, showing the seriousness of distorting the gospel.

Paul made it absolutely clear: **there is only one gospel**, the one he received from Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11–12). Any other message claiming to be "gospel" that alters or adds to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ is **false** and must be rejected.

Revered Prophet, But Not the Way to Salvation

Muhammad was a powerful historical figure and a religious leader who reshaped the Arab world and left a lasting global legacy. His teachings formed the foundation of Islam and continue to influence nearly two billion people today.

Yet, **Muhammad and his teachings are not the path to God**. His teachings do not provide the true way of salvation, because they deny the core truths of the gospel—particularly the divinity, atoning death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

While Muhammad pointed people toward moral conduct and submission to Allah, only **Jesus Christ** offers the assurance of forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and eternal life. As Scripture plainly states:

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

Therefore, while Muhammad’s legacy remains strong, **eternal salvation comes only through the name, the work, and the person of Jesus Christ—the true and only Savior of the world**.

7. The Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism

Among global spiritual leaders, few are as recognized or revered as the Dalai Lama. With his calm demeanor, compassionate speech, and message of peace, the Dalai Lama has become a symbol of moral integrity and spiritual wisdom in the modern world. To millions, he is more than just a religious teacher. He is believed to be the earthly manifestation of compassion itself. Yet for those seeking eternal truth, a vital question arises: **Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the teachings of the Dalai Lama?**

The Dalai Lama is not a single person, but a title given to the spiritual leader of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism, which is the most influential of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhist thought. The term “Dalai Lama” means “Ocean of Wisdom.” Each Dalai Lama is considered to be the reincarnation of the previous one, believed to be an expression of Avalokiteśvara, the bodhisattva (enlightened being) of compassion.

The first Dalai Lama was Gendun Drup (also spelled Gendun Drub), who lived from 1391 to 1474 A.D. He was born near Sakya, in the Tsang region of central Tibet, and became a prominent disciple of Je

Tsongkhapa, the founder of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism. Gendun Drup was not called “Dalai Lama” during his lifetime, The title was posthumously given to him and his two immediate successors after the term “Dalai Lama” was created in the 16th century. The title was first officially bestowed in 1578 by the Mongol ruler Altan Khan on Sonam Gyatso, who became known as the third Dalai Lama. The numbering was then retroactively applied, making Gendun Drup the first Dalai Lama. His contributions laid the foundation for what would later become the Dalai Lama lineage of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism.

The current and 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was born on July 6, 1935, in Taktser, a small village in northeastern Tibet. Identified at the age of two as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, he was enthroned in 1940 and formally assumed political leadership of Tibet in 1950. In 1959, following a failed uprising against Chinese rule, he fled to India, where he has lived in exile ever since. He stepped down from political leadership in 2011, however he remains the most prominent representative of Tibetan Buddhism and is regarded by many as a global advocate for peace, compassion, and nonviolence.

The teachings of the Dalai Lama are rooted in Mahayana Buddhism, particularly the Tibetan tradition. His message focuses on cultivating compassion, inner peace, mindfulness, and spiritual discipline. Like the Buddha before him, the Dalai Lama does not claim to be divine, nor does he present himself as a savior. Instead, he is seen as a guide and spiritual mentor who encourages people to follow the path to enlightenment.

In Tibetan Buddhism, the ultimate goal is not "salvation" or "heaven" in the Christian sense, but liberation from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara). The path to this liberation includes understanding and applying the Four Noble Truths, following the Noble Eightfold Path, practicing compassion and wisdom, accumulating merit through good deeds and spiritual discipline, and seeking enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings. The Dalai Lama also emphasizes interfaith harmony, ethical living, and universal responsibility, encouraging people to live with kindness and awareness.

In terms of the afterlife, Tibetan Buddhism teaches a concept called the Bardo, an intermediate state between death and rebirth, during which the consciousness moves toward another incarnation. One’s actions (karma) determine their next rebirth. In this context, heaven may be one of many temporary realms a person could be reborn into, but it is not eternal and it is not the final goal.

The exact number of people who consider the Dalai Lama their spiritual leader is difficult to determine, but Tibetan Buddhism has an estimated 20–25 million adherents worldwide. These followers are mainly found in Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and parts of China, with growing communities in Europe and North America. Beyond this core, the Dalai Lama has millions more admirers who appreciate his teachings on compassion, peace, and interfaith dialogue. His influence extends beyond religious circles, and he has gained recognition as a global humanitarian. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

Do Salvation and Entry into Heaven Come Through the Dalai Lama and his teachings?

The teachings of the Dalai Lama do not provide a path to salvation and eternal life. While his teachings promote compassion and personal discipline, they do not align with the message of salvation as revealed in the Bible. Tibetan Buddhism does not acknowledge a personal, eternal God. It does not teach that salvation is needed from sin, or that eternal life is found in a relationship with God.

According to the Bible, salvation comes only through Jesus Christ.

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

📖 ***“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*** (Acts 4:12)

📖 ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*** (Ephesians 2:8–9)

📖 ***“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”*** (Hebrews 9:27)

The Bible presents Jesus Christ as the only Savior who offers forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and reconciliation with God through His death and resurrection. Salvation is not earned through meditation, reincarnation, or personal enlightenment—it is only through the **grace and mercy of God through faith in and obedience to the commandments of Jesus**. Though the Dalai Lama teaches noble values, his message does not address the biblical truths of man’s fallen nature, the need for atonement, or the hope of resurrection and eternal communion with God.

The Dalai Lama is an admirable figure. He is gentle, wise, and respected around the world. His life has been one of compassion, humility, and global advocacy for peace. He has helped preserve Tibetan culture and brought Buddhist values to a wide international audience. Yet, his teachings do not lead to salvation or heaven. They do not deal with the core issues of sin, judgment, and the need for redemption. While Buddhism seeks liberation from suffering through self-effort and moral practice, Christianity offers eternal life through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote in *1 Timothy 2:5–6*, ***“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all...”*** Therefore, while the Dalai Lama may inspire kindness and inner peace, only Jesus Christ can save the soul and open the door to eternal life with God.

8. Guru Nanak, Founder of Sikhism

In the rich spiritual tapestry of India, **Guru Nanak** is one figure who stands out as a reformer, poet, mystic, and prophet of a new religious path. Revered as the founder of **Sikhism**, Guru Nanak challenged religious divisions and ritualism with a vision of one universal God and a call for sincere

devotion, equality, and justice. His influence remains powerful across South Asia and around the world. But for those seeking eternal life and a right relationship with God, a vital question must be asked: ***Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the teachings of Guru Nanak?***

Who Was Guru Nanak?

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born in **1469 A.D.** in the village of **Rai Bhoi di Talwandi**, now known as **Nankana Sahib**, located in modern-day **Pakistan**. He was born into a **Hindu** family but lived in a region where **Islam** also had a strong presence. From an early age, Nanak displayed a contemplative spirit, questioning religious rituals and seeking spiritual truth.

According to Sikh tradition, around the age of 30, Nanak had a transformative spiritual experience during a retreat by a river. He disappeared for three days, and upon returning, he proclaimed:

“There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim.”

This statement reflected his deep conviction that outward religion and labels were secondary to inner devotion to the one true God.

Nanak traveled extensively across India, the Middle East, and beyond, spreading his message of unity, truth, and devotion to God. He composed hymns in Punjabi that would later become part of the **Guru Granth Sahib**, the central scripture of Sikhism. Guru Nanak died in **1539 A.D.**, leaving behind a spiritual legacy that would continue through nine successive Sikh Gurus.

There is **no living human guru** in Sikhism today. Here's how the concept of "guru" works in the Sikh tradition. The succession of **nine human Gurus**, concluded with **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, who served as the tenth guru from 1666–1708. Before his passing, Guru Gobind Singh Ji declared that the line of **human Gurus had ended**, appointing the **Guru Granth Sahib** as the **eternal, living Guru of the Sikhs**. The Guru Granth Sahib is Sikhs' sacred scripture and is considered the spiritual guide for Sikhs, embodying the wisdom and authority of the human Gurus who came before it.

Sikhism is the **fifth-largest religion in the world**, with an estimated **25 to 30 million followers** globally. Most Sikhs live in the **Punjab region of India**, but large Sikh communities also exist in **Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and Southeast Asia**.

Sikhs are known for their visible identity (such as turbans and uncut hair), their community service, and their commitment to justice and equality, all rooted in the teachings of Guru Nanak and the nine Gurus who followed him.

What Were His Teachings About Salvation and Heaven?

Guru Nanak taught belief in **One God**, who is formless, eternal, sovereign, and beyond human comprehension, but also personal and loving. He emphasized that God is not limited to one religion or people group. His vision of God was neither Hindu nor Muslim, but universal.

Key elements of Guru Nanak's teaching include:

- **Naam Simran** – Constant remembrance and meditation on God's name.
- **Seva** – Selfless service to others as an act of devotion.
- **Equality** – Denial of caste divisions and full equality of all people.
- **Honest living** – Earning a living through truthful means.
- **Rejecting empty rituals** – True religion is inward, not outward.

Regarding **salvation**, Sikhism teaches that the soul is trapped in a cycle of **birth, death, and rebirth** (*samsara*), much like Hinduism and Buddhism. The goal is **mukti**, liberation from this cycle, and union with God. This liberation comes not through rituals or pilgrimages, but through **grace, meditation on God, and living righteously**.


The Sikh concept of **heaven** is not a physical place in the clouds, but a **spiritual union with God**—a state of bliss and oneness beyond the ego and worldly attachments. Hell is not a fiery place but a metaphor for separation from God due to selfishness and sin.


Do Salvation and Entry into Heaven Come Through the Teachings of Guru Nanak?


Guru Nanak emphasized devotion to one God and living an ethical life, which are values that align in part with Christian morality. However, his teachings **do not provide for a way of salvation from sin**. Sikhism denies or differs from key biblical doctrines such as:


- The **deity of Jesus Christ**
- The **atoning sacrifice of the cross**
- The **resurrection of Jesus**
- The **need for repentance and faith in Christ** for salvation
- The **personal nature of heaven as eternal fellowship with God**

What the Bible Teaches :

 **John 14:6** – “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

 **Acts 4:12** – “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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

 **1 John 5:11-12** – “*And this is the testimony: that 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.*”

The Bible teaches that **salvation** is through the **grace and mercy of God through faith in and obedience to the commandments of Jesus Christ**, who died for sins and rose again. No amount of righteous living can remove sin or earn eternal life, only Christ’s blood can cleanse the soul and reconcile it to God.

Though Guru Nanak spoke of grace and devotion, he did not preach the gospel of Christ, nor did he point people to the cross. Therefore, according to Scripture, **his teachings cannot bring salvation** or entrance into heaven.

A Path of Devotion, But Not the Way of Eternal Life

Guru Nanak was a remarkable spiritual leader who called for sincerity, humility, and love for God. He rejected hypocrisy, championed human equality, and inspired millions to seek truth over ritual. His legacy continues to shape hearts and communities around the world.

However, **his teachings do not provide the way to salvation or heaven**. As noble and sincere as they may be, they fall short of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, while Guru Nanak taught many valuable moral truths, **only faith in Jesus can save the soul and open the door to heaven**.

9. Joseph Smith: Founder of Mormonism

In the religious landscape of America, few figures have stirred as much controversy, devotion, and historical significance as **Joseph Smith**, the founder of **Mormonism**. Proclaimed as a prophet by millions and dismissed as a false teacher by others, Smith’s legacy has shaped one of the fastest-growing religious movements in modern history. But for those who seek eternal truth, an essential question must be asked: ***Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the teachings of Joseph Smith?***

Who Was Joseph Smith?

Joseph Smith Jr. was born on **December 23, 1805**, in **Sharon, Vermont**, and grew up in **western New York**, an area known as the "Burned-over District" for its intense religious revivalism. In his teenage years, Smith was confused by the competing claims of various Christian denominations and reportedly sought God in prayer.

According to Smith, in **1820**, at the age of 14, he experienced a **vision of God the Father and Jesus Christ**, who told him not to join any existing churches because they were all wrong. Later, in **1823**, he claimed to have been visited by an angel named **Moroni**, who revealed the location of golden plates buried in a hillside. These plates, written in what Smith called “Reformed Egyptian,” were said to contain the religious history of ancient inhabitants of the Americas.

In **1830**, Smith published the **Book of Mormon**, which he said he translated by divine power. That same year, he officially founded **The Church of Christ**, later renamed **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)**. Over the next 14 years, Smith led his followers through persecution, migration, and the construction of early church communities in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois.

In **1844**, while imprisoned in **Carthage, Illinois**, Joseph Smith was killed by a mob. At the time of his death, he had claimed the roles of **prophet, seer, and revelator**, introducing new scriptures, doctrines, and church structures not found in traditional Christianity.

How Many Followers Does He Have Today?

Today, the LDS Church claims over **17 million members** worldwide, with the majority in the **United States, Latin America**, and growing communities in **Africa** and **Asia**. There are also smaller sects that broke away from the main LDS Church, such as the **Community of Christ** and **Fundamentalist Mormon groups**, but the primary institution founded by Joseph Smith is **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, headquartered in **Salt Lake City, Utah**.

The church is known for its missionary work, family values, humanitarian aid, and impressive organizational structure, all stemming from Smith's legacy.

What Were His Teachings About Salvation and Heaven?

Joseph Smith's teachings departed significantly from biblical Christianity and introduced entirely new doctrines. Central to his beliefs were additional scriptures alongside the Bible, including:

- The **Book of Mormon**
- The **Doctrine and Covenants**
- The **Pearl of Great Price**

These texts became authoritative within the LDS Church and presented a new framework for understanding salvation and heaven.

Salvation in Mormonism:

Smith taught a **twofold concept of salvation**:

1. **General salvation** (resurrection from the dead): This is given to all people through the atonement of Jesus Christ, regardless of personal faith. Everyone will be resurrected and judged.
2. **Individual salvation** (exaltation): This refers to entering the highest level of heaven and potentially becoming **a god**. It is earned through faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by LDS authority, good works, temple ordinances (including eternal marriage), and obedience to LDS teachings.

Heaven in Mormonism:

Smith taught that heaven is divided into **three levels of glory**:

- **Celestial Kingdom** – For faithful Mormons who receive all ordinances and live righteously. Here, believers may become **gods** and continue creating spirit children.
- **Terrestrial Kingdom** – For good people who did not accept the LDS gospel in mortality but lived honorable lives.
- **Telestial Kingdom** – For the wicked who rejected the gospel but will eventually be saved after suffering in hell temporarily.

Those who commit “sons of perdition” level sins (e.g., denying the Holy Ghost) will be cast into **outer darkness**—the Mormon concept of eternal damnation.

Do Salvation and Entry into Heaven Come Through the Teachings of Joseph Smith?

While Joseph Smith used Christian language and affirmed the divinity of Jesus Christ, his doctrines **depart drastically** from the teachings of Scripture. The Bible warns clearly against **adding to God’s Word** or following **another gospel**.

What the Bible Teaches :

📖 *“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel... But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”* Note that an angel, Moroni, reportedly revealed God’s message to Joseph Smith. (Galatians 1:6–8)

📖 *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

📖 *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”* (John 14:6)

📖 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8–9)

📖 *“If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book...”* (Revelation 22:18–19)

Joseph Smith introduced new scriptures, claimed new revelations, and redefined key doctrines such as the nature of God, the means of salvation, and the hope of eternal life. According to the Bible, salvation is not earned through temple ordinances, secret ceremonies, or progressing to godhood. Rather, it is the **free gift of God**, received through **faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ**, who alone is Savior and Lord.

A Controversial Prophet, But Not the Path to Salvation

Joseph Smith's life was marked by religious innovation, bold claims, and lasting influence. His movement gave rise to a global institution with millions of followers who seek family unity, moral living, and personal revelation.

Yet **Joseph Smith does not offer the true gospel**. His teachings contradict Scripture, elevate human beings to divine status, and introduce a salvation based on works and rituals rather than on the atoning work of Christ.

Only **Jesus Christ**, the eternal Son of God, can save the soul and offer the hope of eternal life.

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

While Joseph Smith may have inspired a powerful religious tradition, **only Jesus is the way to heaven**, and salvation does not come through any other name.

10. Mary Baker Eddy: Founder of Christian Science

In 19th-century America, new religious movements sprang up as people searched for healing, truth, and divine understanding. One such movement was **Christian Science**, founded by **Mary Baker Eddy**, a woman who claimed to have rediscovered the true spiritual principles behind the teachings of Jesus. Admired by some and dismissed by others, Eddy's ideas influenced thousands. Yet a vital question remains for those who seek eternal life: ***Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy?***

Who Was Mary Baker Eddy?

Mary Baker Eddy (née Mary Morse Baker) was born on **July 16, 1821**, in **Bow, New Hampshire, USA**. She was raised in a devout Congregationalist family and struggled throughout her life with chronic illness, emotional distress, and instability. These personal struggles, combined with the religious revivalism of her time, deeply shaped her spiritual outlook.

In **1866**, following a serious injury from a fall, Eddy claimed to have experienced a miraculous recovery through her reading of the Bible, particularly Jesus' healings in Matthew 9:2-8. She interpreted this as proof of a **spiritual law of healing** that Jesus had demonstrated and which she believed God had revealed to her. She described this as a **direct revelation from God** about the spiritual nature of reality and the unreality of matter and disease. She came to believe that the **true nature of reality was entirely spiritual**, and that understanding this truth could bring healing and salvation.

In **1875**, she published her seminal work, "**Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures**," which she claimed was divinely inspired. In this book, she laid out the teachings of what would become known as **Christian Science**. She formally founded **The Church of Christ, Scientist** in **1879** in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mary Baker Eddy died in **1910**, but her writings and religious movement continued to grow into the 20th century.

At its peak in the early 20th century, Christian Science had thousands of congregations and reading rooms worldwide. However, its influence has declined in recent decades. Today, it is estimated that there are **under 100,000 active Christian Scientists**, mainly in the **United States, Europe**, and a few other regions. The church maintains **Christian Science Reading Rooms**, publishes *The Christian Science Monitor*, and continues to promote spiritual healing through prayer.

What Were Her Teachings About Salvation and Heaven?

Mary Baker Eddy's teachings are a **blend of metaphysical philosophy, spiritual idealism, and biblical interpretation**, heavily influenced by the transcendentalism and New Thought movements of her day.

At the core of her theology is the belief that:

- **God is all-in-all**, infinite, and entirely good.
- **Evil, sin, disease, and death are illusions**—not part of God's reality.
- The **material world is not ultimately real**; true reality is purely spiritual.
- **Jesus was not God**, but the divine Christ-idea made manifest.
- **Healing comes through understanding spiritual truth**, not through medicine.

Regarding **salvation and heaven**, Eddy taught:

- **Salvation is not through the blood of Christ**, but through **correct spiritual understanding**.
- Sin is not a moral offense that needs atonement, but a **false belief** to be corrected.
- Heaven is not a place, but a **state of spiritual consciousness**.
- There is no eternal punishment or hell—these are also illusions.

In *Science and Health*, Eddy writes:

"Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal."

Thus, Christian Science redefined salvation as **awakening to the truth of one's spiritual identity** as a reflection of God, rather than being forgiven through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do Salvation and Entry into Heaven Come Through the Teachings of Mary Baker Eddy?

Though Mary Baker Eddy used biblical language and quoted Scripture extensively, **her core teachings contradict fundamental doctrines of the Bible**—especially concerning the nature of God, sin, Jesus Christ, salvation, and the afterlife.

Biblical Teaching on Salvation :

📖 **“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”** (John 14:6)

📖 **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”** (Romans 3:23–24)

📖 **“Without shedding of blood there is no remission.”** (Hebrews 9:22)

📖 **“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)

📖 **“For by grace you have been saved through faith... not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Mary Baker Eddy denied the biblical understanding of:

- **Sin** and man’s fallen nature
- **Jesus' atoning death on the cross**
- **Physical resurrection**
- **Eternal judgment**

She replaced the gospel of Jesus Christ with a system of **mental healing and metaphysical reinterpretation**. According to the Bible, however, **sin is real, death is real**, and only the **atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ** can cleanse a person from sin and reconcile them to God.

A Metaphysical Vision, But Not the Way to Salvation

Mary Baker Eddy’s life was marked by deep spiritual searching and the desire to overcome suffering through divine truth. Her writings reflect intelligence, sincerity, and a longing for spiritual clarity. Yet her teachings departed significantly from the gospel of the New Testament.

While Christian Science promotes positive thinking and spiritual healing, it **denies the cross, redefines Christ**, and **replaces the gospel of Jesus Christ with spiritual knowledge**. From a biblical standpoint, these are not just doctrinal errors—they are eternally significant deceptions.

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

Therefore, as well-intentioned as Mary Baker Eddy may have been, **salvation and eternal life do not come through her teachings**. They come only through **faith in and obedience to the real Jesus Christ**, the **Son of God**, who died for you sins, rose from the dead, and offers the gift of eternal life to all who believe.

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

11. Modern Humanism

In a world increasingly shaped by science, reason, and pluralism, **Modern Humanism** has emerged as a powerful worldview that seeks to guide human life apart from religious or supernatural beliefs. Emphasizing ethics, rational inquiry, and human dignity, modern humanism offers an appealing vision of moral and social progress. But beneath its intellectual and ethical surface lies a central question for those seeking eternal truth: ***Do salvation and entry into heaven come through the teachings of Modern Humanists and its influencers?***

What Is Modern Humanism?

Modern Humanism, often called **secular humanism** or **contemporary humanism**, is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes human reason, scientific inquiry, and individual autonomy over religious faith or divine revelation. It is non-theistic, it rejects belief in a personal God, and promotes a moral framework grounded in human experience, not sacred texts.

Modern humanism evolved during the **Enlightenment**, when philosophers and scientists began to challenge traditional religious authority and explore reason, liberty, and the natural world as the keys to truth and progress. The **Enlightenment**, also called the **Age of Reason**, was an intellectual and cultural movement that took place mainly in **Europe from the late 17th century to the early 19th century**.

Its official values are often summarized in the **Humanist Manifestos**, published in **1933, 1973, and 2003**, which lay out the principles of a human-centered life view committed to personal freedom, social justice, and global well-being.

Who Were the Key Contributors or Influencers of Modern Humanism?

Though modern humanism does not have a single founder, it was shaped by a wide array of thinkers, writers, and scientists who questioned religious dogma and championed human progress:

- **Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466–1536)** – A Renaissance humanist who emphasized reason, education, and moral philosophy rooted in classical ideals rather than medieval scholasticism.
- **Immanuel Kant (1724–1804)** – A German philosopher who argued that moral responsibility is grounded in human reason and autonomy, not divine command. His ideas laid the groundwork for ethical humanism.
- **Auguste Comte (1798–1857)** – The father of sociology, Comte promoted **positivism**, which held that only scientific knowledge is valid. He proposed a "religion of humanity" that focused on human progress without God.

- **Charles Darwin (1809–1882)** – His theory of **evolution by natural selection** undermined the traditional belief in divine creation, leading many to adopt naturalistic explanations for life and morality.
- **Julian Huxley (1887–1975)** – A biologist and philosopher, Huxley coined the term “**evolutionary humanism**” and became the first director-general of UNESCO. He promoted a future in which science and reason, not religion, guide human development.
- **Raymond B. Bragg** and the co-authors of the **Humanist Manifesto I (1933)** – This document, signed by ministers, academics, and social reformers, explicitly rejected belief in God and declared human beings the masters of their own destiny.

How Many Followers Does Modern Humanism Have Today?

While exact numbers are difficult to determine—since many humanists do not formally affiliate with a specific movement—estimates suggest that **millions of people worldwide** align with **secular humanist** values. Many who identify as **atheists, agnostics, or nones** (those with no religious affiliation) embrace humanist principles even if they don’t use the label.

Major organizations include:

- **The American Humanist Association**
- **Humanists International**
- **The British Humanist Association**
- **Freedom From Religion Foundation**

These groups are particularly influential in **Western democracies**, where secularism is widespread in education, law, and public policy.

What Are the Teachings of Modern Humanism About Salvation and Heaven?

Modern humanism, by definition, **does not teach salvation in any religious or biblical sense**. It denies:

- The existence of **sin** as an offense against a holy God.
- The **divinity of Jesus Christ** or the necessity of His atoning sacrifice.
- The reality of **heaven** or **hell** as destinations after death.
- The existence of a **supernatural realm** or **personal after-life**.

Instead, humanists believe:

- **Human beings are inherently good or capable of moral improvement** through education and social reform.
- **Salvation** is redefined as the improvement of human life on Earth—achieving peace, justice, and well-being through science, ethics, and cooperation.

- **Heaven** is metaphorical—a state of social harmony or personal fulfillment in this life, not a literal dwelling with God after death.
- Death is the **end of personal existence**, and there is no judgment or continuation of consciousness beyond the grave.

As stated in the **Humanist Manifesto II (1973)**:

"Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful."

Do Salvation and Entry Into Heaven Come Through the Teachings of Modern Humanism?

While modern humanism promotes kindness, reason, and social progress, it **denies the very foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ**. Humanism asserts that man is the measure of all things and that salvation, if it can be called that, comes through **human effort**, not **divine grace**.

Biblical Truth About Salvation :

- ***“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*** (John 14:6)
- ***“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*** (Acts 4:12)
- ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*** (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- ***“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”*** (Hebrews 9:27)

According to Scripture:

- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23).
- Eternal life is not achieved through moral living or education, but through **obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ** (Acts 2:38).

Modern Humanism **cannot provide the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, or eternal life**, because it rejects the Savior and the need for redemption. In denying the reality of sin, it dismisses the very reason Jesus came to Earth.

A Man-Centered Vision, But Not the Way to Eternal Life

Modern humanism offers a compelling vision of what life might look like if **God were excluded**—a world of ethical ideals, social responsibility, and scientific progress. Influencers like **Erasmus, Kant, Darwin, and Julian Huxley** helped build a philosophy that places **human reason** at the center of existence.

Yet, in doing so, modern humanism **rejects the core truth of the gospel**: that human beings are not inherently good or self-sufficient, but sinners in need of a Savior. It replaces **God's authority** with **man's reasoning**, and **eternal hope** with **temporary progress**.

"O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." (Jeremiah 10:23)

The prophet Jeremiah acknowledged that human beings, by themselves, lack the wisdom and ability to guide their lives correctly without God. He emphasized the need for **divine guidance** and submission to God's will.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart... He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Mankind cannot rightly guide themselves; God promises to guide those who fully trust and submit to Him.

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

Therefore, while modern humanism may improve earthly life in some respects, it **cannot save the soul**. Only **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God, crucified and risen, offers the path to heaven and eternal life with God.

Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated time to answer the questions: 5 – 6 minutes. With scripture lookup: 30 minutes.

Read and answer the following set of questions about this lesson, and circle your answer: "True | False" or "Yes | No". Look up the scriptures provided to confirm your answers. Then compare your answers with the Answer Key provided after these questions.

Questions about Religious / Spiritual Leaders

1. **"True | False"** Confucius taught moral behavior but never claimed to offer eternal life.
2. **"True | False"** Buddha focused on enlightenment through self-denial, not salvation through a Savior. (Acts 4:12)
3. **"True | False"** Muhammad believed in one God but denied that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 2:22)
4. **"True | False"** Joseph Smith taught additional scripture that contradicts the Bible. (Galatians 1:8–9)
5. **"True | False"** The Pope is never mentioned in the New Testament as the head of the church. (Colossians 1:18)

6. **“True | False”** Hinduism teaches many gods and reincarnation, which conflicts with biblical teaching. (Hebrews 9:27)
7. **“True | False”** Buddhism teaches the elimination of desire rather than forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 1:7)
8. **“True | False”** Islam denies that Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world. (1 Corinthians 15:3)
9. **“True | False”** Mormon doctrine teaches that humans can become gods, which contradicts the Bible. (Isaiah 43:10)
10. **“True | False”** Catholicism teaches purgatory, a concept not found in the New Testament. (Luke 16:26)
11. **“True | False”** Confucianism offers wisdom for life but no sacrifice for sin. (Hebrews 10:12)
12. **“True | False”** Shintoism is based on nature worship, not the worship of the true God. (Romans 1:25)
13. **“True | False”** Modern Humanism elevates human philosophy over submission to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)
14. **“True | False”** Modern Humanism assumes humans are basically good and do not need salvation through Christ. (Romans 3:23)
15. **“True | False”** Judaism today rejects Jesus as the Messiah. (John 1:11)
16. **“True | False”** Eastern religions often teach that truth is relative, unlike the absolute truth in Christ. (John 17:17)
17. **“True | False”** Muhammad taught salvation through works rather than grace. (Ephesians 2:8–9)
18. **“True | False”** Buddhism denies the existence of a personal Creator God. (Genesis 1:1)
19. **“True | False”** Hindu gods and idols are condemned by biblical teaching. (1 Corinthians 10:20)
20. **“True | False”** Joseph Smith’s writings add to the gospel of Christ. (Revelation 22:18)
21. **“True | False”** Catholic doctrine places tradition equal to (or above) Scripture. (Matthew 15:9)
22. **“True | False”** idea that all religions lead to heaven is contradicted by Jesus’ own words. (John 14:6)
23. **“True | False”** Mysticism emphasizes feelings and experiences over revealed truth. (2 Peter 1:19)
24. **“True | False”** The Bible teaches that God does not share His glory with others. (Isaiah 42:8)

Questions about Salvation Through Jesus Christ

25. **“True | False”** Jesus said that no one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6)
26. **“True | False”** There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)
27. **“True | False”** Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5)
28. **“True | False”** Salvation is received through obedient response to the gospel by hearing (Romans 10:17), believing (Mark 16:16), repenting (Acts 2:38), confessing Christ (Romans 10:9–10), and being baptized (Acts 22:16). (Romans 6:17–18)
29. **“True | False”** Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)
30. **“True | False”** The gospel is God’s power to salvation for everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)
31. **“True | False”** Faith alone without obedience is sufficient for salvation. (James 2:24)
32. **“True | False”** Baptism is essential to salvation according to the teaching of Jesus. (Mark 16:16)

Answer Key

Estimated time to read the answers: 15 minutes. With reflection and contemplation: 45 -60 minutes.

1. Confucius taught moral behavior but never claimed to offer eternal life **True**
“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6)
 Confucius offered ethical guidance but did not claim to provide eternal salvation or access to God.
2. Buddha focused on enlightenment through self-denial, not salvation through a Savior **True**
“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)
 Buddha taught a self-directed path to enlightenment, not salvation through a divine Savior.
3. Muhammad believed in one God but denied that Jesus is the Son of God **True**
“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.” (1 John 2:22)
 Islam teaches that Jesus was a prophet but not divine, contradicting New Testament doctrine.
4. Joseph Smith taught additional scripture that contradicts the Bible **True**
“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8–9)
 The Book of Mormon adds to and alters biblical teaching, which Scripture warns against.
5. The Pope is never mentioned in the New Testament as the head of the church **True**
“And He (Jesus Christ) is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18)
 Jesus is the only head of the church in the New Testament; no earthly figure holds that role.

6. Hinduism teaches many gods and reincarnation, which conflicts with biblical teaching **True**
“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)
 Scripture teaches a single life followed by judgment, not reincarnation.
7. Buddhism teaches the elimination of desire rather than forgiveness of sins **True**
“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)
 The Bible emphasizes the need for forgiveness through Christ, not personal detachment from desire.
8. Islam denies that Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world **True**
“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3)
 Islam denies the crucifixion, which is central to Christian salvation.
9. Mormon doctrine teaches that humans can become gods, which contradicts the Bible **True**
“Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)
 God declares that He is the only God, rejecting the idea of human deification.
10. Catholicism teaches purgatory, a concept not found in the New Testament **True**
“And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed.” (Luke 16:26)
 Jesus describes only heaven and hell, not a transitional state like purgatory.
11. Confucianism offers wisdom for life but no sacrifice for sin **True**
“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 10:12)
 Only Jesus offers a once-for-all sacrifice for sin; Confucius did not address sin in this way.
12. Shintoism is based on nature worship, not the worship of the true God **True**
“Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.” (Romans 1:25)
 Nature worship replaces the Creator with the created, which Scripture condemns.
13. Judaism today rejects Jesus as the Messiah **True**
“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.” (John 1:11)
 The Jewish leadership and many followers rejected Jesus as the prophesied Messiah.
14. Eastern religions often teach that truth is relative, unlike the absolute truth in Christ **True**
“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)
 Jesus taught that truth is absolute and found in God's word, not in subjective paths.
15. Muhammad taught salvation through works rather than grace **True**
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”
 (Ephesians 2:8–9)
 Islam emphasizes merit-based salvation, unlike the grace-based salvation in Christ.

16. Buddhism denies the existence of a personal Creator God **True**
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)
 The Bible begins with God as Creator, a belief denied in Buddhist philosophy.
17. Hindu gods and idols are condemned by biblical teaching **True**
“Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God.”
 (1 Corinthians 10:20)
 Worship of idols or false gods is consistently condemned in Scripture.
18. Joseph Smith’s writings add to the gospel of Christ **True**
“If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.”
 (Revelation 22:18)
 Adding to divine revelation is forbidden, as emphasized in the closing words of the Bible.
19. Catholic doctrine places tradition equal to scripture **True**
“And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:9)
 Jesus warned against elevating human tradition to the level of divine authority.
20. Modern Humanism rejects the belief in God and focuses on human reasoning **True**
“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” (Psalm 14:1)
 Humanism elevates human intellect while denying the need for divine authority.
21. Modern Humanism teaches that morality can be determined without God **True**
“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12)
 Human reasoning apart from God leads to moral error and spiritual death.
22. The idea that all religions lead to heaven is contradicted by Jesus’ own words **True**
“No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)
 Jesus explicitly states that He is the only way to God, refuting pluralistic beliefs.
23. Mysticism emphasizes feelings and experiences over revealed truth **True**
“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place.” (2 Peter 1:19)
 Scripture is more certain than emotional or mystical experiences.
24. The Bible teaches that God does not share His glory with others **True**
“I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another.” (Isaiah 42:8)
 God alone is to be glorified; He does not share divine honor with others.

Questions about Salvation Through Jesus Christ

25. Jesus said that no one comes to the Father except through Him **True**
“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)
 Jesus claims exclusivity as the only way to God.

26. There is no other name under heaven by which you must be saved **True**
“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)
Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ.
27. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man **True**
“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)
Jesus alone bridges the gap between humanity and God.
28. Salvation is received through obedient response to the gospel by hearing (Romans 10:17), believing (Mark 16:16), repenting (Acts 2:38), confessing Christ (Romans 10:9–10), and being baptized (Acts 22:16) **True**
“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.” (Romans 6:17–18)
Salvation results from obedient faith following the gospel pattern.
29. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost **True**
“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)
Jesus' mission was to rescue the spiritually lost.
30. The gospel is God's power to salvation for everyone who believes **True**
“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16)
The gospel is the means by which God saves those who believe.
31. Faith alone without obedience is sufficient for salvation **False**
“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” (James 2:24)
Obedient faith is required; faith alone, without action, is incomplete.
32. Baptism is essential to salvation according to the teaching of Jesus **True**
“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)
Jesus clearly connects belief and baptism to salvation.
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North Main Church of Christ

1302 N. Main Street
Weatherford, TX 76087
(817) 594-6896
nmaincc@att.net
(ChatGPT assisted)