

About Buddhism: Everything You Need to Know - Part 1

Copyright 1994-2026 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On: Jan. 13, 2026

Last Updated: Jan. 13, 2026

Question From A Buddhist, How This Article Came About, Slow Methodical Approach, God Hates Certain Things, Ancient Child Sacrifice And Abortion, The Wicked Unregenerate Human Heart, Human Capacity For Good And Evil, Atheists And Their Moral Code, Many People Fail To Understand God's Plan Of Salvation, Necessity To Be Spiritually Reborn, We Are Born With A Sinful And Fallen Nature, None Of Us Is Righteous By Our Own Merit, Sin Separates From God And From Each Other And Insulates Us From God's Blessings, We Cannot Hide Our Sins From The Lord, Adam And Eve Are Cast Out Of Garden Of Eden, Sin Entered The World Through Adam And Eve, Cain Slays Abel, Satan Has Been A Liar Deceiver And Murderer Since The Beginning, Adam And Eve Died Upon Eating Forbidden Fruit, Spiritual Connection Was Broken, Increasing Violence On The Earth, Genesis Flood

Recently, I was asked a question on my Tumblr social network account by a certain individual who appears to operate a small, six-member Tumblr group called "Buddha Dharma Study and Practice". Going by the limited content which I found on their Tumblr blog, I will assume that this individual is in fact a practicing Buddhist, although I do not know this with absolute certainty. At any rate, their question to me was the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"I propose that a Buddhist with love in their heart is closer to Christ than a Christian with hate in their heart. I'm curious if you agree?"

----- End Quote -----

While I initially began to respond to this person on Tumblr, as quite often happens when I am conversing with someone, my answer to him began to grow rather long, and I soon realized that what I was sharing with this person could be of benefit to many other Buddhists as well. In fact, it will likewise

help other Christians to know how to respond to anybody who happens to be of the Buddhist religious persuasion as well.

That being the case, I have decided to write this current, series. In addressing this particular person's question, I decided that it would probably be best to approach it from two different perspectives. Before continuing, allow me to offer a statement to any Buddhists who may possibly decide to read this series. While I will definitely be providing a clear answer to this Buddhist's question, in order to fully understand my response, you need to possess a clear understanding of the background story, which began in the Garden of Eden thousands of years ago. My conclusions will hopefully make more sense to you, once you know all of the Scriptural facts.

So then, in responding to any questions which are presented to me, it has been my longtime practice to always adopt a very slow, methodical approach. I build my case one step at a time, adding information, facts and Bible verses along the way, until the full picture -- or answer -- is formed. I ask for your patience as I lay out this story before you. While some of the things I say here may at first not appear to be directly related to the original question which was asked, I urge you to please keep reading until the very end, and you will hopefully see how all of the information I share here is in fact related and interconnected.

To partially answer this person's question, let me begin by stating that it is my personal belief that no true Christian will have hate in their heart, except for those things which God Himself likewise hates. Some people may be surprised to learn that there are indeed certain things which God really hates. Exactly what are some of them? Well, as one example, consider the following group of verses which are found in the Book of Proverbs:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Proverbs 6:16-19, KJV

So tell me, my friends. Can you personally relate to any of the seven things which are mentioned in the previous verses?

I most definitely can! For example, when I read the phrase "hands that shed innocent blood", I immediately think of the vile, devilish practice of abortion. Quite frankly, I really hate it, and I am sure that God does too. In my view, this wicked practice isn't really that much different from what the ancient Israelites did when they sacrificed their very own children to the false god Moloch in the Old Testament. For example, consider the judgment God pronounced against the city of Jerusalem, due in part to the fact that they sacrificed their sons and daughters to Molech:

"For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."
Jeremiah 32:30-35, KJV

So you see, my friends, there are indeed some things which God hates, which we Christians likewise hate. There are, of course, many other things which God also hates. The previous seven are just a few of them. Consider, for example, what the Lord himself said in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark:

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man."
Matthew 15:18-20, KJV

"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that

defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

Mark 7:20-23, KJV

So there we see some additional things which our Heavenly Father obviously hates. Speaking of the wickedness which proceeds from the human heart, I am also reminded of what the Prophet Jeremiah was inspired to write as well in the following Bible verse:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

Wow! It isn't looking too good for our human heart, is it? And yet despite this terrible truth regarding that organ which incessantly beats within our chest, a very common, popular saying in our modern times advises us to "Listen to your heart. It will never steer you wrong." Well, sorry folks, but quite to the contrary, that is NOT what God's holy Word teaches us at all! To add a final blow to this wayward axiom in which so many people have placed their trust, last of all, let us consider the following verse which is found in chapter six of the Book of Genesis:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Genesis 6:5, KJV

Man, oh man! I would say that the previous verse is surely the final nail in the coffin! Just look at those last three words: "only evil continually." My friends, can there be a stronger indictment than that? So why am I sharing these particular Bible verses with you? It is to clearly show you that while we humans have a lot of capacity to demonstrate love, kindness, compassion, peacefulness, etc., we possess an equal propensity for being downright wicked and evil, and for doing some very vile, terrible things. Furthermore, as we have seen, according to the Scriptures, continually being wicked and evil is actually the default nature of the unregenerate human heart.

So the idea of trying to compare a Buddhist's heart with a

Christian's heart as the aforementioned person has foolishly done is really kind of ridiculous. In fact, in actuality, it is a rather moot point, as you'll see even more as we delve even deeper into this topic. Thus far, we have barely even touched the surface of this important subject.

As I point out in a few other Bill's Bible Basics articles, that is precisely why we need to teach our young children how to behave, and how to be good. They ALREADY know how to misbehave and how to do bad things, because it is built into them, as I will be explaining more fully in just a moment.

What you may find rather interesting is the fact that it is this very same argument which some atheists often use to try to justify their disbelief in God, and to prove to Christian Believers why they don't need God. "Oh, I don't need your God!" they say. "I can be good and lead a moral life without Him." In fact, some of these atheists are so haughty about this idea, that they have even created billboards where they boast about their assumed goodness without God. Below is a photo of one such billboard which appeared a number of years ago.

[billboard image goes here]

Now, I can honestly say and agree that if a person exercises strong discipline in their life and strives to control their emotions and passions, they can indeed lead a good and moral life. Nevertheless, just by saying that they don't need God, and that they're good without God, such individuals not only clearly demonstrate how truly lost they are, but they also reveal that they do not even understand what God's plan of Salvation is all about. Neither do they understand why it is even necessary. However, this should come as no surprise to us. After all, as the Apostle Paul so wisely wrote in his first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

However, for those of us who have already become a part of the Christian faith, we fully recognize and understand that it is precisely because the thoughts of our hearts are only evil continually, and because our hearts are desperately wicked, that we need to be totally transformed, regenerated,

renewed and reborn both mentally, as well as spiritually, through faith in the atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As Jesus himself said one night to a Pharisee named Nicodemus:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mothers womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

John 3:3-8, KJV

So why is this spiritual rebirth even necessary? This goes back to what I said a moment ago regarding the wicked state of the unregenerate human heart. As many of my readers will already know, the Bible teaches us that we are all born with a sinful nature due to the tragic events which occurred in the Garden of Eden. As we have already seen, it is because of those events -- that is to say, the rebellion of Adam and Eve -- that we all possess the capacity and the propensity to sin against God, and to also sin against our fellow man as well. We are born with a sinful, fallen nature.

In short, my dear friends, we are NOT on moral high ground despite what we may personally try to convince ourselves to believe. Furthermore, we have no righteousness of our own. This is an important subject which we will revisit later in this same series, because it is directly related to how a lot of people seem to think, including this Buddhist, some atheists, probably some Roman Catholics, and many others as well. These Scriptural truths are made plainly evident by Bible verses such as the following:

"Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12, KJV

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Psalms 51:5, KJV

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

Ecclesiastes 7:20, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

1 John 1:8, KJV

Sin not only separates us from God and breaks our fellowship with Him, but it also separates us from each other. Allow me to ask you a simple question. What was one of the very first things that happened after Adam and Eve had rebelled against the Lord? I am sure that most of you will already know. They went and tried to hide themselves from the Lord. They were simply embarrassed to be in the Lord's presence. Thus, they tried to separate themselves from Him. They did not want to be in His light. What you may find rather interesting are the following verses which are found in the third chapter of the Gospel of John. I have added two additional verses to demonstrate how our sins also separate us from God's goodness and blessings:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd."

John 3:19-20, KJV

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Isaiah 59:1-2, KJV

"Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you."

Jeremiah 5:25, KJV

You see, Adam and Eve already knew in their hearts that they had done something terribly wrong. Why else would they try to hide from the Lord? They obviously knew that if the Lord found them, He would no doubt sternly rebuke them. However, as the previous two verses from the Book of John state, they did NOT want to be reproved for the evil they had committed. Thus, they endeavored to hide. However, if there's one thing which the Bible makes rather clear, it is that we simply CANNOT hide our sins from the Lord. Again, this Scriptural truth becomes evident by the following set of Bible verses:

". . . behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

Numbers 32:23, KJV

"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

"For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings."

Job 34:21, KJV

"O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee."

Psalms 69:5, KJV

"Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance."

Psalms 90:8, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 23:24, KJV

"He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

Daniel 2:22, KJV

". . . Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad."

Mark 4:21-22, KJV

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."

Luke 12:2, KJV

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Hebrews 4:13, KJV

So once the Lord confronted Adam and Eve, what was the next thing that happened? Well, exactly as they had expected, He firmly rebuked them, judged them -- and Satan as well -- and then He proceeded to kick them out of the Garden of Eden so that they no longer had access to the Tree of Life, and to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In short, the Lord SEPARATED them from both Himself, and from His blessings which they had enjoyed in the Garden of Eden, EXACTLY as the Prophet Jeremiah had pronounced when he wrote "your sins have withholden good things from you." And just to make sure that Adam and Eve could not regain entrance to the Garden, we are informed that the Lord placed Cherubims and a flaming sword, as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Genesis 3:22-24, KJV

So as we have already seen, with that one rebellious act, sin entered into the world. You may recall from the earlier verse in Romans 5 that the Apostle Paul wrote "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world." Then an undetermined amount of time passed until Eve gave birth to the brothers Cain and Abel. We all know -- or at least we should know -- what eventually happened after that. The two brothers grew

up, and Cain became a farmer, while Abel became a herdsman. Then the first Biblically recorded act of human violence occurred when both men offered sacrifices to God. While the sacrifice of Cain was rejected, the sacrifice of Abel was well accepted by the Lord.

Of course, we know what happened next. In a fit of jealousy, uncontrolled rage and pure hatred, Cain rose up and murdered his brother. Now stop and remember the various things which the Lord told His listeners proceed from the wicked human heart. Two of them are "evil thoughts" and "murders". That is exactly what we see happening in Genesis. Furthermore, who was present in the Garden of Eden? Who induced Adam and Eve to sin against God by contradicting the Lord's words and blatantly lying to them?

My friends, you all know the answer. It was none other than the Devil himself in the form of a sly serpent. So who do you think inspired Cain to kill Abel some years later? Well obviously, it was Satan again, because as Jesus said, that Devil has been a liar, a deceiver and a murderer from the very beginning. In fact, in his first Epistle, the Apostle John even clearly writes that Cain "was of that wicked one", and that the Devil has sinned "from the beginning." Consider the following group of Bible verses which confirm these various points:

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE."

Genesis 2:17, KJV

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? . . . And the serpent said unto the woman, YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:1, 4-5, 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

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for THE DEVIL SINNETH FROM THE BEGINNING. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil . . . Not as Cain, WHO WAS OF THAT WICKED ONE, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

1 John 3:8, 12, KJV

As we know, Adam and Eve lived to very ripe, old ages. God apparently blessed them with many children, despite their disobedience in the Garden of Eden. They suffered terribly for their sin and had to toil their entire lives. However, God also showed them a degree of mercy as well by letting them continue to live in a physical sense. Now what many Christians view as somewhat of a dilemma is the fact that the Lord had specifically said that "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." This sounds as if the Lord is saying that in the very day that Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, they would die. Yet as we have seen, they both lived for many centuries after that. Adam in fact lived to the age of 930, as we see by this Bible verse:

"And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died."

Genesis 5:5, KJV

I am aware of two possible solutions to this problem. The first is that the Lord wasn't actually saying that Adam and Eve would die on that very day, but rather that they would EVENTUALLY die. This particular explanation seems to agree with what we actually read in the Biblical text. Moving on to the second possible solution, while Adam and Eve lived for many centuries after their fall in Eden, on that day in which they partook of the forbidden fruit, they died in a spiritual sense. In other words, their spiritual link or connection with the Lord was suddenly broken on that day.

Or to phrase it in another way, their close relationship and fellowship with the Lord was simply severed. Whereas before they had been God's friends, now they were in opposition to Him, and had foolishly sided with the enemy. There was thus enmity between God and Adam and Eve. This sad, tragic truth was manifested in a physical sense when Adam and Eve found themselves suddenly thrust out of the Garden of Eden due to their foolish disobedience. From Adam and Eve's perspective,

their punishment must have indeed seemed like something worse than death itself.

Whichever solution you prefer to accept, the bottom line is that the Apostle Paul wrote "and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Ever since that moment in which Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan, and to rebel against the Lord, sin and death have reigned in the world. They sinned, and death was pronounced upon all of humanity. Years later, Cain rose up and slew his own brother Abel. In the centuries which followed that first wicked act of violence, sin, violence and death only continued to grow progressively worse, so that by the time of the Patriarch Noah, it grieved God in His heart that He had even created man. Thus, He chose to destroy them all, except for Noah and his family, as we see by the following Bible verses:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

Genesis 6:5-8, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

About Buddhism: Everything You Need to Know - Part 2

Copyright 1994-2026 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On: Jan. 13, 2026

Last Updated: Jan. 13, 2026

Sin And Death Passed Down To All Men, God's Laws And Laws Of Moses, Sin Means To Transgress Break Or Violate God's Laws,

Wages Of Sin Is Death, Laws Of Moses Define For Us Specific Sins, The Laws Of Moses Cause Us To Stand Guilty Before God, Nobody Can Keep All Of The Laws Of Moses, God Provides Us With A Solution To Sin And Death Through Christ, Through His Death Jesus Closed The Breach So We Can Be Reconciled To God, Jesus Died For Our Sins, God's Wrath Was Appeased By Christ's Sacrifice, Jesus Paid The Ransom Price, No Greater Love Than Jesus Death On The Cross, We Cannot Save Ourselves, We Aren't Strong Enough To Obey God's Laws, Christ Took Our Burden And Place On The Cross, We Can't Be Justified By Our Own Deeds Or Moral Code, Fallacy Of Trying To Merit Heaven By Our Own Good Deeds, Only Our Faith In Jesus Makes Us Righteous Before God, Not By Our Own Works, Are Buddhists Better Than Christians?, Buddhists Don't Believe In A Supreme Being, Buddhists Reject Jesus Being Son Of God Who Died For Our Sins, Buddhist Devas, Samsara: Buddhist Cycle Of Birth Death Rebirth And Suffering, Buddhist Concepts Of Dukkha Karma Nirvana And Moksha, Dharma And Ultimate Liberation And Enlightenment, Buddhists Reject Necessity Of Jesus' Atonement Similar To Other Religions And Urantia Book Adherents, Buddhists View Jesus As Great Moral And Spiritual Teacher, Bodhisattvas Are Enlightened Beings

Continuing our discussion from part one, so death entered the world through the sin of Adam and Eve, and it has been passed on to all people who have ever lived since that time many millennia ago, because we have all sinned in one form or another, even if we are not willing to honestly admit it to ourselves. We are simply born with an inherited sinful nature, as we learned with the verses I shared with you in part one. Exactly what is meant by sin? As the Apostle John plainly informs us in his first Epistle, sin is the action of breaking, transgressing or violating God's holy Laws.

Exactly how do we know what God's Laws are? Well, they are defined for us in the Laws of Moses, and also by what Jesus taught His followers in the New Testament. If you honestly believe that you have never sinned, then clearly, my friend, you deceive yourself. Furthermore, you are also calling God a liar. Consider the following two Bible verses:

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
1 John 3:4, KJV

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and

the truth is not in us . . . If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:8, 10, KJV

Furthermore, the Bible plainly teaches us that the wages of sin -- or we could say what we are owed -- is death. We each have a death sentence hanging over us due to our own sinful nature. Consider the following group of Bible verses which likewise confirm this very important point:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23, KJV

"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

1 Corinthians 15:56, KJV

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

James 1:15, KJV

On a side note, the reason why the Apostle Paul writes that "the strength of sin is the law", is because the Mosaic Law clearly informs us of exactly what sin is. As I mentioned a moment ago, the Laws of Moses enumerate the various kinds of sins which exist, and they are indeed many. As Paul likewise wrote "for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Furthermore, it is because of the Law -- meaning the Mosaic Law -- that we all stand guilty before God. Why is this? Because none of us is capable of keeping all of God's Laws. Consider the following group of Bible verses which explain these points:

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I HAD NOT KNOWN SIN, BUT BY THE LAW: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

Romans 7:7, KJV

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. 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."

Romans 3:19-20, KJV

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in

one point, HE IS GUILTY OF ALL."
James 2:10, KJV

This is a very deep, complex subject in itself which I will not be delving into in this particular series, because I am trying to keep this message as simple as possible, and I want to concentrate on Salvation basics for any Buddhist or other person who may possibly read this series. You will find the subject more deeply explored in other Bill's Bible Basics articles and series.

While the wages of sin is death, as Romans 6:23 above also informs us, not all hope is lost, because "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Thankfully, God provided us with a solution to this dilemma when He sent His Son to die for our sins. The Apostle Paul in fact refers to Jesus as the "last Adam", because through His sinless life and loving Sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus closed the breach which had been opened through Adam and Eve's rebellion, and He made it possible for us to be reconciled with the Father. As I mentioned earlier, Adam and Eve's relationship with God was broken when they rebelled. However, Jesus Christ made it possible for our relationship to be restored, as it had been in the Garden of Eden before the Fall. Consider this set of Bible verses:

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."
1 Corinthians 15:45, KJV

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.
Romans 5:6-8, KJV

"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 1:7, KJV

"And HE [JESUS] IS THE PROPITIATION [APPEASEMENT] FOR OUR SINS: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."
1 John 2:2, KJV

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION [APPEASEMENT] FOR OUR SINS."

1 John 4:10, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, AND WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, AND MADE THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18, KJV

You see, through His Sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus appeased God's wrath towards humanity. That is in fact what the word "propitiation" means. As I explained earlier, Jesus made it possible for our relationship with the Father to be restored. We can be reconciled with the Father by placing our faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The Bible makes it very plain that Jesus in fact paid the ransom price for our freedom from death. He paid what was owed for our forgiveness, redemption and salvation. He took our punishment for us when He died on the Cross. Jesus did what we could not do for ourselves. He suffered what we each deserve. He took our place, because the wages of sin is death, and Jesus took it for us. This eternal truth is revealed in the following set of verses:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY."

Matthew 20:28, KJV

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY."

Mark 10:45, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to

feed the church of God, WHICH HE HATH PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD."

Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE; be not ye the servants of men."

1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; WHO GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

I began this series by explaining how this Buddhist wanted to compare Buddhist love with so-called Christian hate. Well, you want to talk about love? Okay, what I just described to you via the previous group of verses is true, genuine love. In other words, giving your life for others so that they may live, which is EXACTLY what Jesus did. As Jesus said on one occasion to His Apostles:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13, KJV

The Apostle John also wrote the following Bible verses which condense the primary message of the entire Bible so that it can be easily understood by everyone, no matter their age:

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he [meaning Jesus] laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:16, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17, KJV

Why did Jesus have to do this? Why did He have to take our

place on that Cross? Why did He have to suffer ridicule and mockery, persecution, agonizing torture, and finally a very painful death on the Cross? I have already told you rather plainly: Because we CANNOT possibly save ourselves. None of us are capable of keeping all of God's Laws, despite what we may try to deceive ourselves into believing. We will fall short every single time. As the Apostle James wrote, if we break even one of God's Laws, we are guilty of breaking all of them.

Furthermore, as we saw earlier, in Romans 5:6 the Apostle Paul wrote "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." What does Paul mean by "when we were yet without strength"? Personally, I believe that Paul is saying that we simply do NOT have it in us to keep all of God's Laws, exactly as I just told you. God's Laws are simply too heavy for us to bear alone. They are a tremendous burden to us. They are a yoke of bondage which keep us fully trapped in the snare of death because we just cannot keep them all. They point the finger at us and say "Guilty, guilty, guilty!". However, God already knows this, and while He was on Earth, Jesus knew it as well. That is precisely why He came to offer us relief, and chose to take our place on that Cross, as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

So as you can see, it just keeps coming right back to Jesus. In short, my friends, I don't care what anyone else says, or thinks or teaches, no matter their religion or lack thereof. According to the Scriptures, none of us are capable of being good enough, moral enough or righteousness enough to merit God's mercy, grace, forgiveness and salvation. Now, if it were truly possible for us to merit such things on our own, then as the Apostle Paul wrote, Jesus Christ died in vain. He wasted His life all for nothing. I don't believe that for one minute. Do you?

As we learned in part one of this series, while some people believe to the contrary, we simply have no righteousness of our own. None of stand justified before God based on our own

human merits. If God should mark the iniquities in your life, you would NOT be able to stand justified before Him. Even if you were to try to keep every single law that is mentioned in the Bible, you are doomed to failure. You just cannot do it. God knows this. That is why He sent Jesus to die for us. The impossibility of our situation without Christ is plainly revealed in the following additional Bible verses:

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

Psalms 130:3, KJV

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:20, 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

"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

"And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14, KJV

Regarding that last group of verses which are found in the Gospel of Luke, do you fully understand what is going on

there? For those of you who may not, let me explain it to you more clearly. As we can easily see, the proud Pharisee beat his own chest and self-righteously bragged about all of the good things he had done. He reminds me of the rich young man who likewise bragged to Jesus regarding how he had kept all of the Laws of Moses. In fact, his question to Jesus was this: "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?". You see that? The man wanted to know what GOOD THINGS he could do on his OWN in order to merit eternal life. It was about trying to earn Heaven on his OWN merit by doing GOOD THINGS, and living a MORAL LIFE. Following is the full story:

"And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

Matthew 19:16-22, KJV

I am sure many of you will see the common thread between the proud Pharisee in the Gospel of Luke, and the young rich man in the Gospel of Matthew. Both of them were quite obviously depending on their own righteousness, goodness and personal moral code. They thought that such righteous behavior surely earned them a secured place in Heaven. However, they were both dead wrong, weren't they? In contrast, the publican was so convicted by his own sins that he would not even raise up his eyes. Instead, he said "God be merciful to me a sinner." So why was the publican justified? Because unlike the proud Pharisee, the man was NOT trusting in himself, or his own goodness. He was trusting in the mercy and righteousness of God. He realized that based on his own merits, he was just a complete lost cause, as in this verse which I shared with you a moment ago:

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall

stand?"

Psalms 130:3, KJV

So again, what we see is that the ONLY way for any of us to stand justified before God, is by placing our faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is by accepting His Sacrifice as full atonement, and as the only valid payment for all of our sins, and by being symbolically washed in His precious blood, that we can truly stand and be justified before our Heavenly Father. Through this act of faith, we are in fact imputed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, who is the righteousness of God. This is in fact precisely what the Apostle Paul states in his Epistles. He writes that he has no righteousness of his own, and that righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. Our salvation is NOT a result of our own good works, or our own perceived sense of righteousness. Please consider this group of Bible verses:

"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 . . ."

Romans 3:22, KJV

"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 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

"But for us also, to whom it [righteousness] shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION."

Romans 4:24-25, KJV

My friends, that is the gist of it. We simply CANNOT ever save ourselves by our own merit, goodness or righteousness.

Now we approach the most important part of this series where I will join all of these various points together, tie up the loose ends, and reveal why I am convinced that the thinking of the aforementioned Buddhist is really off the mark, and so misguided. If you are a Buddhist, or someone who belongs to any other false religion, I urge you to please pay very close attention to the remainder of this series. To refresh your memory, let me first share his question with you again. He wrote as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"I propose that a Buddhist with love in their heart is closer to Christ than a Christian with hate in their heart. I'm curious if you agree?"

----- End Quote -----

As I mentioned in part one, I found the very nature of this person's question to be rather strange, because he seems to starts off by embracing the false assumption that the heart of Christians is filled with hate. I honestly have no idea where he even acquired such a belief, but it is obviously not true in the least. While he does not say it directly, this individual seems to want to compare Christianity with Buddhism, and perhaps try to prove that a Buddhist can be better -- or maybe even IS better -- than a Christian. To add even more to the strange nature of his question, this person suggests that a Buddhist can be "closer to Christ than a Christian".

Being as he doesn't really clarify what he means by "closer to Christ", I can only guess. Does he mean closer to Jesus in a spiritual sense? Does he mean that a Buddhist can more closely emulate Jesus' character than a Christian by acting in a patient, merciful, kind and loving manner? In either case, if that is what this person is implying, he is still totally missing the point of what our Christian faith is all about, which I have already fully explained to you in the first two parts of this series.

But perhaps the biggest reason why I find this individual's question quite odd is simply because similar to other false religions such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, etc., Buddhists do NOT even believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In fact, to add insult to injury, they do not even believe in a single, all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal Supreme Being

who created the entire Universe. While Buddhists do believe in certain divine beings who they refer to as "devas", such beings are not eternal in nature. Neither are they able to create anything like our Christian God.

In fact, while these so-called "devas" supposedly live a long time, nevertheless, very similar to humans -- at least according to Buddhist beliefs -- they still remain trapped in a constant cycle of birth, death, rebirth and suffering, the latter of which is referred to as "Dukkha". In Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, this quite repetitive, lengthy cycle is known as "Samsara". According to this misguided Buddhist belief system, an individual's status in each new life cycle -- Buddhists can return as a human or even as an animal -- is determined by their actions -- or "karma" -- and desires in their previous lives. In other words, if I understand it correctly, their actions have an accumulative effect, and the goal of each life is to become even further enlightened -- by following the teachings, or "Dharma", of the Buddha -- until one is able to ultimately escape or be liberated from the endless loop of Samsara.

In Buddhism, this final transcendent state is referred to as Nirvana or Moksha. This supposed Buddhist state of awakening or enlightenment is marked by an absence of personal desires and ignorance. There is no longer any suffering or life and death cycles, and one loses his sense of self. It is a state of lasting peace and ultimate reality. Please note that while I am sharing this information with you, I do NOT believe in any of it, and I will fully explain why I don't believe in it in just a moment, in case you haven't already figured it out for yourself. I think that the serious flaws in Buddhism will already be rather obvious to many of my Bible-knowledgeable readers.

Concerning Jesus Christ, of course, because Buddhists do not even believe that He is the true Son of God, neither do they believe that He died for the sins of the world. To be clear, Buddhists do believe that Jesus Christ was a real person who performed miracles. Many Buddhists also accept that Jesus was crucified. However, they do NOT believe that He died in order to atone for the sins of the world. This rejection of what we Christians view as the central, foundational truth of our own faith, in fact places Buddhists in the very same category as the followers of Judaism and Islam -- and many other false religions -- who also adamantly reject Jesus' atonement for our sins.

Furthermore, Buddhists don't even believe that such a cruel, horrible death was necessary. As I point out in a few other BBB articles, sadly, the followers of that blasphemous tome known as the Urantia Book likewise believe in the very same thing, and view Jesus' death on the Cross as being barbaric and totally unnecessary. In short, my friends, similar to a number of other false religions which now plague our world, the very farthest that Buddhists are willing to go is to recognize Jesus as a great moral and spiritual teacher, a wise guide, and an enlightened being who attained very high spiritual realization. In Buddhism, such a person is called a "Bodhisattva". So while they do respect Jesus' teachings regarding compassion, love, and selflessness, and even His suffering as a powerful example of self-sacrifice, or what they view as detachment, that is as far as they are willing to take it. Period.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

About Buddhism: Everything You Need to Know - Part 3

Copyright 1994-2026 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On: Jan. 13, 2026

Last Updated: Jan. 13, 2026

Sananda: False Jesus Of The New Age Movement, The Great White Brotherhood Reincarnation And Ascended Masters, India Myth, New Age Thought Is A Dangerous Deceptive Mixture Of Multiple Pagan Religions UFology And Environmentalism Disguised As The Truth, New Age Thought Purpose Embraces Many Beliefs In Order To Appeal/Attract Many People To It, Deceived Christians Who Abandon Christianity For Buddhism, Main Differences Between Buddhism And Christianity, There Is No Salvation Outside Of Faith In Jesus Christ, Foolish For Buddhists To Compare Their Faith To Christianity Or Claim To Be Closer To Jesus, Christ Desires To Dwell In Our Hearts, Buddhists Do Not Belong To The Lord If They Reject Who He Truly Is, Being Compassion

Loving Forgiving Gentle Nice Peaceful Etc. Are Vain Works If
If We Reject Christ, Either We Are Washed In The Blood Of The
Lamb Or We Are Not, It's Foolish To Makes Comparisons Between
Religions Or Between Ourselves, Hell Lake Of Fire And Weeping
And Gnashing Of Teeth, Suffering In The Afterlife Is Rejected
By Buddhists, Reincarnation Contradicts The Bible, Buddhism
Teaches Self-Enlightenment Self-Improvement Self-Realization
Self-Effort Self-Liberation And Self-Salvation, Buddhism Is A
Religion Of Self-Righteous Works Requiring No Help From God,
Judaism Is A False Religion Based On One's Own Self-Righteous
Works, We Will Die In Our Sins If We Fail To Place Our Faith
In Christ, Wake Up Before It Is Too Late, We'll Be Judged By
God's Standard On Our Day Of Judgment, Brevity Of Life, Satan
Creates Many False Religions But Leaves Out Main Ingredient:
Faith In Jesus, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part two, as I explain in a
number of my articles where I discuss the New Age movement,
many New Agers take the very same approach as the Buddhists,
Muslims, etc. In other words, they do not outright reject
Jesus. However, neither do they embrace Him as the Son of God
and the only true Savior of the world. They have in fact
created this New Age version of Jesus who they have come to
refer to as "Sananda". This name seems to have first surfaced
during the 1950s and was directly associated with certain New
Age channelers. These alleged channelers supposedly had made
contact with extraterrestrial life and cosmic entities who
were members of the so-called "Ashtar Galactic Command".

Now, if the name "Ashtar" seems somewhat familiar to you, I
suggest that you consider reading my seven-part series "Our
Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed!" where I discuss the
false gods Ashtoreth, Ashtaroth and Ishtar. I think you will
quickly make the connection. Quite frankly, I find this name
"Sananda" quite suspect. After all, is it just a coincidence
that in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, the Sanskrit word
"ānanda" means blessedness or bliss, and in fact refers to an
extreme state of happiness, and is one of the highest states
of being in those false religions?

At any rate, this New Age "Jesus" -- or Sananda -- is viewed
as an "ascended master" who some New Agers say is a member of
the so-called "Great White Brotherhood", which also includes
notable characters such as Moses, Confucius, Buddha and I am
not sure who else. It has been decades since I last seriously

wrote about all this New Age stuff. Just as occurs within the aforementioned three religions, Sananda -- or the false Jesus -- transcended the cycle of reincarnation and achieved a high state of spiritual awareness. If you have been paying close attention, then it isn't difficult to see that it sounds just like the "Samsara" and "Nirvana" of Buddhism. In other words, the New Agers' Sananda sounds a lot like the Buddhist version of Jesus wrapped up in a New Age package and nothing more.

This fictitious Sananda entity is sometimes described as the "higher self" or "cosmic Christ" of the historical Jesus we know from the Bible. It is claimed that he serves as a guide to seekers of spiritual growth, as he works alongside other "ascended masters" and celestial entities to help humanity achieve a heightened state of consciousness. Now concerning his teachings -- which are claimed to be received by way of channeling sessions and telepathy -- exactly like Buddhism, they emphasize universal consciousness, unconditional love, forgiveness, spiritual awakening, and the potential for personal enlightenment.

But these are not the only similarities between the New Age version of Jesus -- a.k.a. Sananda -- and the "Jesus" who is promoted by Buddhism. As it turns out, the New Age Jesus was NOT crucified, and neither was he resurrected from the dead. Instead, their Sananda survived and traveled to India where he received even more wisdom and knowledge. Furthermore, he did NOT experience an actual physical resurrection from the dead. Rather, he experienced a purely spiritual ascension. This idea of spiritual ascension -- meaning the elevation of one's consciousness and moving into a higher dimension -- is a big teaching with the New Age movement. I first read about it almost thirty years ago.

As I mentioned to you a minute ago, this "Sananda" isn't anything more than a reinterpretation of the real Jesus of the Bible packaged in a New Age framework and based in large part on the same false Jesus that is promoted by Buddhism. It may interest some of my readers to know that it was more than twenty-eight years ago when I first warned about the dangers which I saw in the New Age movement. I expressed my thoughts in articles such as "Admiral Richard E. Byrd and the Hollow Earth Theory", and "Heaven's Gate, Suicide and Other Death Cults".

As I said back then, New Age thought amounts to a modernized, deceptive, strange amalgamation, conglomeration or blend of

some Christian doctrines, Native American mysticism, ancient spiritualism or necromancy, Wiccan nature worship, UFOlogy, Asian shamanism, oriental religions including Buddhism and Hinduism, and Babylonian demonism. This very lethal mixture is insidiously stirred together with additional ingredients such as environmentalism, political correctness and twisted interpretations of a number of historical events. In fact, it even borrows some aspects from globalism. Then it's carefully coated with a sweet-tasting powder that is disguised as truth and spiritual enlightenment in order to conceal the bitter taste of what is actually a very deadly and poisonous pill.

This New Age pill is then readily, foolishly, ignorantly and naively swallowed by so many folks today who are in search of the truth. In other words, the devilish tactic that is being used here is to draw upon so many different religious beliefs and other ideologies, that their pill becomes attractive and appeals to even more people. In short, no matter who a person may be, they'll still connect with it, identify with it, and find some common ground with it in some way. They'll simply find something in New Age thought which will make them think to themselves, "Wow! I think just like that!". Thus they are caught in the New Age web of deception.

While I have shared a lot of information with you concerning Buddhism, I've done so with the clear purpose of helping you to plainly and fully understand the fundamental differences which exist between our Christian faith and Buddhism. Why do I feel that this is important? Well, aside from the fact that Buddhism is such a deceptive, false religion, I have read a number of accounts online where longtime dedicated Christians have abandoned their Christian faith, and embraced Buddhism instead. Personally, I find that quite alarming. If I were to summarize for you the key differences, so that you will know how to respond to a Buddhist, and how to resist being tempted by Buddhism, it would be in the following manner.

First of all, Buddhism does NOT involve any type of divine intervention whatsoever. There is no Supreme Being who made all things, and there is no divine Savior who died for the sins of the world. As I've already explained to you through quite a few Bible verses, these central tenets of Buddhism are in direct contradiction to Jesus' core mission on Earth, and the things that He said about Himself, and which others said about Him as well, which are namely the following:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the

life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep . . . I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

John 10:7, 9, KJV

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Acts 16:31, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

"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:"

Matthew 7:13, KJV

Returning to my earlier comments in part two, if the Buddhist who wrote to me does not even believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of humanity; if he doesn't even believe that Jesus is the only way to the Father as the previous set of Bible verses plainly declare; then how in the world can he even dare to make any kind of comparison between his religion and my own faith? Furthermore, how can he even pretend to be "closer to Christ" -- as he clearly wrote -- when he does NOT even embrace who Jesus truly is to begin with? Such a thought is quite simply ludicrous to say the very least. That person obviously does not even understand that Jesus does NOT just want us to be closer to Him. What He REALLY wants is to dwell in our hearts, exactly as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS BY FAITH; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"

Ephesians 3:17, KJV

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, IF SO BE

THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU. Now IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS."

Romans 8:9, KJV

"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 1:27, KJV

"HEREBY KNOW WE THAT WE DWELL IN HIM, AND HE IN US, because he hath given us of his Spirit."

1 John 4:13, KJV

Please notice very carefully what the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the brethren at Rome. He quite clearly said "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." My friends, you cannot get any clearer than that! As such, if Buddhists do NOT even accept who Jesus Christ actually is, then it seems rather obvious that they CANNOT have His Spirit dwelling within themselves. Thus, the one and only inescapable conclusion at which we can possibly arrive, is that such Buddhists are NOT the Lord's, they do not belong to Him, and they most certainly cannot be any closer to the Lord than a Christian who actually DOES put their faith in Jesus. As Paul also wrote in the following verse, the Lord surely knows those people who belong to Him. That certainly doesn't include the Christ-rejecting Buddhists who refuse to even acknowledge who He truly is:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

Do you fully understand what I am saying here? A Buddhist can emulate Christ all he wants. He can be kind, loving, gentle, forgiving, compassionate, peaceful, etc. But it really isn't worth a darn thing if he does not even embrace Jesus for who He really is. All of that niceness and kindness is simply an empty, vain show in the flesh and nothing more. In fact, it really amounts to nothing more than self-righteous works of the flesh, and they won't save anyone. Why not? Because as we have already clearly seen, those aren't the things which God even looks at. The ONLY thing which saves us, and the only thing that God looks at, is whether or not we have placed our faith in the blood Atonement of Jesus Christ. Either we

are washed in the blood of the Lamb of God, or else we are not. Period.

So again, this is why this person's question concerning who is closer to Christ, a Buddhist or a Christian, is rather ridiculous and a moot point at the same time. Furthermore, as the Apostle Paul wrote, it is very foolish to even make such comparisons in order to determine who is greater, or who is more holy, or who is more righteous, or who serves the Lord better. It appears that Paul must have encountered this kind of problem in the Church. Thus, in response to it he wrote the following:

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise . . . But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

2 Corinthians 10:12, 17-18, KJV

Even in the Gospel of Mark we discover that on at least one particular occasion, the Apostles also fell into this same kind of foolish talk where they were trying to determine who amongst them was the greatest . Upon taking note of it, the Lord silenced them by offering the following wise response:

"And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all."

Mark 9:33-35, KJV

Returning to our discussion concerning the main differences that exist between Buddhism and Christianity, according to Buddhist beliefs, neither is there any kind of suffering in the Afterlife. All suffering -- or Dukkha -- occurs in this present life, as a person supposedly lives through one life and death cycle after another until he finally reaches the ultimate desired state of Nirvana. This erroneous belief totally contradicts a number of Bible verses such as the following where we are clearly warned of terrible suffering in the Afterlife for those people who refuse to repent of their unbelief, and who fail to embrace Jesus Christ as

their Lord and Savior. On multiple occasions, Jesus spoke about weeping and gnashing of teeth, as we can determine by the following group of Bible verses:

"But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 8:12, KJV

"Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 22:13, KJV

"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 24:50-51, KJV

"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:30, KJV

"There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."

Luke 13:28, KJV

Why would there be so much weeping and gnashing of teeth as we see described in the previous group of verses? I think the following additional group of verses offers us a rather clear answer to this important question:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:28, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 3:36, KJV

". . . he that cometh after me . . . will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

". . . He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:37-42, KJV

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

Romans 1:18, KJV

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

Psalms 9:17, KJV

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb . . . And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God."

Revelation 14:10, 19, KJV

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:15, KJV

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Revelation 21:8, KJV

Furthermore, even the very concept of "Samsara" -- multiple life and death cycles -- which most people readily recognize as the belief in reincarnation, is totally contrary to what we are taught in the Bible. As many of my Christian readers will already know, the Scriptures plainly declare that God only gives us one life to live, and not multiple lives. It is during this one life that we must all make the decision to either accept or reject Jesus Christ. Once we leave this present life, there is no coming back. Neither are there any second chances. The only thing that awaits us once our life here is over is certain judgment before the Throne of God. This Biblical truth becomes evident by the following verse:

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

Hebrews 9:27, KJV

While our Christian faith points to our need for an outside source to save us -- meaning, of course, God the Father and Jesus Christ -- in contrast, Buddhism focuses entirely on a very lengthy, human-based, multi-cycle process -- Samsara -- of self-enlightenment, self-improvement, self-realization, self-effort, self-liberation, and what basically amounts to a process of self-salvation. It is all about self. You can reach full enlightenment on your own. You can reach a state of Nirvana if you just keep working at it life cycle after life cycle. You can save yourself and eventually get out of that endless loop without any help from God or Jesus if you simply improve yourself and learn your lessons in each of the life and death cycles that you pass through. In short, as I mentioned earlier, Buddhism does NOT involve any degree of divine intervention whatsoever.

If you have paid close attention to everything I have been sharing in this series, then you will easily recognize that what I have just described to you amounts to a religion that is based purely on self-merit, supposed good works and one's own perception of their righteousness. It is most certainly NOT based on the true righteousness which the Bible plainly declares to us can only be obtained through one's faith in the atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As we read in part two:

"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

Ironically, the unbelieving Jews of the First Century who foolishly rejected Salvation through faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone, tried to do the very same thing. In other words, rather than accept God's righteousness through faith in Jesus, they attempted to establish and prove their own righteousness to God by way of their own supposed "good works". This they supposedly did by striving to keep the 613 commandments -- or "mitzvoth" -- which constitute the Laws of Moses, which we find in the Old Testament. As I point out in other articles, these five Books of the Law are also known as the Torah -- or Pentateuch -- and include the Books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Let me also mention that "mitzvoth" -- or "mitzvah" in the singular form -- also signifies a "good deed", or any act which creates a closer connection to God, to others, or to the world community as a whole. Sadly, these endeavors by the unbelieving Jews amounted to nothing more than public displays of vain, worthless, hypocritical, self-righteous works which did not contribute anything to their Salvation. Why not? Because as we have already seen rather clearly, NOBODY is ever saved by their own supposed "good works".

Furthermore, as some of my readers may recall, in the three opening verses of Matthew chapter twenty-three, Jesus fully exposed the hypocrisy of the scribes and the Pharisees when He said that while they instructed the common people how to live by and obey the Laws of Moses, they failed to do so themselves. Consider the following group of verses:

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."
Matthew 23:1-3, KJV

As I explained a moment ago, everything those hypocrites did was a futile endeavor to establish their own form of righteousness OUTSIDE of embracing Jesus Christ as God's

appointed Messiah. In discussing the vanity of their sad actions which would win no points with God, the Apostle Paul wrote as follows:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:1-4, KJV

My dear friends, that is likewise why Buddhism is such an utterly false and vain religion, just like all the rest of the false religions in the world which fail to acknowledge Jesus Christ for who He really is. To make it very clear for anyone who still may not quite understand it, Buddhism instructs its adherents to place their faith in themselves instead of in Jesus Christ. It tells them that they can be good enough and worthy enough on their own, if they just keep working at it long enough. Eventually, they'll reach full enlightenment, and liberation from the constant cycle of birth, life, death and suffering, and they won't have to reincarnate anymore. They will reach that blessed state of total peace and bliss known as Nirvana. However, as we have already seen, it is just a huge pack of lies.

Buddhism totally ignores the concept of sin, as well as the consequence of unrepentant sin, which is eternal death in the Lake of Fire. As Jesus informed the unbelieving Jews of His day 2,000 years ago, if they refused to acknowledge Him as their long-awaited Messiah, they would eventually die in their sins, and ultimately, they would also face the wrath of God due to their unbelief. Consider the following verse:

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:24, KJV

So say I this day as well to any Buddhists who reject Jesus Christ; to any atheists who foolishly and arrogantly believe that their own standard of goodness and morality is somehow sufficient to appease God's wrath; to any other individual of any other religion who thinks that their good works will win

them points with God and save them from His judgment; and to any other non-religious person who dares to mock God, mock Jesus Christ, and mock God's holy Word. Unless you willingly humble yourself and repent of your misguided ideas and your unbelief, you will indeed perish, come your day of judgment before the Throne of the Lord. When that day finally arrives, your own sense of goodness and righteousness won't count for a can of beans then, because you won't be judged by your OWN standard of goodness, my friend. You will be judged only by GOD'S standard, and His standard requires that you place your faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

So I urge you to wake up today while you still have the time to do so. After all, one never really knows when his or her life may suddenly be cut off and come to its end. Really give this some serious thought. Your life could unexpectedly reach its conclusion in the very next minute, or the very next hour, or the very next day. You really don't know, do you? So it is wise to get your heart and life right with the Lord while you still can. Consider the following Bible verses and take heed:

"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 always ready."

John 7:6, 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

Concerning the many false religions of the world, as I also mention in a number of other BBB articles, that is precisely how Satan has operated for thousands of years now. In other words, he creates counterfeit religions which contain bits of truth so that naive, gullible people will be attracted to them. However, that fiend purposely leaves out the very most important part. He purposely omits the main ingredient which is the necessity of having faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Thus, all of those false religions will indeed talk a lot about love, peace, kindness, compassion, brotherhood, and other wonderful and beautiful things. However, they will

NOT tell you what you really need to know in order to be saved according to God's standard.

My friends, they all do it. If you doubt my word, just look around for yourself and carefully examine and compare them, and you will see that it is the truth. Is that not in fact what Buddhism does as well?

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.

Admiral Richard E. Byrd and the Hollow Earth Theory
All Are Given a Chance, But
Beholding the Evil and the Good
Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts
Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace
Heaven's Gate, Suicide and Other Death Cults
Is The Message Of Salvation Meant for All Men?
Message to the World
Not Everyone Is a Child of God
Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed!
Saints, Holiness and Perfectionism
Salvation is Free Through Jesus Christ
Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?
The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words
The Nature and Consequence of Sin and God's Solution
The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!
The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!
What Does Blessed Are the Peacemakers Really Mean?

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<https://www.billkochman.com>