

World Religions Reject Redemption!

by Wayne Goff

In studying recently the subject of **Redemption in Christ**, I found it interesting to see what some of the major world religions had to say about the subject. I will share with you the quotes I found and make a few pertinent comments.

Hinduism On Redemption

"Hindus don't believe that people need redemption. ... The goal for us is moksha, which is liberation from the bonds of the illusory world..." [Ambaa Choate, "How Do Hindu Followers Get Redemption," pantheos.com]

Buddhism On Redemption

"Buddhists do not regard man as sinful by nature or 'in rebellion against god.' Every human being is a person of great worth who has within himself a vast store of good as well as evil habits. ... Buddhism teaches that everyone is responsible for his own good and bad deeds, and that each individual can mould his own destiny. ..." ["No Sinners," budsas.org]

Islam On Redemption

"...Redemption is when this battle [between good and evil, wg] is finally concluded with the divine victory, with the victory of the Good." ["The Idea of Redemption in Christianity and Islam," Mahmoud Mustafa Ayoub, Associate Professor, Toronto, Canada, [web: rsc.byu.edu](http://web:rsc.byu.edu)]

"So expiation or takfir of sin must be done by the individual himself, and here, then, redemption is what men and women do with their own sin through repentance and through expiation through prayers, fasts, sharing their wealth with the poor, and so on. This is one type of redemption." [*ibid.*]

Observations

If you are reading these quotes and wondering what it has to do with you, then realize that **the New Age Movement** popularized by notables such as Oprah Winfrey, Eckhart Tolle, and Deepak Chopra all borrow their theology from ancient eastern religions! In these religions, "Man is central. He is viewed as divine, as co-creator, as the hope for future peace and harmony." [Matt Slick, "What Is The New Age Movement?," carm.org]. Promoting mankind as God Himself well suits our egomaniacal society which too often produces self-centered narcissists! It not only is a religion of false hope, but it will produce tremendous despair and negativity because man inherently knows he cannot live in such a way as to control his destiny! But more importantly, those who have been indoctrinated or "brainwashed" into believing these things will find it quite difficult to comprehend the concepts of **sin** (a violation of God's will), **guilt**, **repentance**, **humility**, **dependence on God**, and **redemption in Christ!** Christians have their work cut out for them as they try to reach their friends, families and neighbors with the Gospel. Why does anyone think they need Christ as Savior, when they do not feel they are lost?!

Furthermore, the doctrine of Humanism follows along similar paths of thinking to the ancient mystic religions, and promotes Man as the self-centered solution of all of man's problems and "religion" as a superstitious hangover from the dark ages!

The Love Of God

I find great comfort in knowing that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for a lost, dying race (John 3:16). I appreciate a God who knows that man cannot direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23), and thus reveals His will for mankind in the Bible! It is even more astounding to know that God has done these things for an unappreciative mankind who is truly the Lord's "enemy," and yet offered His Son while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:10). Redemption in Christ through His blood sacrifice (Eph. 1:7-10) is the only means under heaven by which men must be saved (Acts 4:12)! There is no shame in this! Man is not alone in dealing with the Human Predicament — God is there for us, active in History, Providence and the Future. Trust and obey Him, won't you?!

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