



AREOPAGUS PROCLAMATION

Volume 10 • No. 6 • March, 2000

Revised to 7/2019

Who Knows What to Believe Anymore?

by Daryl E. Witmer

One day in early Summer some years ago I was heading down the street in our hometown when I came upon a smiling middle-aged neighbor lady who greeted me pleasantly. I chatted with her for a bit, and then mentioned that I hadn't seen her in church recently. Suddenly her expression changed. With a deep frown, she said, "Oh, I know — I've been delinquent. But it's for a reason." I said, "Would you care to share that reason with me?" She said, "Well, it's just that I'm so confused about what to believe anymore. I mean, our church teaches one thing, Jehovah's Witnesses teach another, and there are a million different religions out there these days. Even those who say they believe in the Bible each have their own interpretation about what it means. Who knows *what* to believe anymore?"

Now the best simple answer to the actual question that my neighbor asked might go something like this: "Who knows what to believe? Those who have come to

A bimonthly thoughtletter published by the AIIA Institute PO Box 262 Monson, Maine 04464

enjoy a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ by following all of the available evidence about life and truth to its most reasonable conclusion.

Those are the folks who know what to believe these days, even in the face of a huge smorgasbord of world religions."

The only alternative to staking at least *some* sort of faith claim is **agnosticism**, and that is quite often simply a lazy intellectual cop out.

Syncretistic religions such as **Baha'ism** violate specific components of the very faith systems that they attempt to bring together.



Polytheism is frequently regarded as outdated.

It is also impossible to live consistently with the tenets of true

Eastern pantheistic monism, now recast in the West as **New Age mysticism**, or other such related relativistic thoughtforms.

That essentially leaves **monotheism**. But **Judaism** is unable to explain Jesus — portrayed as the Messiah by Jewish writers themselves in texts such as Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. And **Islam** is unable to satisfactorily explain either the cross or the resurrection of Christ.

Cults like **Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, the Unification Church**, etc., violate core Christian doctrines by adding to Scripture. See Galatians 1:6-9.

That leaves historic **Christianity**. And the more one checks, the

more one discovers that the Christian worldview best fits the facts of life as we know them.

But how can my neighbor's issue with all of the 'many' differences *within* Bible-based Christianity best be addressed?

Well, when she brought that up, I said, "Listen — there are no really **major** differences within orthodox Christianity. Only relatively minor differences that believers can and must work out in order to demonstrate the love of Jesus." (John 13:35)

So —now—with all that as backdrop, knowing what to believe today comes down to one final matter — **the person of Jesus**.

Jesus of Nazareth was unique in history. He is unique today. All other religious leaders throughout world history have pointed to some principle or system or practice and said, "Here is the truth. This is the way. Join this group or follow this teaching and you will discover truth, life, purpose, and meaning."

But Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." Jesus claimed to be God!

Historic orthodox Christianity is based on the person of Jesus. It is the most reasonable viable faith system in the history of the world — and the answer for all those who wonder, "Who knows what to believe anymore?"

Have you ever come to Jesus by faith, received His offer of forgiveness, and committed your life to Him? If not, why not do so today? If you do, please let us know. We'd like to forward to you literature that will help you grow in your relationship with Him.

More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith