

WHAT GIVES CHRISTIANS THE RIGHT TO SAY THAT THEY ARE RIGHT ?

INTRODUCTION

The question implies that different religions that can be compared with each other

- In terms of the differences or similarities in teachings

Christianity, however, cannot be compared with any other religion because it is absolutely unique

- It is either the only religion that is right, or it is the only religion that is wrong
- It cannot be “also right”
- But we need to convey that in a gentle manner, respecting other points of view 1 Peter 3:15

The christian faith is unique in three areas

A UNIQUE BOOK

The Bible claims to be “God's Word 2 Peter 1:21

- All of it is “God-breathed” 2 Timothy 3:16

It has an amazing unity

- 66 different books in 3 languages
- 40 authors with different lifestyles, personalities and nationalities
- Written over a period of 60 generations – 1600 years
- Yet it never contradicts itself once

**If you can find 66 books in the library that have these qualities,
we can question the divine inspiration of the Bible**

The Bible predicted the future accurately

- Over 3000 specific prophecies have been fulfilled
- Jesus fulfilled 60 direct prophecies regarding the Messiah
- He fulfilled a further 270 indirect prophecies
- The chance that one person would fulfil 8 prophecies = 10^{17}
 - According to prof. Peter W. Stoner that is 1 : 100 000 000 000 000 000
- If one prophecy proved to be wrong the Bible would not be the Word of God

The Bible is extremely reliable

- There are 643 copies of Homer's *Iliad*
- There are 19 copies of Livy's *History of Rome*
- There are more than 29 000 copies of the Bible, or parts thereof
 - The oldest manuscript was made only 50 years after the original
- Over hundreds of years only minor differences have occurred
 - Most of them are differences in name spellings
 - Not one of them affects the key message or doctrine in any way

The Bible is historically accurate

- No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference
- Three of the four Gospels were first-hand accounts
- The authors called on living witnesses for confirmation 1 Corinthians 15:6
 - They even called on hostile witnesses Acts 2:22
- They claimed to have seen for themselves 2 Peter 1:16-18 1 John 1:1
- Eleven of the twelve apostles were martyred for their beliefs

No other book in the world can compare with the Bible

A UNIQUE PERSON

Jesus Christ made some astounding claims:

- That the Old Testament was all about Him John 5:39
- That He was God John 8:58 John 10:32-33
- That He was the only way to God John 14:6
- That those who believed in Him would never die John 11:25-26

No other religious leader ever made such a claim

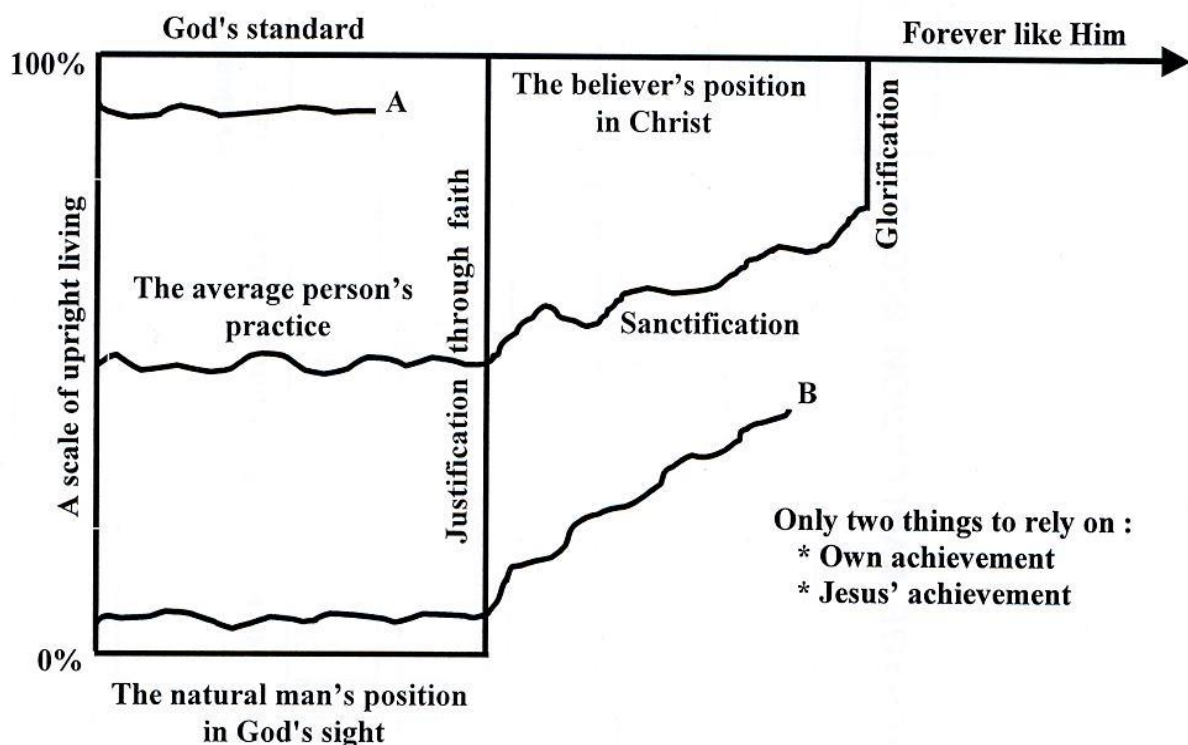
Jesus Christ was either: a liar, or a lunatic, or God who came to live on Earth

- He cannot be regarded as “a good man” (“Just a pity He thought He was God”)

He backed up His claims:

- Through His miracles John 20:30-31
- Through His resurrection Acts 1:3 Romans 1:4

A UNIQUE MESSAGE



All other religions are performance-reward systems

- “Salvation” depends on man’s goodness

Christianity is the only “religion” based on grace

- Salvation depends on God's goodness Ephesians 2:8-9

There can therefore be no meaningful comparison

- Either the Gospel of Jesus Christ is right, and all the other religions are wrong
- Or, the Gospel is false, and man’s salvation is based on a performance-based system of ethics

There are no other alternatives

THE IMPLICATION

Every person makes a decision

- You either put your faith in Jesus Christ, or you reject His offer of grace
- You cannot remain neutral Matthew 12:30
- Not making a decision is the same as rejecting Him Hebrews 2:3