

1 Peter 3.15

“¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

Taken us a year. Looked at three ways we can give an answer to those who intellectually enquiring about Christianity. Looked at creation. Looked at morality. Looked at religion.

Can hold our heads up high. **Premise: Popular view is that when you dig below the surface all faiths teach the same. Not so. It's only a cursor view which says that. Scratch the surface and other faiths are radically different.**

Four areas: History, Suffering, Salvation, and destination. Looked at with humility and respect. Briefly finish with Destination

Only Christianity claims it leads to a God himself. To an eternal relationship with King Jesus.

Buddhism leads not to God but Nirvana – literally means to be blown out like a candle, to achieve nothingness.

Hinduism's destination is *moksha* soul dissolves into God (like a drop of water into an ocean). This is the cosmic self which cannot be destroyed.

Islam good behaviour here is rewarded with pleasure in paradise. Marriage to virgins in paradise is offered as incentives to Muslims especial for martyrdom. There is little reference in Koran to a relationship *with* God and the Koran expressly says that God is not our Father.

3 very different destinations. All religions are not the same under the surface. Could not be different.

Humans pine for a real relationship with God. Augustine “You have made us for yourself, Lord and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you”

Christianity. Heaven is not primarily a place, metaphor, or enjoyable activity, **it is a relationship with God! John 17.3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**

Do all paths lead to God. Absolutely not. Only in Christianity is the destination God himself and King Jesus.

The more you explore the less religions are similar. They are much more exclusive than media or western politicians make out. And especially Christian faith.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have: King Jesus said: **I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through m**