

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual leader of Tibet. He was born in Tibet to a farming family in 1935. At 2 years of age he was recognized as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso. It is believed that he is one of the enlightened beings who have postponed their own nirvana and chosen to take rebirth in order to serve humanity. In 1989 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. After Pope John Paul II and Billy Graham, he is probably the most recognized religious figure on our planet. He is the voice of Buddhism to the nations and is often called the “god-king” of Tibet.

In 2003, Richard Gere introduced him to a crowd of 65,000 at Central Park as:

“One of the great beings perhaps ever to walk on this planet, his holiness the Dalai Lama.”

Millions of Buddhists around the world look to the Dalai Lama as a guide on how to achieve happiness and meaning in life.

The Dalai Lama’s web site says that his two greatest commitments are:

“Firstly,...the promotion of human values such as compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, contentment and self-discipline.

Secondly,... the promotion of religious harmony and understanding.”

The following is a quote from the Dalai Lama which was made at an inter-faith seminar and posted on his web site:

“Both sides should discuss and clearly express what they think about the other’s view and opinion. Therefore, it is very important to live in harmony and analyze where the opinion of the other lies. The best way to do this is to engage in dialogue, dialogue and dialogue.”

The Bible likewise directs Christians to give an answer with an attitude of respect:

“... 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.” I Peter 3:15

This brief dialogue, (which the Dalai Lama encourages), is written to point out that from reason as well as a Christian perspective, Buddhism is ultimately a philosophy of hopelessness and ruin. However, there is real hope and true happiness on the narrow path that leads to life, which is found only in Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.

God Exists or God Does Not Exist?

The greatest error of the Dalai Lama and Buddhism is the denial of the existence of a personal God in whom they are accountable. Although this is a basic premise of Buddhism, none-the-less, many followers are indifferent to this, the greatest of all truths, and are unconcerned if there is or isn’t a God.

This is clearly seen in the Dalai Lama’s answer to a question that he was asked on the banks of the Ganga river in North India in 2001. 40,000 were gathered to hear the Dalai Lama speak. At the end of his talk a man said:

“I understand Buddhism does not believe in God. What is your opinion about God? Does God exist or not?”. His Holiness laughed, grabbed the hands of the two spiritual leaders on each side of him, lifted them in the air, fixed his gaze upon the audience, and said emphatically, “God exists or God does not exist. Leave it for us. Your task is to learn how to live peacefully.”

One Buddhist web site gives three reasons why Buddhists don’t believe in God. They say that the god idea is based in fear, there is no evidence to support the idea, and man’s destiny is determined by self effort and needs no God.

This popular web site stresses that Buddhists believe that self effort is greater than any god:

“... the Buddha saw that each human being had the capacity to purify the mind, develop infinite love and compassion and perfect understanding. He [the Buddha] shifted attention from the heavens to the heart and encouraged us to find solutions to our problems through self-understanding.” (www.buddhanet.net)

This anti-god philosophy defies human experience, reason and science. All humans are instilled with a knowledge and understanding of God through the conscience and the creation. The complexity, order, and design of life screams of an infinite, all powerful God.

The Bible reveals that this supreme truth is so clear that we are without excuse if we reject it:

“because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:19,20

Our rebellion towards God is so consuming that not only do we by nature reject Him but we are not even thankful and choose to worship the creation instead of the creator:

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.” Romans 1:21-25

Psalms 111:10 tells us that “the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.”

Karma or a Fallen Nature?

In true Buddhist tradition, the Dalai Lama shapes his followers thinking by charging that suffering is the result of Karma (actions).

Previous lives that Buddhists’ have no knowledge of shaped much of the suffering in this life:

“Karma may come from this lifetime, but it may even come from previous lifetimes.” (www.dalailama.com web site)

A destructive Karma from a previous life may affect many lives yet to come. There are no appeals for the Buddhist, no mercy and no escape except through an endless self effort at self perfection.

The Bible gives a radically different and superior explanation for evil. Following the creation by God all was “very good” with no evil, suffering, pain or death:

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

God gave our first parents a command not to eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil lest they would die. They disregarded God’s word and ate of the tree in disobedience. Sin now entered the world along with its consequences of suffering, death, and evil. This sinful nature is passed down to all mankind.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

Our bent towards sin is clearly seen by our rejection of God and our constant propensity for evil. We not only are sinners by nature but sinners by practice which our conscience and the law of God clearly reveals. Because God alone is Holy, none are truly good and all have sinned against the creator:

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. ... there is none that does good, no, not one. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:10-12, 23

God’s Word also declares that there is NO reincarnation nor Karma from previous lives but rather just one life to live and a judgement to come:

And as it is appointed to men once to die, but after this the judgment: Hebrews 9:27

Furthermore, our good works cannot pay for a single sin which humbles us to call upon our God for Salvation and mercy:

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...” Titus 3:5

Can Man Save Himself?

The Buddhist is under constant bondage to struggle to earn merit by right thinking and good deeds, hoping to break free of a life of suffering. There is no one to pray to for help, comfort or salvation. None to hear and none to respond. Utter helplessness and total dependence upon self.

But God in His kindness, grace and mercy, has not left us in this hopeless condition but responds to our helplessness.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

To be rescued from the penalty of our sins requires suffering and the shedding of blood of the Holy Son of God, Jesus. He would be a substitute for sinners and bear the sins of His people on the cross. He would rise from the dead in three days to prove He has power over sin and death

Neither the Dalai Lama nor any Buddha ever did anything for sinners. The Buddhas are still in the grave. Sadly, they discourage others from coming to Jesus who said:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

Jesus offers a conscious life of joy and peace with Him and His Father in heaven following physical death:

“...I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die...” John 11:25,26

The Apostle Paul expressed the sum and substance of the Christian message which is the gospel:

“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” (I Corinthians 2:2)

Nirvana or Heaven?

Nirvana to the Buddhist is cessation of suffering. The end of all destructive Karma and endless rebirths into worlds of pain and anguish. The end of wrong perceptions. No time. No space. No movements. No concept of self. It is not to cease nor is it to live. It is not to be annihilated for their is nothing to be annihilated.

This maze of contradictions is the ultimate goal of Buddhists that strive to reach enlightenment and Nirvana. A terrifying thought is; “What is the difference between Nirvana and extinction?”

The Bible, which is God breathed, tells us that man is created in the image of God.

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

We are not baby gods but rather we have a will, intellect and mind just as God. Our bodies die because of sin. The soul however survives and is eternal. There is a judgement day to come where all will be judged according to the standard of God’s Holiness.

Those who’s sins have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus and are therefore in a righteous standing before God, will enter Heaven.

“He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” I John 5:12

Those who reject this payment must suffer in a real place called hell for eternity.

He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him. John 3:36

Heaven is a real place where we will have a real experience with the Creator for all eternity. No more sin, suffering or effects from the fall:

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4

The meaning of life was designed by the loving Creator that we might have fellowship with Him. That we would glorify, honor and worship Him. And that we might delight in Him for all eternity.

Conclusion

The Dalai Lama and Buddhists in general are a compassionate and kind people seeking good and the good of others.

However, one more thing is lacking which is of far greater worth and of infinite value and is the very foundation of compassion and goodness. Discover this and you will have true enlightenment and happiness.

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:5-7

This will bring one to Jesus who said:

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

This tract was written by Jerry Benson. If it has been a blessing to you, please write:

Challenge
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the 14th DALAI LAMA

