

Hidden Treasures In The Bible Unknown To Christians Today

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Introduction

People generally agree that a man called Jesus Christ (pbuh) did exist, but not all are in agreement that his teachings are found in one form of interpretation today. The very existence of different churches and in particular the different Bible versions are in themselves proof that Jesus's (pbuh) message has been moved away from its original form of interpretation. The question now remains: Where is this message and with whom is it preserved and by whom is it practised upon today? Ultimately, what counts is who best practises on the Bible. In fact, bible readers today tend to overlook these practices within the Bible. It is these very practices of Jesus (pbuh) which ought to have formed the most important part of the Christian faith today.

1) The Concept of God in the Bible

There is not a single place in the Bible where Jesus (pbuh) said, "I am God" or "Worship me". God in the Holy Bible refers to the same **One and only** Creator who alone has the right to be worshipped.

In the New Testament

Matthew 4:10

“.....Worship the Lord thy God, and him **only** shalt thou serve”.

Mark 12:29

Jesus (pbuh) said, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is **one** God”

In the Old Testament

Isaiah 44:6

“I am the first and I am the last, besides Me there is no god”.

Isaiah 45:21-23

“And there is no other god besides Me, a righteous God and a saviour, there is none besides Me. turn to me and be saved...To Me every knee shall bow.

Comment

The concept of God as is plainly stated in the above verses of the Bible is the true and real description of God, as was preached by Jesus, Moses and others (peace be upon them) in their first commandments. Such a plain description of God is not found in most of Christianity today. The trinity concept of God, however, defeats the plain description of God, which furthers God's description to a second and a third element, thus breaking the uniqueness nature of the plain **One and Only** God.

From the above Biblical verses it is quite clear that God is One and only. Therefore, no heavenly body nor creation can be God since God is **One and Alone**.

Therefore one should ponder: What has happened to the plain belief in ONE GOD today? Why is it not adhered to today? And who believes in it today?

Trinity?

More questions than answers !

If God was part of the trinity, then why He did not claim it so in the Old Testament?

Did Jesus (pbuh) ever make a statement that he is second of the trinity? Likewise, did the 'Holy Ghost' ever proclaim this statement?

If trinity form part of the fundamental teachings of faith, then why is there no mention of this word 'trinity' elsewhere in the Bible?

If trinity is a belief that is so much emphasized upon, why then did this belief not appear before the time of Jesus (pbuh).

If Jesus Christ (pbuh) had died for the sins of the people, then who died for the sins of those who lived before the time of Jesus (pbuh)?

The Bible contains ONLY ONE verse about trinity and why was this verse removed from the text of the NIV1 and the RSV2 Bibles?

Son of God

The word 'son of God' in the Bible cannot mean the real son of God, as the term is also used in the Bible for Adam, David, Ephraim and others (peace be upon them).

Jeremiah 31:9

"...and Ephraim is my "First Born"

Luke 3:38

"which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God."

Romans 8:14

"For as many as led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of god."

Psalms 2:7

"Thou (O David) art my son, this day have I (God) begotten thee".

Comment

The term 'son of God' was actually an error of interpretation from the Greek translation. The translators may have not meant it literally as understood today, but rather 'close servant of God'. If the word "son of god" really implied the real son of God, then David (pbuh) too would have been rightfully deserving of being called the begotten son of God. Besides, he would also have been well known by all as the real begotten son of God'.

Similarly, the term "Children of God" in the Bible was also used by others such as John, as is proven in the following verse:

Verse 19: "We know that we are the children of God..."

Verse 20: "We know also that the Son of God has come..." and has given us understanding". **John 5:19-20**

The term 'Father' in the Bible was also 'figurative expression' used by Jesus (pbuh) in regard to His respect and closeness to God as it is used for the Father in the children's prayer in the following words, "Our Father who art in Heaven...."

Final comment on the One and Only God

In any event, there is not a single place in the entire Bible where Jesus (pbuh) said, "I am God" or "Worship me". If such a belief was a fundamental of Christianity, it would have been clearly mentioned and emphasized in the Bible.

God in the Bible refers to the same **ONE and ONLY** Creator who alone has the right to be worshipped.

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to the plain belief in One God today?

Why is it not adhered to today?

And who believes in it today?

2) Prostration during worship in the Bible

Jesus (pbuh) has been described in the Gospels as prostrating during prayer by resting his face onto the ground, as was commonly practiced by Moses, Abraham, David and others (peace be upon them). Here is proof:

Jesus (pbuh) fell on his face in prayer

Matthew 26:39 "And going a little further he (Jesus) fell on his face and prayed, 'my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt'".

Abraham (pbuh) fell on his face in prayer

Genesis 17:3 "And Abraham fell on his face...."

Moses and Aaron (pbut) fell on their faces in prayer

Numbers 20:6 "And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces".

Elijah (pbuh) fell on his face in prayer

1 kings 18:42 "And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, and he cast himself upon the earth, and put his face between his knees".

Joshua (pbuh) fell on his face in prayer

Joshua 5:14 ".... And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship and....".

Comment

The word 'worship' above clearly shows that Joshua's (pbuh) falling to the ground was not for any other reason,

instead it was done purely for the worship of the **One God**.

(David fell on his face in prayer)

1 Samuel 20:41 “David arose out of a place towards the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times....”.

Further references of prostration in prayer in the Bible:-

Numbers 16:4

Numbers 16:22

Joshua 7:6

Isaiah 45:23

Comment

The manner of prostration done by all the Prophets by putting the face between the Knees clearly shows the true way of prostration as shown by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Comment

Some Christians today kneel down, clasping their hands, in a posture that cannot be ascribed to Jesus (pbuh). The method of prostration performed by Jesus (pbuh), that of resting the face on the ground, was the mode of prayer of all the prophets before him (pbuh).

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practice of prostration in worship?

Why is it not practiced today?

Who has maintained this practice today?

3) Charity to the poor, a command in the Bible

Charity is a commandment in the Bible, which was to be given to the poor and needy in particular, and not merely taken as tithe (tax) for the church.

Charity commanded to Moses (pbuh)

Deuteronomy 15:11 “....Therefore I command thee (Moses), saying, open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land”.

Deuteronomy 14:22 “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed, which comes forth from the field year by year”.

Comment

'Tithe' is a tenth of the annual produce of land or labour, which is fixed and is to be given to the poor yearly. (Refer to Oxford Dictionary)

Jesus (pbuh) advises charity

Mathew 6:3-4 Jesus (pbuh) said, "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what the right hand doeth, That thine alms may be in secret, and thy father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thy openly".

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practice of Charity?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

4) Fasting in the Bible

According to the new Testament Jesus (pbuh) is reported to have fasted. Fasting was also practised by the prophets of God before Jesus (pbuh).

Matthews 4:2 "And he (Jesus) fasted forty days and forty nights and afterwards he was hungry".

Matthews 17:21 "Jesus (pbuh) said: "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting".

1 Samuel 7:6 "And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day".

Further references of fasting in the Bible:

Act 13:2-3

Exodus 34:28

Matthew 6:16-18

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practice of fasting?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

5) Ablution (washing before worship) in the Bible

Both the Old and New Testament of the Bible speaks of purification of the body before worship, which was a practice of Jesus (pbuh), as well as all the prophets of God before him. Ablution means purification of the body before worship by washing some parts of the body like hands, face, feet and so forth.

Moses and Aaron (pbut) purified themselves before prayer by washing their hands and feet.

Exodus 40:30-31 “And he sat the laver between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet.....as the Lord commanded Moses.”

Comment

The word ‘commanded’ in the above verse proves that Moses and Aaron (pbut) practised ablution not merely they felt like it, but rather because it was commanded to them by God.

David (pbuh) has been recorded to have washed before prayer

2 Samuel 12:20 then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his clothes, and he went into the house of the Lord, and worshipped.....”.

Acts 21:26 “Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself with them and went into the Temple”.

Comment

Paul, a follower of Jesus (pbuh) , also practised ablution according to the Acts as mentioned above. Paul’s act of purifying himself before entering the Temple shows that his purification was specifically for the purpose of worship, and not for any other reason. Jesus (pbuh) also practised ablution before prayer following the practise of prophets before him:

Matthew 5:17-18 “Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the (way of the) prophets, I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them”.

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practice of washing before prayer?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

6) Circumcision in the Bible

Circumcision was practised by Jesus (pbuh), the practice going right back to Abraham (pbuh) according to the Bible, a command which was to be upheld forever. Jesus (pbuh) himself was circumcised according to the Bible.

Luke 2:21 “And the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb”.

Genesis Chapter 17:9 “As for you (Abraham), shall keep my covenant, you and your descendants after throughout their generations”.

Comment

This proves that God’s command of circumcision was to be upheld forever.

Genesis Chapter 17:10 “This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between you and me and your descendents after you: every male among you shall be circumcised “.

Comment

This verse indicates recognition of the true descendents of Abraham (pbuh) who today still practice circumcision.

Genesis Chapter 17:11 “You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you”.

Comment

These words, ‘circumcision in the flesh of your foreskins’, refutes Paul’s misinterpretation of circumcision, which shall be explained later.

Genesis Chapter 17:12 “He that is eight days old shall be circumcised.....”.

Comment

There is no ambiguity about circumcision in the above verses, 'circumcision in the flesh of your foreskin' is very clear out. Jesus's (pbuh) circumcision on the eighth day, as quoted at the beginning, was a fulfilment of this command given to Abraham (pbuh) forever. Therefore the true inheritors of Jesus and Abraham (pbut) can truly be identified through circumcision.

Question

Who then dared to abolish the law of circumcision?

Answer

Today, most Christians are not circumcised because of Paul's misinterpretation. He claimed that circumcision was the circumcision of the heart. To be circumcised however, was to be part of Jesus's (pbuh) way. Proof of the misinterpreted statement by Paul in the Bible is as follows:

Romans 2:29

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

"He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart, spiritual and not literal".

Galatians 5:2

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul wrote:

"Now I, Paul say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you".

Comment Jesus (pbuh) was neither circumcised by the heart nor did he say anything about the circumcision of the heart, he kept the 'everlasting covenant' and was circumcised by the flesh.

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practice of circumcision?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

7) Pork prohibited in the Bible

Matthew 5:17-18 Jesus (pbuh) has said: "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and (the way of) the prophets, I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them". Thus, Jesus (pbuh) followed the laws of Moses (pbuh), by doing so, he also did not eat pork.

Leviticus 11:7-8 "And the swine, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch, they are

unclean to you”.

Deuteronomy 14:18 “And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean to you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass”.

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practise of abstaining from pork?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today

8) Alcohol prohibited in the Bible

Numbers 6:1-4 (Old Testament) God said to Moses (pbuh): “He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, he shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink..... “.

Proverbs 20:1 (Old Testament) “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise”.

Romans 14:21 (New Testament) “It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine....”.

Luke 1:15 (New Testament) “For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink”.

Comment

The prohibition of alcohol in the above verses in the Old and New Testament are very clear. On the other hand, liquor also seem to have been legalized according to statements in other Gospels. In that case, one needs to first analyse the verses of legalization and prohibition of liquor in the Bible, which follows:

Liquor in the Bible-Legalized or Prohibited?

You Analyze!

You be the judge!

Analyze between A & B

Legalized in the New Testament

A) Timothy 5:23 “Drink no longer water, for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities”

Prohibited in the New Testament

B) Luke 1:15 “For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink”

Comment

It is not possible for liquor to be prohibited and permitted at the same time! The only remaining alternative is, the subject about the ‘reasons due to variances’ in the Bible. These variances have unfortunately come about as a result of misinterpretation of the scriptures by the scribes especially during the period of translation from Greek into other languages. More convincing examples of these variances in the Bible are shown on the following pages, both from the Old Testament as well as from the New Testament. Again, you may analyze and judge for yourself the contradictions shown:

Analyze between A & B

Old Testament

A) II Chronicles 36:9 “Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign,.....”

B) II Kings 24:8 “Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign,.....”

New Testament

A) Matthew 10:10 “Don’t even carry a duffle bag with extra clothes and shoes or even a walking stick...”

B) Mark 6:8 “He told them to take nothing with them, except their walking sticks.....”

Here are more examples of further variations in the Bible (listed here are just four examples there are hundreds such examples in the Bible)

II Samuels 24:13 **contradicts** I Chronicles 21:11

Numbers 4:3 **contradicts** Numbers 8:24

Mark 16:2 **contradicts** John 20:1

Luke 23:26 **contradicts** John 19:16

Comment

Anyone who tries reconciling between the statements concerning Jehoiachin being eight or eighteen when beginning to reign would fail considerably. Thus it should follow that, as in the numbers ‘eight’ and ‘eighteen’, there had been an error in either one of the two gospels, similarly the chances of errors existing in words such as ‘do’ and ‘do not’ in the Bible are highly possible as in the case of alcohol as well.

Likewise ‘with’ a walking stick or ‘without’. One may argue that what major difference does one or two letters make to the Bible. I say, it reverses the command of God into the opposite, for example ‘Do **not** commit theft becomes ‘Do’ commit theft.

Therefore this can be established beyond reasonable doubt that wine - an intoxicant – is not to be taken.

But, unfortunately, the Christian scriptures have been literally corrupted with numerous contradictions. Who would take the prohibition seriously if Jesus (pbuh) himself has turned water into wine, allowing his followers to enjoy it?

Legalization of Alcohol

More questions than answers!

The miracle of turning water into wine, it is only found in the Gospel of John, which consistently contradicts the other three gospels. This gospel was opposed as 'heretical' in the early church, while the other three Gospels were referred to as the Synoptic Gospels because the text contained a similar treatment Jesus's early life. (The New Encyclopaedia Britannica Vol. 5 pg. 379)

If the turning of water into wine had any authenticity, then why did Luke and Paul, the so called followers of Jesus (pbuh) prohibit the drinking of wine?

The Gospels of John can never be given preference over Luke and Romans since it had only been written in 85 A.D according to Christian scholars, whereas Luke and Romans were written in 70 A.D and 56 A.D, both approximately 20 to 30 years before the Gospel of John was written?

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to the practice of abstaining from alcohol?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

9) Females covering their hair in modesty in the Bible

The women around Jesus (pbuh) veiled themselves, which was also the practice of the woman around the earlier prophets (pbut). Their garments were loose and covered their bodies entirely including their hair, and sometimes even covering their faces due to extreme modesty and shyness in the presence of strange males.

Genesis 24:64-65 "And Rebekha lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel, and said to the servant, 'who is the man yonder, walking in the fields to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself."

Comment

Rebekha covering her head in the presence of a strange male was due to her excessive modesty and shyness. This practice is still witnessed by extremely modest females today, which are in actual fact portraying an example from the Bible.

Paul himself criticizes women unveiling their hair

1 Corinthians 11:5

Paul wrote in his first book to the Corinthians 11:5 “But any woman who prays or prophesieth with her head unveiled dishonours her head it is the same as if her head was shaven.”

Corinthians 11:6

“For a women will not veil herself, then she should cut-off her hair, but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let she wear her veil”.

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this practice of covering their modesty?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

10) Greeting with peace in the Bible

Those around Jesus (pbuh), including Jesus, greeted each other with ‘peace’ in their everyday life.

John 20:19

“Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you”.

1 Samuels 25:6

“David instructed emissaries whom he sent to Nabal: “And thus you shall salute him: Peace be with you...””

Therefore one should ponder:

What has happened to this greeting in peace?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained its practice today?

11) Prohibition of interest in the Bible

Interest here refers to borrowing money on condition of additional repayment. This is known as interest or usury, which was prohibited in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 23:19

“You shall not lend upon interest to your brother, interest on money, interest upon victuals, interest on anything that is lent for interest”.

Therefore one should ponder

What has happened to this practice of prohibition of interest?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained its prohibition today?

12) Polygamy in the Bible

Polygamy means to marry more than one woman at one time. This was practiced by many prophets.

Genesis 16:3 “So after Abraham had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abrahams wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to Abraham her husband as a wife”.

1 Samuels 27:3 “And David dwelt with Achish at Gat, he and his man, every man with his household, and David with his two wives...”.

Further references of polygamy in the Bible:

1 Kings 11:3

2 Chronicles 11:21

Deuteronomy 21:15-16

Leviticus 18:18

Comment

There is no record of Jesus (pbuh) opposing polygamy. If he did so, It would have meant he would have condemned the practice of the prophets before him.

Polygamy refuted by Bible Scholar

According to Father Eugene Hillman in his book 'Polygamy Reconsidered' clarifies, Nowhere in the New Testament is there any explicit commandment that marriage should be monogamous". He further stressed the fact that the Church in Rome banned polygamy in order to conform to Greco-Roman culture, which prescribed only one wife but did not oppose prostitution. In fact it allowed the immoral practice instead.

Therefore one should ponder:

What had happened to the practice of polygamy?

Why is it not practised today?

And who has maintained this practice today?

Now let us look around us, and see, who in the world today upholds the teachings of the Bible? We have the answer

The faith which upholds the teachings of the Bible

Islam!

Muslims claim to follow the teachings of Jesus (pbuh) as well as the divine prophets before him. Let us ponder over their claim. We have already discussed the subjects of Jesus's (pbuh) practises which we will now compare with the claims of the Muslims. Thus, the Qur'an agrees to the aforesaid Biblical practises, which are as follows:

1) Oneness of God in the Qur'an

Chapter 21: Verse 25 God says:"there is no God but I, so worship me".

2) Prostration of worship in the Qur'an

Chapter 48: Verse 29 God says: "You see them bowing and falling down prostrate (in prayer) seeking bounty from God and His good pleasure. Their mark (of prostration) is on their faces (forehead) from the traces of prostration".

3) Compulsory charity in the Qur'an

Chapter 2: Verse 215 God says: "They ask you (O Muhammad) what they should spend. Say: whatever You spend of good must be for parents and kindred and orphans and the poor and the wayfares, and whatever You do of good deeds, Truly, God knows it well."

4) Fasting in the Qur'an

Chapter 2: Verse 83 God says: "O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, in order that you may become pious".

5) Ablution in the Qur'an

Chapter 5: Verse 6 God says: "O you who believe, when you intend to pray, wash your faces and forearms up to the elbows, wipe your heads and wash your feet up to the ankles".

6) Circumcision in the Hadeeth

Book of Bukhari, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said: "There are five practices which constitute the prophetic way, circumcision, shaving pubic hair and underarm hair, clipping fingernails and toe nails, and trimming the moustache.

7) Prohibition of pork in the Qur'an

Chapter 5: Verse 3 God says: "Forbidden to you (for food) are dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which God's name has not been mentioned while slaughtering...".

8) Prohibition of alcohol in the Qur'an

Chapter 5: Verse 90 God says: "O you who believe, intoxicants, gambling, sacrificial altars, and divination are an abomination of Satan's handiwork, so avoid them in order to be successful".

9) Females covering their hair in the Qur'an

Chapter 24: Verse 31 God says: "Tell the believing women to lower their gaze and protect their private parts and not to expose their adornment, except only what normally shows and to draw their head scarves over their bosoms....".

10) Greetings in the Qur'an

Chapter 6: Verse 54 God says: "When those who believe in my signs come to you, greet them: Peace be upon you". (As-Salaamu alaikum)

11) Prohibition of interest in the Qur'an

Chapter 2: Verse 278 God says: "O you who believe, fear God and give up what interest remains due to you, if you are really believers".

12) Polygamy in the Qur'an

Chapter 4: Verse 3 God says: "Marry of the women that please you, two, three, or four. But if you fear that you will not be able to deal justly, then (marry only) one....".

QUESTION & ANSWERS ON ISLAM

Q. If Muslims claim to have retained and kept up to the practices of Jesus (pbuh) as proven in this book, then who is Jesus (pbuh) according to them?

A. Jesus (pbuh) was one of the mightiest prophets of God. He was born miraculously without a father or any male intervention. He was neither the begotten son, nor part of the divinity of God. He preached the worship of **One** God, and not the trinity. He also proclaimed himself as the messenger of God, and not the son of God. He did not die for the sins of anyone. He was neither crucified, nor killed or resurrected, but he was raised to God.

Q. What was Jesus's (pbuh) manner of worship?

A. As it is known from this book that Jesus (pbuh) worshipped God in the manner Muslims worship God. Therefore, worship in Islam still remains the same as it was done at the time of Jesus (pbuh). That is why Muslims today say that they are the spiritual inheritors of Jesus's (pbuh) faith, and not today's Christians. One may also say that the true followers of Jesus (pbuh) in the past are the true Muslims of today. Christians today are linked to Jesus (pbuh) by name only, and Muslims are linked to Jesus (pbuh) by faith as well.

Q. If Muslims claim to be the true followers of Jesus (pbuh), then what went wrong with Christianity?

A. After the era of Jesus (pbuh), there had been those fortunate ones who kept to his original teachings. Thereafter, upon the coming of Muhammad (pbuh), these very same people identified Muhammad's (pbuh) message and received it with open arms. The commonalities that existed in the lives of these two great prophets also contributed towards people's conviction in Muhammad (pbuh). They did it because Muhammad (pbuh) was a prophesied prophet of the Gospel of Jesus (pbuh), like Jesus (pbuh) was prophesied by Moses (pbuh).

At the coming of prophet Muhammad (pbuh), those who did not believe in him strayed from the original teachings of Jesus (pbuh). Their differences had led to the formation of different churches and Bibles all over the world. The very existence of these Bibles is sufficient proof for Christians to know that their religion is a diversion from its original teachings. Therefore Muslims claim that the true teachings of all the prophets are to be found in Islam.

Q. If Muslims claim to be true followers of Jesus (pbuh), then why aren't they called Christians?

A. Nowhere in the Bible did Jesus (pbuh) refer to himself as a Christian. In fact, the word 'Christian' according to the Bible were used for the Christians only in 43 A.D, and that was after Jesus (pbuh) was raised to the heavens.

This word was used for the first time by the pagan Jews in Antioch, in 43 (A.D). This is proven from Acts 11:26 in the Bible as follows: "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch". (They were later called Christians for the second time in Acts 26:28 and for the third time in 1 Peter 4:16. In total the word 'Christian' has been used only three times in the New Testament of the Bible, but of course, never in the life time of Jesus (pbuh))

Q. Who is Jesus in relation to Moses and Muhammad (pbuh)

A. Jesus (pbuh) preached the very same message of Moses (pbuh). He was the prophesised prophet of the Old Testament, and with his coming, the followers of Moses (pbuh) were required to follow him. Jesus (pbuh) also gave his followers the glad tidings of another messenger to come after him who shall be called Muhammad (pbuh).

The followers of each prophet were all expected to follow the prophesised prophets of their scriptures because each prophet claimed to have come to fulfil the law of the former prophets and not to abolish them (Matthew 5:17-18)

Q. Do Muslims believe in the Gospel of Jesus (pbuh)?

A. Yes, all Muslims believe in the Gospel revealed to Jesus (pbuh), if they don't, then they are not Muslims. The gospel perspective according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are not exact replica of the original Gospel of Jesus. (Known as the Injeel). There are however passages from the present gospels which reflects the teachings of the Gospels of Jesus (pbuh). However, Muslims accept those passages which the Quran confirms. Likewise, Muslims also believe in the original Old testament given to Moses which they refer to as the Torah.

Q. What does 'Islam' mean?

A. Islam means 'submission ' to the **ONE & ONLY** God, The Creator. Submission is the translation of the word 'Islam' in Arabic. The word Islam also means 'peace'. In short, Islam means, acquiring peace by submitting yourself to the will of One God.

Q. Do Muslims worship Muhammad (pbuh) ?

A. No, Muslims worship God alone Who is the Creator, and that Muhammad (pbuh) is none other than just a prophet of God who preached to mankind the worship of one God.

Q. Did Muhammad (pbuh) come to preach a new religion?

A. Like Jesus (pbuh) did not come to preach a new religion, Muhammad (pbuh) too did not come to preach a new religion. Instead, he came to revive the message Jesus (pbuh), which was tampered with and changed by those after Jesus (pbuh). Thus it is therefore more than necessary for the people to follow the guidance of Islam preached by Muhammad (pbuh), if they wish to keep close to God and His Prophet, Jesus (pbuh).

Q. Who is Allah?

A. Allah is the name of the same **One and Only** God.

Q. What is the most fundamental teaching of Islam?

A. The most fundamental teaching of Islam is monotheism i.e. to believe in **One** God who alone deserve to be worshipped.

Q. What is the Qur'an?

A. The Qur'an is the word of God revealed to Muhammad (pbuh), which is the only authentic scripture in its original Arabic and not a letter has been added or deleted from, for over 1400 years.

Q. According to Islam which is the way to salvation?

A. According to Islam the only way to salvation is:-

Firstly to **believe** in the one and only God, and that Jesus was a prophet of God, and Muhammad being the last Prophet of God.

Secondly, it is to **perform good deeds**, which is to offer a 'self-sacrifice' to God by striving to perform good deeds for the pleasure of God. The self sacrifice of performing good deeds includes giving of charity, fasting, praying, taking care of orphans etc. Any good action, though they may be a performance of rituals are all under the category of self sacrifice because it is a struggle of personal self. If we have wronged in our life being unable to establish good deeds in totality, then the requirement for salvation is offering a sacrifice to God for sinning. This is the repenting to Him sincerely and asking Him for forgiveness, as well as having sincere regret from the core of our hearts over the sins we have committed.

Conclusion

After reading this booklet, you may be in a fair position to deduce that it is Islam that has retained and upheld the practices of Jesus (pbuh). You may have even understood that Islam has not come as a new religion, rather as the self same religion of monotheism preached by Jesus (pbuh), and all previous prophets (pbuh) before him.

Embracing Islam is not a question of whether to choose between Muhammad and Jesus (pbuh), but rather to gain proximity to the way of Jesus (pbuh), as illustrated by Muhammad (pbuh), who came as a saviour to retain the real message of Jesus (pbuh).

I pray to God that He makes this publication a means of forgiveness for my shortcomings, as well as a source of guidance for the world to be able to recognize the truth. I therefore invite every person to read the Holy Qur'an which is :-

- The word of God (in its literal sense, because it was revealed from God word for word, letter for letter in the way that God wanted it to be) (Unlike when Christians say 'word of God' in its figurative sense).

- Free from contradictions.
- The Qur'an answers the questions concerning the realities of life, the Hereafter, the concept of God.
- The only book which is preserved by being memorized in its entirety by thousands of people throughout the world from the time it was revealed. It is even memorized by children.
- Its translations are free from deletions, additions, alterations of verses.
- Compatible to science.
- Preserved in its original language, Arabic without even the slightest change in it.
- Invites all to the common religion of monotheism which existed in every generation.

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