



Spirituality in the 21st Century

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*Why So Many Choices? Spiritual Experience
in a Fallen World*

Major World Religions: Options from the East

Major World Religions: Islam

American Spirituality: the Call for Transcendent Truth

American Spirituality: the Call for Transcendent Truth (pt 2)

MARKETPLACE BIBLE STUDY

THE CAVAN GROUP

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

**Why So Many Choices?
Spiritual Experience in a Fallen World**

“Why so many choices?”

Main Point: *In the Fall of humankind, our view of transcendent truth became fractured and significantly eclipsed!*

- I. In a fallen world people can and do learn certain truths about God through rational inquiry and intuitive knowledge. (Romans 1:19-20; Acts 17:27)

- II. Fallen human nature twists and obscures sufficient and saving truth about God. (Romans 1:21-31; Acts 17:23, 29-30)

- III. Only God’s special revelation in Jesus Christ can provide sufficient and saving knowledge of God. (Hebrews 1:1-2; Acts 17:30-31)



Major World Religions: Options from the East

Understanding Eastern Spirituality:

1. There is an “ultimate reality” in which both ignorance and past behaviors prevent most people from ever finding.
2. Pain and suffering in this world and the ongoing rebirth cycle are the primary spiritual problems that need to be dealt with in this life.
3. It is through meditation and/or right living that one can eventually attain “nirvana.”

The Biblical Perspective:

Where Eastern teaching *collates* with the Bible:

1. We do reap what we sow. (Galatians 6:7)
2. The soul does move on after death to further existence. (Hebrews 9:27)
3. Pain and suffering are real problems in this world. (John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 1:8)



Where the Bible *challenges* Eastern teaching:

1. God is a personal, holy, and loving God – much more than “ultimate reality” or consciousness. (Malachi 2:10; John 16:27)
2. Sin is the single common problem of humankind and the effects of it are immediate and eternal. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
3. Salvation lies in Someone doing something for us that we could not and cannot do for ourselves. (Romans 5:8-10)



Major World Religions: Islam



American Spirituality: the Call for Transcendent Truth

Understanding American Spirituality:

1. American culture has become enamored with spirituality.
2. Five words to describe what American spirituality is increasingly being built upon:
 - Experiential
 - Pragmatic
 - Diverse
 - Non-Authoritarian
 - Vague

The *challenges* to American Spirituality:

1. Not all spiritual claims are _____; it all depends on the _____.
2. The Bible claims that God has _____
_____ to a fallen world – that there is such thing as
_____. (Isaiah 40:21-31)



American Spirituality: the Call for Transcendent Truth (pt 2)

American Spirituality: *Experiential, Pragmatic, Diverse, Non authoritarian*
⇒ **VAGUE!**

Main Point: *God has revealed Himself, and so there is such a thing as transcendent truth.*

1. God has revealed Himself plainly in creation. (Psalm 119:1; Romans 1:19-20)
2. God has revealed Himself propositionally in the Bible. (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 1:1)
3. God has revealed Himself personally in Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 1:2; John 1:1-5)

American Spirituality and “truth:”

- From “creation” ⇒ “my feelings/thoughts”
- From “Bible” ⇒ “other people/writings”
- From “Jesus” ⇒ “what I personally believe”

Two Questions to ask any competing world view:

1. “Is it rational?”
2. “Is it livable?”



MARKETPLACE BIBLE STUDY

The Marketplace Bible Study (MBS) is the combined vision of businessman Dave Cavan and Pastor Jamie Rasmussen. Realizing that much of Jesus' original ministry and teaching was accomplished Monday through Saturday during the hustle and bustle of marketplace activity, the goal of the MBS is to offer men an opportunity to take a break from their busy schedules and focus on needed and significant spiritual truth. Functioning as well as an outreach into the community, it is our hope that men would feel comfortable inviting their seeking friends and co-workers to our study.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER...

Jamie Rasmussen is the Senior Pastor of Scottsdale Bible Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. Scottsdale Bible is a large, non-denominational church that is known for its relevant and practical Bible teaching, as well as its numerous ministries that have impacted thousands in the Phoenix metropolitan area and around the world.

With evident gifts in teaching and leadership, Jamie brings a unique combination of well-reasoned research, life experience, and authentic application to his teaching. Believing deeply in both reason and revelation, he loves to understand and apply the truths of the Bible to everyday life.

Jamie is married to his wife, Kim, and together they have three teenage children. He and his family love to hike together, explore remote areas (preferably in a rugged 4x4), and are connoisseurs of great action movies.

