

Mere Christianity

Wednesday Bible Study – Week 4
Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, Lansing, MI

Book 2 – Chapter 1 – The Rival Conceptions of God

To be an atheist means you believe all religions to be completely wrong all the way through.

To be a Christian, you can find more in common with other religions. We are more open minded.

“But of course, being a Christian does mean thinking that where Christianity differs from other religions, Christianity is right and they are wrong.” – like a math problem that is very close, but still incorrect.

Major Divisions of religion

Atheism =

Theism =

Pantheism =

Monotheism =

The biggest distinction between Pantheism and Monotheism is the distinction between the _____ and _____.

Another problem with Pantheism – “If you do not take the distinction between good and bad very seriously, then it is easy to say that anything you find in this world is a part of God.”

If you really believe in good and bad, “You must believe that God is separate from the world and that some of the things we see in it are contrary to His will.”

Why has the world gone wrong? (read paragraph on page 38 to end of chapter). Pantheism can't even ask the question.

Are right and wrong, good and bad just my opinion or social conditioning? Are they actually and really good and bad, just and unjust?

Book 2 - Chapter 2 – The Invasion

The problems with “simple religion.” (Lewis calls it Christianity-and-water)

“Such people put up a version of Christianity suitable for a child of six and make that the object of their attack.”

Is there a place for “simple religion”? And doesn’t Jesus talk about the faith of a child and God revealing these things to little children and concealing them from the wise and learned?

(Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.)

How is Christianity a religion that we could not have guessed? p. 41

Christianity vs Dualism

Dualism =

Christianity =

Is good and bad merely our preference, or is their actual good and bad? If good and bad are actual realities, and a standard that judges between the two exists, then Dualism submits to the One standard, which is ultimate good, i.e. God.

Another take on this topic – “Spoiled goodness.”

C.S. Lewis appeals to the argument that so much of what we call bad and evil are not things completely in themselves, or exist by themselves. They are all good things gone wrong, or things missed used, or things that started as good but made a wrong turn.

For example, Christianity teaches that the devil is a fallen angel. How does this reflect our Christian understanding of good & evil?

Read final paragraph, page 46.

For next week, read Book 2, chapters 3-4

Email questions or insights to Pastor Wangelin – pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org