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Faith Bible Church
Friday, March 18, 2011
<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (43)
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #34
(DDR #662)

Objection #34: Christianity is just another great world religion, like Islam, Hinduism, or Buddhism. It is certainly not the true Messianic faith and the only way to find God. In fact, I find it to be the height of arrogance that Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father. This is small-minded conceit at its worst.

Michael Brown's short response:

Just as traditional Jews believe that God communicated his will for our people—his one and only will—through Moses, so also followers of Jesus believe that God communicated his way of salvation for all peoples—his one and only way—through the Messiah. While we recognize that there are many beautiful traditions and valuable ethical teachings to be found in all the religions of the world, we believe it is only through the Messiah—who is called the Savior of the world in the New Testament writings—that people can truly be saved from their sins. When you think of it, this is not really surprising: If there is only one God and we are his creation (as opposed to him being our creation), it makes sense that he will be the one to dictate to us how we can know him, serve him, and receive forgiveness from him. That's why Jesus the Messiah told his followers (all of whom were Jews in the beginning) to go into the whole world and tell everyone the good news that he had come and laid down his life as a payment of sin.¹

There is only one God and there is only one way to Him. Only the God of the Bible fits that bill. Associated with the issue of Christianity being the only way is the question: what about those who never heard? Everyone has *heard* of God through general revelation (Psa. 19:1-5; Rom 1:18-20). God always responds to those who really want a relationship with Him by sending them the gospel. Although Socrates understood there was a God, there is no evidence that he ever desired a relationship with Him so God never sent him the gospel. Others, like Watchman Nee, called out to God from his knowledge of God through general revelation and

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1st ed.

God sent someone with the gospel—to which Nee said that this was the God he had been calling out to. There are cases in the Bible of people who were outside of the Jewish community who believed in God and looked forward to Christ—like Balaam, Darius, Nebuchadnezzar, and the Magi. All men know of God through general revelation and if they call out to Him, He has the desire and capacity to get them the gospel. God has the capacity to get the gospel to man who has the capacity as an unbeliever to seek Him. If man did not have the capacity to seek God because of general revelation (as posited by Calvinism), then it is incoherent that God would hold him responsible. How can someone be held responsible for something he cannot do? The Bible says man is without excuse precisely because he rejects the God who is revealing Himself to him in general revelation.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.²⁰ 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.

Acts 17:26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,²⁷ that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Jeremiah 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

In Him,

Pastor Don