



## Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?: Jesus, Revelation & Religious Traditions

By Gerald R. McDermott

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A 2001 *Christianity Today* Award of Merit winner!

"Arguably, the church's greatest challenge in the next century will be the problem of the scandal of particularity. More than ever before, Christians will need to explain why they follow Jesus and not the Buddha or Confucius or Krishna or Muhammed. But if, while relating their faith to the faiths, Christians treat non-Christian religions as netherworlds of unmixed darkness, the church's message will be a scandal not of particularity but of arrogant obscurantism.

"Recent evangelical introductions to the problem of other religions have built commendably on foundations laid by J. N. D. Anderson and Stephen Neill. Anderson and Neill opened up the "heathen" worlds to the evangelical West, showing that many non-Christians also seek salvation and have personal relationships with their gods. In the last decade Clark Pinnock and John Sanders have argued for an inclusivist understanding of salvation, and Harold Netland has shed new light on the question of truth in the religions. Yet no evangelicals have focused--as nonevangelicals Keith Ward, Diana Eck and Paul Knitter have done--on the revelatory value of truth in non-Christian religions. Anderson and Neill showed that there are limited convergences between Christian and non-Christian traditions, and Pinnock has argued that there might be truths Christians can learn from religious others. But as far as I know, no evangelicals have yet examined the religions in any sort of substantive way for what Christians can learn without sacrificing, as Knitter and John Hick do, the finality of Christ.

"This book is the beginning of an evangelical theology of the religions that addresses not the question of salvation but the problem of truth and revelation, and takes seriously the normative claims of other traditions. It explores the biblical propositions that Jesus is the light that enlightens every person (Jn 1:9) and that God has not left Himself without a witness among non-Christian traditions (Acts 14:17). It argues that if Saint Augustine learned from Neo-Platonism to better understand the gospel, if Thomas Aquinas learned from Aristotle to better understand the Scriptures, and if John Calvin learned from Renaissance humanism, perhaps evangelicals may be able to learn from the Buddha--and other great religious thinkers and traditions--things that can help

them more clearly understand God's revelation in Christ. It is an introductory word in a conversation that I hope will go much further among evangelicals." (Gerald McDermott, in the introduction to *Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?*)

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This book makes a solid contribution to the evangelical theology of religions. Leaving aside the issue of the fate of the unevangelized, it leads us to expect to learn from people of other faiths and not suppose that they have nothing to teach us. What a gracious and open spirit this message frees us to have." -- *Clark H. Pinnock, professor of theology, McMaster Divinity College*

#### About the Author

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This Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?: Jesus, Revelation & Religious Traditions book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is actually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?: Jesus, Revelation & Religious Traditions without we recognize teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?: Jesus, Revelation & Religious Traditions can bring when you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?: Jesus, Revelation & Religious Traditions having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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