

# UNTO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH?

Dr. Joe Mulvihill, November 1, 2017

KEY TEXTS:

**Matthew 28:18-20 -**

**Acts 1:8 -**

MISSIONS?

Objection #1 – Impolite or worse, manipulative

Objection #2 – All basically the same, “peace and love”

Response to objection # 1 –

Response to objection # 2 – JESUS IS REMARKABLY UNIQUE AMONGST WORLD RELIGIONS -

## **1. Jesus claimed to be deity – Jesus identified with Jehovah, the one God of Israel**

Buddhism (Siddhartha Guatama)

Confucianism / Daoism (Confucius / Lao Tzu)

Judaism (Abraham/Moses)

\*Hinduism (Krishna)

Islam (Muhammad)

Muslim objection – “Where in the Bible does Jesus say; ‘I am God, worship me!’?”

Bible scholars Ed Komoszewski & Robert Bowman – *Putting Jesus in His Place*

**H –**

**A –**

N –

D –

S –

2. Jesus claimed to BE THE WAY, not just point to a way to God and heaven

3. Jesus performed miracles in the earliest sources

- Bishop Stephen Neill (Anglican), Secretary of the Department of Studies of the World Council of Churches

***For, if we take the Gospels seriously (and at the same time as critically as you will), Jesus is not the least like anyone else who has ever lived. The things that he says about God are not the same as the sayings of any other religious teacher. The claims that he makes for himself are not the same as those that have been made by any other religious teacher. . The demands he makes on men are more searching than those put forward by any other religious teacher.*** Neill, *Christian Faith and Other Faiths* (Oxford University Press ed.), 233 (emphasis added).

**Philippians 2:9-11** - <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Richard Bauckham – *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*
- Larry Hurtado – *How on Earth Did Jesus Become a God?*