**Tibetan Buddhism Overview**

Although there are definite similarities between the ethical systems of Tibetan Buddhism and Christianity, the specifically religious or doctrinal teachings of these two faiths are fundamentally very different.

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|  | **Tibetan Buddhists Believe…** | **Christian Believe…** |
| **Nature of God** | …in a vast pantheon of gods, godlings, buddhas, spirits and ‘hell-beings.’ But strictly speaking, Buddhism denies the existence of any spiritual beings. |  |
| **Nature of Reality** | …that man does not have a correct perception of the world around him and so it is like an illusion. Things which are “truly real” are beyond what we experience. |  |
| **Occult World** | …in the use of magical spells, divination and communication with a legion of spirits and demons. |  |
| **Path to Salvation** | …in “many paths” to salvation in the form of enlightenment and bliss. |  |
| **Source of Salvation** | …it is individual effort which yields self-redemption through escape from suffering. |  |
| **Nature of Rebirth** | …the life force of a person with its karma is caught in a virtually endless cycle of death and rebirth (reincarnation), being set free only when deliverance occurs. |  |
| **Ultimate Salvation** | …that the ultimate goal is to become a Boddhisattva and assist others to Nirvana. Classical Buddhism teaches that the ultimate deliverance is when one’s life force merges with the universe. |  |

Though He never addressed specifically Buddhist issues, Jesus said many things which shed light on these contrasts. “When asked: ‘Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus breaks what Buddhists would call the karmic chain that binds man to his past (John 9:1-5). Our Lord also counsels love for neighbors over solitary mystical experience (Matthew 22:39); and eternal life for all in place of secret teachings for the select few (Matthew 28:19). Instead of a world hopelessly caught in a cycle of death and rebirth, Jesus’ followers saw the entire universe ‘liberated from its bondage to decay’ (Romans 8:21).”

\*\*Courtesy of Interserve USA