

us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. **(1 Cor 2:10-13)**

#### 4. The Word of God written down by human authors

<sup>18</sup> When the Lord finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God. **(Exod 31:18)**

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses turned and went down the mountain. He held in his hands the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. <sup>16</sup> These tablets were God's work; the words on them were written by God himself. **(Exod 32:15-16)**

<sup>9</sup> So Moses wrote this entire body of instruction in a book and gave it to the priests, who carried the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, and to the elders of Israel. **(Deut 31:9)**

<sup>24</sup> When Moses had finished writing this entire body of instruction in a book, <sup>25</sup> he gave this command to the Levites who carried the Ark of the Lord's Covenant: <sup>26</sup> "Take this Book of Instruction and place it beside the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, so it may remain there as a witness against the people of Israel. **(Deut 31:24-26)**

<sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day at Shechem, committing them to follow the decrees and regulations of the Lord. <sup>26</sup> Joshua recorded these things in the Book of God's Instructions. As a reminder of their agreement, he took a huge stone and rolled it beneath the terebinth tree beside the Tabernacle of the Lord. **(Josh 24:26)**

<sup>8</sup> Now go and write down these words. Write them in a book. They will stand until the end of time as a witness <sup>9</sup> that these people are stubborn rebels who refuse to pay attention to the Lord's instructions. **(Isa 30:8)**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, <sup>2</sup> "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Write down for the record everything I have said to you, Jeremiah. **(Jer 30:1-2)**

#### NEXT WEEK: Can we believe the Bible?

Audio sermons can be downloaded from our website: [www.islandfmc.ca](http://www.islandfmc.ca)

All Scripture references are from "The Holy Bible: New Living Translation" unless otherwise noted

ST. JOSEPH ISLAND FREE METHODIST CHURCH

### SERMON NOTES

SUN APR 10 2016

PASTOR ADRIAN COLLINS

# So What's the Difference?

*Comparing Evangelical Christianity to Other Faiths*



## #1 - Introduction

◆ **We live in a world that has thousands of different opinions and belief systems that try to answer these fundamental questions:**

- Is there a God?
- If there is a God, what is He like?
- How did the world come into existence?
- Is there a purpose for my life?
- What do we need to do to be right with God?
- Who is Jesus Christ?

◆ **To answer those questions, we look to how God communicates with people**

### 1. The Word of God spoken directly

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **(Gen 1:3)**

<sup>6</sup> The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. **(Ps 33:6)**

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. <sup>16</sup> But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— <sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” <sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him. **(Gen 2:15-18)**

<sup>1</sup> One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn’t burn up. <sup>3</sup> “This is amazing,” Moses said to himself. “Why isn’t that bush burning up? I must go see it.” <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. **(Exod 3:1-4)**

<sup>11</sup> Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. **(Exod 33:11)**

<sup>15</sup> Moses continued, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup> For this is what you yourselves requested of the Lord your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai. You said, ‘Don’t let us hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore or see this blazing fire, for we will die.’ <sup>17</sup> “Then the Lord said to me, ‘What they have said is right. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf. <sup>20</sup> But any prophet who falsely claims to speak in my name or who speaks in the name of another god must die. **(Deut 18:15-18)**

<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. **(Mat 3:17)**

## **2. The Word of God as a person – Jesus Christ**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **(John 1:1)**

<sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son. **(John 1:14)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. <sup>13</sup> He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. **(Rev 19:11-13)**

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. <sup>2</sup> And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. **(Heb 1:1-2)**

## **3. The Word of God spoken through human lips**

<sup>4</sup> The Lord gave me this message: <sup>5</sup> “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.” <sup>6</sup> “O Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I can’t speak for you! I’m too young!” <sup>7</sup> The Lord replied, “Don’t say, ‘I’m too young,’ for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. <sup>8</sup> And don’t be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!” <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said, “Look, I have put my words in your mouth. **(Jer 1:4-9)**

<sup>19</sup> Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, <sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. **(2 Pet 1:19-21)**

<sup>11</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. <sup>12</sup> I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ. **(Gal 1:11-12)**

<sup>10</sup> But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets. <sup>11</sup> No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. <sup>12</sup> And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to