

Reincarnation

Friday night late Chris and I spoke to a woman, Megan, and her boyfriend for an hour. She believed in reincarnation and strongly resisted the idea of hell- she was suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (*Rom 1:18*) as God's wrath remained on her. We took her to court using the 10 Commandments, talked apologetics and everything under the sun, it seemed. Seeds were planted, we believe, but there was much resistance to the truth- she gave us her email and took some of our writings, saying she was interested in further discussion.

How to make a reincarnationist backslide? That's a good question. I saw in a Ron Rhodes book on ghosts and the afterlife some helpful questions to get a reincarnationist to consider how unreasonable their beliefs are. Of course the primary thing in sharing with them is to use the Law as a Tutor to lead them to Christ, but there are other things that can be useful in breaking down strongholds, (and of course we're praying!) Often they do all they can to try to maneuver around the Law and to proclaim there is no ultimate standards, no absolute truth.

1) Tell them plainly what God's word says about Reincarnation, even though they don't believe it: "It is appointed for man once to die, and then the judgment" (*Heb 9:27*). Be willing to defend this verse and how this is true justice and reincarnation is unjust, unfair and inconsistent. Defend that God is a just judge- proclaim the awesomeness of God's holiness (we talked with her about *Isaiah 6* and Isaiah's vision of heaven and the effect it had on Isaiah). God has written His laws on our hearts, and we feel guilty when we break them. Since God is infinitely just, He has to provide infinite justice with wrathful punishment to those who violate His laws- otherwise, He would be a corrupt judge. God's infinite justice met His infinite mercy and love at the cross, where His wrath was poured out on His Son in our place.

2) Questions to ask: Why are people punished by means of karma for things that they can't remember in their previous life? (Karma- what you did in the previous life is the cause of where you are in this life)

3) How do people become better by being punished for sins they don't even remember (in their past life)?

4) Do you remember who you were in your past life? (It's so interesting that people who dare to say 'yes' almost without exception declare that in their past life they were someone famous!) Most say 'no'. Megan said, "I just believe it is true. All roads lead to God" (this resulted in a long conversation on the difference between true Biblical Christianity and all other religions- we believe we're born sinful, separated from God, original sin, other religions don't. We believe salvation is by grace, other religions, by works- and the Law shows us all we're completely guilty and condemned. We have a Bible that is absolute truth, no errors, and 8000 verses of fulfilled prophecies, with 1400 more that will come true, including Judgment Day. We have a resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

5) If young children die from cancer, what healing can be brought to their souls? (of all the religions, death is the great divider. The Christian looks forward to death, knowing his sins are forgiven and that he will see his Lord Jesus. There is no comfort in death, no assurance in death in other religions- no one knows for sure whether they will make it to a better place based on their works.)

6) If reincarnation works, then why isn't human nature better after all the millennia of reincarnations? (I talked to this woman about how the Bible's position on original sin and on our conscience, which has God's Law written on our hearts, much better explains human condition).

7) Why, in countries that believe in reincarnation for thousands of years, is there such terrible social and economic problems (India, Nepal, SE Asia)? (Compare this to countries where revival has spread across the land, such as the U.S. in 1800s)

8) Reincarnation is fatalistic: our present suffering leads to despair- nothing can be done about our suffering since it is karma. What do you tell someone who is dying of a terrible disease, if you believe in reincarnation? The Christian has the firm hope as an anchor to his soul!

9) Reincarnation minimizes sin by offering multiple chances to get things right- that's inconsistent with justice.

10) Buddhism is so inconsistent- it supposedly is atheistic, with no God, but go to a Buddhist country like Thailand, and everyone is worshipping something. We talked to Megan about this- we're all created to worship something- if not the One true God who is our Creator, we'll worship idols- whether physical idols, or idols of the heart: relationships, drugs, a career, power and prestige, money, sex... Buddhism teaches denial of self, but doesn't fill that void with anything. Christianity tells us to deny self and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There's no such thing as a spiritual vacuum. Jesus talked of the man who swept his house clean and 7 worse demons came back to inhabit the house.