

THE TEACHING AND PRACTICES OF ISLAM

Galatians 1:6-9

Introduction:

- 1. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world.**
- 2. It is growing by leaps and bounds in the United States.**
 - a. Since President Lyndon Johnson signed the 1964 Immigration Bill raising quotas for Middle Eastern nations, the number of Muslims immigrating to the US has risen dramatically.**
 - b. Muslims tend to have larger families than the average in the US.**
 - c. Muslim enclaves are growing in large cities such as Detroit, MI.**
 - d. Some, like Dearborn, Michigan, are largely run by Islamic rule.**
- 3. The late Andrew Connally, longtime missionary to Tanzania, which has a large Muslim population, said of the challenge Islam presents:**

“Islam is a force to be reckoned with, both politically and religiously in our world today. Unless Islam is stopped, millions will turn to her and her error! Islam is militant, aggressive, and evil. It cannot be ignored; it will not go away! Islam is strong and becoming stronger every day! Christians must meet every error known. Islam is worthy of our best efforts. We must learn her doctrines and meet her advocates. The Bible has the answer and we must stand for the truth and oppose this great error!” (Some Modern Cults, Sects, Movements and World Religions: Spiritual Sword Lectures; page 247).
- 4. In this lesson, we shall survey the basic teachings and practices of Islam.**

Discussion:

- I. “ISLAM” MEANS “SURRENDER,” OR “SUBMISSION.”**
 - A. Muslims are fond of proclaiming, “Islam means ‘peace.’”**
 - B. If everyone submits to Islam, there will be world peace because Jihad (war on unbelievers) will no longer be necessary.**

C. A “Muslim” is “one who submits to Allah (the god of Islam).”

II. THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF ISLAM ARE STATED IN FIVE ARTICLES OF FAITH.

A. “There is only one true god whose name is Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.”

- 1. This is called “the Shahada,” the confession one must make to become and remain a Muslim.**
- 2. When a baby boy is born, his Muslim father whispers in his ear, “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger” (Unveiling Islam, Caner and Caner; p. 122).**
- 3. Allah is much like an Arabian tribal chieftain.**
 - a. He is not a personal god like the God of the Bible.**
 - b. He is the source of both good and evil and controls everything that happens.**
 - c. He is not a god of grace and love (2 Cor. 13:14).**
 - d. He will judge everyone at the Last Day (John 5:22).**

B. “Angels are supernatural beings who are inferior to Allah, but superior to man.”

- 1. They are Allah’s messengers who were created of light.**
- 2. Muhammad claimed Gabriel appeared to him.**
- 3. The devil, “Al Shaytan,” or “Iblis,” is a fallen angel.**
- 4. There is an inferior level of supernatural spirits called Genii or Jinn.**
 - a. They may be either good or evil.**
 - b. They are created out of fire, but can take human form, marry, and have children (Matthew 22:30).**

C. “Allah has given four books of inspired scriptures to man.”

- 1. The Law of Moses, the first five books of the Bible.**
- 2. The Psalms of David.**
- 3. The “Injill,” the Gospels of the New Testament.**

4. **The Quran, Allah's final and perfect revelation.**
 - a. **They call Christians and Jews "people of the Book."**
 - b. **They claim the Bible has been corrupted especially when it differs with the Quran.**
 - c. **The only perfect Quran is in Arabic; translations do not fully represent the original, Muslims claim.**

D. "Allah has spoken through many prophets."

1. **Twenty-eight prophets are mentioned in the Quran; 22 from the Old Testament and 3 from the New Testament.**
2. **The six greatest prophets are: Adam; Noah; Abraham; Moses; Jesus; Muhammad, the last and greatest of all.**

E. "There will be a resurrection of the dead and a judgment day."

1. **Allah will judge all by their works which have been recorded by angels.**
2. **If one's good deeds outweigh his bad, he will likely go to Paradise; if his bad outweigh his good, he will go to Hell.**
3. **Paradise is a physical place of sensual pleasures where every man will have a harem of beautiful women.**
4. **Hell is a place of everlasting fire, torture and torment.**

III. THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES OF ISLAM ARE KNOWN AS "THE FIVE PILLARS OF FAITH."

A. The Shahada: "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet" must be confessed to become and remain a Muslim.

B. One must pray five times a day facing Mecca (prayer was toward Jerusalem until Muhammad fell out with the Jews).

1. **The faithful are called to prayer by the muezzin from the minaret (tower) of the mosque.**
2. **Prayers are from the Quran and must be quoted in Arabic.**
3. **Prayer beads (like the Catholic practice) are also used.**
4. **An elaborate washing ritual must precede prayers.**

- C. Almsgiving (zakat) must be given to the poor among Muslims.**
- 1. It is a tax of two and a half percent of one's income after living expenses.**
 - 2. Recipients of charity feel no gratitude to the giver for they are blessing him by giving him an opportunity to give.**
- D. "Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan is required of all except the very young, the sick, the old and feeble, or those on a journey."**
- 1. Food, drink, and sexual relations during Ramadan are forbidden between daylight and dark.**
 - 2. The nights are usually given to feasting and parties.**
- E. "Every Muslim must complete a "Hajj ,," a visit to the holy shrines in Mecca once in a lifetime.**
- 1. If one is too old or infirm to go, he may pay for another to go in his place.**
 - 2. Pilgrims run around the Kaaba seven times, drink from the well called Zimzam and perform other ritual acts which includes a mock stoning of the devil.**
- F. A sixth duty, "Jihad," is often associated with the Five Pillars.**
- 1. Whenever needed to extend or defend the faith, Muslim men are required to go to war.**
 - 2. If one dies in such a "holy" war, he is guaranteed entrance into Paradise.**
 - 3. Homicide bombers are considered soldiers of Jihad.**
 - 4. The various acts of terrorism that are so frequently in the news are motivated by Jihad.**

Conclusion:

- 1. There are many other Islamic laws and traditions which are required.**
- 2. Christians are "saved by grace through faith" to produce good works in God's service (Ephesians 2:8-10).**
- 3. Come to Jesus for salvation by obeying His Gospel (Mark 16:15,16).**