



WE WILL SERVE

THE LORD

Joshua 24:15

Joshua 24:15 (NIV) – **gods your
forefather served beyond the river**

RELIGION = system of belief that is a person's ultimate standard for reality, their worldview

- ✓ nature of the universe
- ✓ nature of life and death
- ✓ nature of God/gods/spirits
- ✓ rewards and punishments
- ✓ ethics for human interaction

“You set aside the revelation (Word) of God to favor human traditions that you have handed down [through the generations].”

Jesus (Mark 7:13)

Major distinction between religions:

- **pantheism** – God is not a separate/distinct being... everything/everywhere
- **polytheism** – many different gods, perhaps separate from created order
- **monotheism** – one Creator, who transcends creations. There is no one else!

- Idea or philosophy
- Historical events

FREEDOM

a) angels... moral freedom

b) ONE angel... rebellion

FRAUD

- a) Satan not only tempts people to do wrong, but also to believe lies

- b) False ideas about the existence and nature of God

FALL

- a) After being dispersed (Babel), men developed many cultures, yet remained in spiritual ignorance (the loss of a unified language led to the loss of a unified religion.)
- b) From this time of spiritual darkness emerged many fantasies of gods, ceremonies, myths, etc.

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Reason

(be logical!)

*No room for mystery,
faith, or God

Ethics

(be good!)

Law

(be submissive!)

Indifference

(be detached)

Grace

(be saved!)

Imagination

(be creative!)

Obligation

(be responsible!)

Nature

(be afraid!)

A religious conversation:

HUMANIST – “It’s all about human intelligence, folks. People rock!”

NEW AGE – “Forget all those other people. Look at me... I’m special!”

SHINTO – “I like my grandpa! I will honor him. He will help me.”

HINDU – “Well, I was my own grandpa... before I became myself!”

ANIMIST – “My grandpa never liked me.
He was mean to me!”

BUDDHIST – “Nobody is mean. Nasty
and nice is all in your head. Get over it!”

MUSLIM – “Our prophet said be nice to your
friends and nasty to your enemy.
Works for me!”

CHRISTIAN – It’s not about you. It’s about
what Jesus can do for you.”

The fellow Paul has led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in the whole province of Asia. He says that manmade gods are not gods at all!

Demetrius, silversmith in
Ephesus (*Acts 19:26*)

