



Christianity and Buddhism

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

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Types of Buddhism

Theravada – South / South East Asia

Mahayana – Asia, North America

Non-theistic

Appealing to people who desire peace, high ethical standard, lots of room for tolerance



Four noble truths

1. The truth of suffering
2. The truth of the cause of suffering
3. The truth of the end of suffering
4. The truth of the path that frees us from suffering



Eightfold path

1.Right View

5.Right livelihood

2.Right Intention

6.Right Effort

3.Right speech

7.Right Mindfulness

4.Right action

8.Right Concentration



Founders

Buddha – Life of privilege, discovered the reality of suffering, leaves wife and son to study for six years. Meditates under a tree and achieves nirvana

Jesus Christ – Sent into the world as God's solution to man's ultimate suffering (**John 3:17**).



Meditation

Buddha – emptying your mind, goal is either enlightenment or achieving Buddha-hood

Jesus – filling your mind with God's word

(Psalm 119:27, 145:5)



Man's problem/Suffering

Buddha – the problem is desire, the solution is to seek permanent detachment

Jesus – the problem is sin, and the only solution is that someone must die for it



Life after death

Buddha – reincarnation until your karma allows you to break free from that cycle of rebirth, ultimate end is one with the nothingness, no desire, no suffering, state of non-existence

Jesus – resurrection when He returns, ultimate freedom from sin, death, and suffering in any form, eternity with God.



Atonement

Buddha – Man must pay for his own wrongs through multiple lives and deaths – works-based



Atonement

Jesus – Man cannot make himself right using his own power, so he requires an act of God's grace. Christ Jesus voluntarily came into this world to pay the penalty of our sins on our behalf. He takes the death we deserved, and He offers us the life He deserves in its place. We trust Him to do for us what we cannot hope to do for ourselves.



1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

¹ About the times and the seasons: Brothers, you do not need anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.



³ When they say, “Peace and security,” then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains come on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, are not in the dark, for this day to overtake you like a thief.



Witnessing to Buddhists

Possible starting points:

Parables in Luke (Jesus and Buddha both taught using parables)

Prince of Peace

Reality of a personal, Creator God

Genesis. 1:1