

"I used to be a
Bible teacher."

TC's Thoughts for Discussion

www.DYPK.org

According to a 2012 study by Gallup International "59% of the world said that they think of themselves as [a] religious person [sic], 23% think of themselves as not religious whereas 13% think of themselves as convinced atheists." Adherents.com says "Sizes shown [in the following chart] are approximate estimates, and are here mainly for the purpose of ordering the groups, not providing a definitive number."

Christianity	2.2 Billion
Islam	1.6 Billion
Secular/Non-Religious/Agnostic/Atheist	1.1 Billion
Hinduism	1.0 Billion
Chinese Traditional Religion	394 Million
Buddhism	376 Million
Ethnic Religions	300 Million
African Traditional Religions	100 Million
Sikhism	23 Million
Judaism	4.2 Million
Bahá'í	7 Million
Jainism	4.2 Million
Shinto	4 Million
Cao Dai	4 Million
Zoroastrianism	2.6 Million
Tenrikyo	2 Million
Neo-Paganism	1 Million
Unitarian Universalism	800 Thousand
Rastafarianism	600 Thousand

If you were to Google[®] "list of world religions," etc., you would find numbers that may differ from these, but not substantially. After reviewing the chart please answer the following five questions, privately and prayerfully:

- 1 The Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus you've encountered—how do you think they each arrived at the conclusion that their respective faith is in the only true religion...or, at least, the primary "path to God?"
- 2 Those of the Roman Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist faiths (etc.) that you know—what do you think was the *typical* process that led each of them to conclude that their respective division of Christianity is the "true" (or, at least, the best or "safest" form of) Christianity?
- 3 How and at what point did you decide to invest the rest of your life in believing whatever you personally believe about the Bible and Christianity?
- 4 Are your answers to the first and second questions the same—or are they different? If different, how and why are they different? If they are the same, what should those people do about that?
- 5 Are your answers to the first, second and third questions the same—or are they different? If they're different, how and why are they different? If they are the same, what must you do to fix that?

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Post a comment or question or just read what others are saying: www.DYPK.org/apps/blog.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain

