



Module 11

Miscellaneous Matters

SALVIFIC EXCLUSIVITY

Salvific Exclusivity: Islam is the only valid path of salvation in the Hereafter



MAIN POINTS

- Islam is the only valid path to salvation in the Hereafter.
- Islam is the only acceptable religion in the sight of God
- All previous 'heavenly religions' are abrogated
- Belief in and affirmation of the message of the Prophet Muhammad is a condition for salvation in the Hereafter
- It is disbelief (kufr) to believe that other religions are 'valid paths to God' and acceptable in His sight and paths to salvation in the Hereafter.

It is Fard 'Ayn for all Muslims to know these points and believe in them.
What follows is an elaboration on these points.

WHAT IS RELIGION?

We tend to think of 'religion' as a series of doctrines and practices. Religion is seen as what you believe and what you do. For some, religion is:

- What their family calls itself
- What they don't eat
- What holidays they celebrate

The origin of the English word 'religion' is highly disputed. Some say it comes from *religare*, to bind or connect. Others say it's from *religio*, which means code of conduct or the 'proper performance of rites.'

WHAT IS RELIGION?

The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) described the Deen:

تركُّم على المحجَّة البيضاء ليلها كنهارها، لا يزيغ عنها إلا هالك

I have left you on the middle of a bright well-trodden path whose night and day are alike. No one strays from it after me except he is ruined.

The mahajja is a well-trodden path. It is the Sirat al-Mustaqim, which is a wide path. It is bayda', meaning bright and luminous, and not dark, opaque, ambiguous, or murky.

Islam literally means to “attain well-being (salama), peace, and wholeness through willing surrender and submission to the Creator.

HOW MANY MODERNS CONCEIVE OF RELIGION

A 2005 survey of American teens found that, across faiths, young Americans tended to share a common understanding of religion. The authors called it **Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**:

- 1] Moralistic—about ‘being good.’
- 2] Therapeutic—it helps you feel good, warm and fuzzy.
- 3] Deism—the belief that God exists but isn’t really involved in the world.

HOW MANY MODERNS CONCEIVE OF RELIGION

The main features of **Moralistic Therapeutic Deism** are:

- A God exists who created the world and watches over human life
- God wants people to be good, kind, and fair to each other, as taught by most world religions
- The main goal of life is to be happy
- There is no need for God to be particularly involved in one's life, except when He is needed to resolve a problem
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

HOW MANY MODERNS CONCEIVE OF RELIGION

Religion is not just about being a ‘good person’—what does it even mean to be a good person? Allah sent Prophets and revelation to teach people what ‘being good’ means.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism is, first and foremost, **pragmatic**. Religion is fine, the youth in the study said, as long as it helps *you* and gives *you* meaning. Otherwise, ‘who are we to judge?’

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism is NOT the position of any of the major world religions. They are not self-help programs. They claim to be the only correct windows to Ultimate Truth.

ISLAM IS THE ONLY VALID RELIGION

3:19 Aal 'Imran: 'The Deen in Allah's sight is Islam. The People of the Book differed among themselves after knowledge came to them. Whoever rejects the signs of Allah, verily Allah is speedy in judgement.'

3:85 Aal 'Imran: 'Whoever seeks other than Islam as a religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.'

61:9 Saff: 'It is He who sent His Messenger with the guidance and the true religion, to make it prevail over all religions, even though the idolaters dislike it.'

(If other religions can save people, why the need to prevail over them?)

THE AHL AL-KITAB ARE DISBELIEVERS

3:70 Aal 'Imran: 'O People of the Book! Why do you reject the revelation of Allah, even as you witness?'

(If they could be saved without Islam, why would their rejection be a problem?)

98:1 Bayyina: 'Those who disbelieved among the People of the Book, and the pagans were not divided until the Clear Evidence came to them.'

98:6 Bayyina: 'Those who disbelieve among the People of the Book, and pagans, will be in the Fire of Hell.'

THE AHL AL-KITAB ARE DISBELIEVERS

3:81 Aal 'Imran: 'And recall when Allah took an oath from the prophets. "I have given you scriptures and wisdom. Now if a messenger comes to you confirming what is with you, you must believe in him and give him victory. Do you agree to this and swear to it as binding on you?" They said, "We do." He said, "Then be witnesses to it and I too am with you amongst the witnesses."

(If the prophets had to believe in the Prophet Muhammad and follow him, naturally their followers must believe in him and follow him, too.)

THE AHL AL-KITAB ARE DISBELIEVERS

4:136 Nisa': 'O you who believe, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that has been brought down to the His Messenger and the Books that have been sent down before that. Whoever disbelieves in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Day of Judgment has gone far astray.'

5:15-16 Ma'ida: 'O People of the Book, Our Messenger has come to you clarifying much of what you hide of the Scripture, and He overlooks much. A light from God has come to you, and a Book that makes things clear. Through it, Allah guides those who want his pleasure to peaceful paths and takes them out of the darkness and into the light by His permission. And He guides them to the straight path. Those who say God is the Messiah son of Mary have certainly disbelieved.'

7:158 A'raf: 'O people, I am the Messenger of Allah to you all.'

(This is a response to the fallacious thesis that the Prophet only came to the Arabs.)

SALVATION RESTS ON BELIEF IN THE PROPHET

4:162 Nisa': 'Those among them firmly rooted in knowledge, and the believers, believe in what was revealed to you...These We will bestow an immense reward.'

24:62 Nur: 'Verily the believers are those who believe in Allah and His Messengers.'

48:28 Fath: 'It is He who sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, to make it prevail over all religions.'

(If other religions can save people, why the need to prevail over them?)

VERSES IMPLYING SALVATION OF AHL AL-KITAB

2:62 Baqara: ‘Those who believe and those who were guided (hadu), and the supporters of Christ (nasara), and the Sabeans who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and act righteously; they will have their reward with their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.’

The verse is in the **past tense**, pointing to believers at the time of their prophet. The circumstance of revelation was a question from Salman al-Farisi about the pious monks he met before Islam. It must be this because otherwise it would contradict the explicit and numerous verses commanding the current Jews and Christians to believe in the Prophet ﷺ.

VERSES IMPLYING SALVATION OF AHL AL-KITAB

3:113 Aal 'Imran: 'They are not alike. Among the People of the Scripture is a community that is upright; they recite Allah's revelations throughout the night, and they prostrate themselves.'

This verse is referring to the Jews and Christians **who became Muslim**, as explained in 7:157, 'Those who follow the Messenger, the Unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in the Torah and the Gospel in their possession...Those who believe in him, and respect him, and support him, and follow the light that came down with him; these are the successful ones.'

HADITH

The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, ‘By Him in whose Hand is the life of Muhammad! Anyone from this nation, be they a Jew or a Christian, who hears of me and dies without believing in what I have come with, shall be among the inhabitants of Hell.’ (Muslim)

Imam al-Nawawi said: ‘It contains [a proof] that all religions have now been abrogated by the prophethood of our Prophet...’ (*Sharh Muslim*)

HADITH

Al-Ghazali said in *Ihya 'Ulum al-Din*, 'Allah sent the Qurayshi unlettered Prophet Muhammad with His divinely-inspired Message to the entire world: to Arabs and non-Arabs, jinn and mankind. The Prophet's Sacred Law has abrogated and superseded all earlier revealed laws, except those provisions in them that the [new] Sacred Law has reconfirmed.'

Qadi 'Iyad said, 'There is a consensus (*ijma'*) about the disbelief of one who does not consider as disbelievers the Christians, Jews and all those who part from the religion of the Muslims; or hesitates about their disbelief, or doubts it.'

FURTHER READING

First Pillar:

<https://www.safinasociety.org/firstpillar>

The Last Trump Card: Islam and the Supersession of Other Faiths:

<https://archive.org/details/TheLastTrumpCardIslamAndOtherReligionsTimWinterAbdulahkimMurad>