

*Understanding Major World Religions*  
“Introduction (A)”

I. Why study this course?

A. Taking the gospel to the world

1. Jesus’ remarks:

a. John 12:32-33

b. Matthew 28:19-20

B. “Religion” – Definition

RE –

LIGARE –

C. Diversity

1. Region and culture

2. Religious climate

3. Economic differences

D. Searching for points of contact

1. Great challenge for church members

2. Understanding the missionary’s challenge

## II. The problem of pluralism

### A. Is Jesus the only savior?

#### 1. Scripture is clear

John 3:16-18; 14:6; Romans 10:9-10; I Timothy 2:5

### B. Pluralists disagree

#### 1. All roads lead to heaven.

#### 2. Rejection of propositional truth

### C. Inclusivism in the church

#### 1. Explanation: “Is Jesus the only savior?” – Ron Nash

#### 2. “No other name” – John Sanders

#### 3. Face of Christ in other religions

##### a. Sympathy in Evangelicals

#### 4. Recent situation at Wheaton College

#### 5. Billy Graham / Robert Schuller

##### a. Evangelicalism Divided by Iain Murray

##### b. Pastor Don’s pencil illustration

##### c. Ambiguity of Billy Graham

D. Peter Kreft “Ecumenical Jihad”

1. Another example of inclusivism

E. Saving faith is absolutely essential.

F. Why do people go to hell who have not heard of Christ?

1. Romans 1:18-23