Questions and Answers about Christianity

Tibetan-English Edition
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Introduction

a) There are many important questions about life: How did the world begin? Where did people come from? Why do people experience suffering? What happens after death? Who is God? Today, Tibetans are learning the answers to these questions through Christianity.

b) Christianity is the world’s largest religion. There are about 2.2 billion
Christians in the world, and they live in every country including China. There are about 100 million Christians in China. Among them are Tibetan and Mongolian Christians. Being a follower of Jesus is not dependent on where we come from. In the same way that being a Buddhist does not necessarily mean that one must be a Tibetan, being a Tibetan does not necessarily mean one must be a Buddhist. Anyone, regardless of ethnicity, can believe in Jesus.

c) Two thousand years ago, the Lord Jesus was born in west Asia. He taught about forgiveness of sins and receiving boundless life through faith in God. The subject of this “questions and answers”
is the Christian faith. Who is God? Is God the same as the Triple Refuge of Buddhism? What are the benefits of being a follower of Jesus? How do you have faith in Jesus and follow him?
Chapter One: Christianity

1.1 Q: Who is God?

1.2 A: God is the Creator of the world and everything in it. He has no beginning or end. He is infinite and never changes. He is the source of all things and everything in the world depends upon Him for its existence. He sees all people and situations and knows everything. Though God cannot be seen, he is everywhere at all times. He is holy and righteous and completely separate from sin. God is the father of Jesus Christ. He is also called the Lord God, Yahweh God, Almighty God and the
Highest God. Since there can not be two all-powerful Gods, Yahweh God alone is the one true God.

1.3 Q: Who is Jesus Christ?

1.4 A: Jesus is God’s son and the saviour of the world. He was born two thousand years ago, in a country called Israel. He was a famous Jewish teacher. He had twelve students and many other followers. Some of them recorded his teachings in a book called the New Testament. The Lord Jesus said that merit-making, religious rituals, and human traditions were of no value in bringing people to God. According to his teaching, the one who wants to worship God must instead love God with all
his mind, heart, and ability; and love others more than himself. Jesus preached that if anyone confessed that he were a sinner, and repented of the bad things he had done, then God would certainly forgive his sins. Those who have faith in Jesus will remain with God in peace and joy forever. But he also said that all who oppose God will be separated from him and have to remain in hell eternally. To show that he had authority to say such things, the Lord Jesus did many good works, such as...
Q: What is the difference between the God of Christianity and the Triple Refuge of Buddhism?

A: The Triple Refuge of Buddhism is the Buddha, his teachings, and monks. But the Christian God is one; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Though these three are not identical, they each have the exact same nature. God the Father is the father of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to this world to save us
from the punishment of our sins. God the Holy Spirit is
God who lives in the hearts of those who believe in Jesus. This clearly shows that God is
not the same as the Triple Refuge of Buddhism. God is not
a god or a bodhisattva. He is eternal and completely unlike
any idol that people are able to make.

1.7 Q: How did the world begin?

1.8 A: In the beginning of time, God made everything there is. He made the sky and
the earth, the sun and moon, and the stars we can see in the sky at night. He also made Ti-
bet’s snow mountains and northern plains, its rivers and
lakes, its horses, yaks and
1.9 Q: Where did people come from?

1.10 A: In the beginning, God made two people in his own image. He made a man and a woman to have fellowship with him and to be happy and holy. Like God, the two people had minds that could think; they conversed with God daily. Humanity was made to have a good relationship with God. Man is important in God’s sight.
Chapter Two: Jesus’ Good News

2.1 Q: If in the beginning God created man to be holy and happy, why is there suffering everywhere today?

2.2 A: God is like a loving father. When he made the first man and woman, he gave them a commandment so that they would be saved from death. But by disobeying God’s command and preferring their way to God’s way, the two people became sinners. Ever since then, all people have had a sinful nature; from sin comes suffering and death.
2.3 Q: What is sin?

2.4 A: Sin is disobeying God’s commandments. Examples of sin are murder, adultery, disrespecting parents, wild behaviour, idolatry, magic, hatred, fighting, jealousy, being easily angered, envy, drunkenness, and lying. People who do such things do not have a right relationship with God.

2.5 Q: Have all people sinned?

2.6 A: Yes, because all people have a sinful nature, all of us have sinned. By unworthy thoughts, words, or deeds we sin every day and offend almighty God. For this reason we are separated from God.
2.7 Q: What is the result of sin?

2.8 A: The result of sin is death. God who is completely righteous hates sin. On the last day he will certainly judge all sinners. The terrifying punishment for sin is to be separated from God and to suffer in hell forever. Since we all deliberately sin, our relationship with God is broken. Therefore we need a mediator who can restore the relationship between humanity and God.

2.9 Q: Is there a way to escape from God’s judgment?

2.10 A: Yes. Since Jesus Christ is our mediator, if we
repent of our sin and believe in Him, we can be saved from the punishment for sin and live with God forever.

2.11 Q: Was the Lord Jesus a real person?

2.12 A: Yes. Jesus Christ became man and was born in this world in the first century in order to save us from the punishment for sins. He grew up in the home of his father Joseph and his mother Mary in the region of Galilee in the north of Israel. When he was about thirty years old, a prophet called John the Baptist baptized him in the Jordan River. He became a famous teacher of religion who taught about God, sin, and what we must do to be saved from the punishment for our sins. The
Lord Jesus said and did only what God the Father told him to say and do. To show that he came from God, he did many miracles, such as healing sick people and making dead people come alive again.

2.13 Q: How did the Lord Jesus die?

2.14 A: The religious officials of Israel rejected his teachings and decided to put him to death by nailing him to a cross. He experienced the punishment of our sins for us, and died on the cross to save us from God’s punishment of our sins.
2.15 Q: Is Jesus Christ alive today?

2.16 A: Yes. Three days after dying on the cross, God raised him alive from the dead. In doing so, God showed that he accepted his sacrifice for our sins. The Lord Jesus then ascended into God’s heaven and now rules over his people and intercedes for them before God. One day at the end of time, he will return from God’s heaven to judge both the living and the dead.

2.17 Q: What is the meaning of the Lord Jesus’ death and resurrection?

2.18 A: Through the Lord Jesus’ death and resurrection,
2.19 Q: What must we do to be saved from the punishment of our sins?

2.20 A: Though God is a righteous judge and must
judge all sinners, there is a way to be saved: We must repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ alone.

2.21 Q: Can we be saved by accumulating merit?

2.22 A: No. Because God is infinitely holy and we are sinful, the merit we could accumulate is not enough in God’s sight.
2.23 Q: If we believe not only in Jesus Christ but also in the Buddha and gods, can we be saved?

2.24 A: No, we must believe in Jesus Christ alone, because only he has the power to save us from sin.

2.25 Q: Can anyone be saved?

2.26 A: Yes, anyone who repents of sin and believes in Jesus can be saved and receive eternal life. Jesus’ apostle known as Paul was previously a blasphemer, a persecutor of God’s people, and a violent man, but he repented of his sins, believed in Jesus, and was saved. People who are handicapped or blacksmiths or butchers or prostitutes or
fishermen or who are educated or not educated or are rich or poor, anyone can believe in Jesus can be saved.

2.27 Q: What are the benefits of being saved?

2.28 A: When someone believes in Jesus, God forgives that person’s sin. He loves that person as if he had never sinned and makes him want to do his holy will. Just as Jesus Christ is God’s Son, God makes those who believe in Jesus to be like his own sons and daughters. All-powerful Jesus protects believers from evil spirits and from evil. Believers also receive eternal life and the Holy Spirit enters their hearts.
2.29 Q: What happens when people die?

2.30 A: When believers in Jesus die, although their bodies return to dust, their spirit immediately goes to God in joy and peace. At the last day their bodies will be made alive again and, they will live forever with God. Those who reject Jesus are at their death thrown into hell and must suffer there forever.
Chapter Three: Believing in Jesus Christ

3.1 Q: Are there Tibetans who believe in Jesus?

3.2 A: Some Tibetans have already become believers in Jesus Christ. In U-Tsang, Amdo, and Kham the number of Christians is increasing. There are also Tibetan Christians in China, Nepal, and India. Among the Chinese people there are many millions of Christians. Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Jesus Christ wants all people to believe in him and be saved.
3.3 Q: How can one believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved?

3.4 A: There are four things one needs to do; firstly, admit that you are a sinner. Since everyone has a sinful nature, it is not possible for anyone to be without sin. Therefore, we sin each day, and the result of this is death. That death is not only passing away from this life, but also having to remain apart from God forever in hell.

3.5 Secondly, we need to repent of our sin. Our repentance must be sincere. If we do not repent, God will judge us on the last day and we will experience the punishment for our sins in hell.
3.6 Thirdly we must believe in the Lord Jesus alone. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He was raised to life to make us right with God. Since no one else died to suffer the penalty for our sins, it is not possible to be saved by depending on anyone or anything else.

3.7 Fourthly, we must pray to Jesus. As it says in the Bible, “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Since we do not know the future, it is best to do this now.
3.8 How to Trust in Jesus

1. Admit that you are a sinner.

2. Repent.

3. Believe only in Jesus.

4. Pray to Jesus.

3.9 Q: How do I pray to receive the salvation of the Lord Jesus?

3.10 A: Pray like this: “Lord Jesus, I admit that I have sinned against you and others by disobeying God’s word. Now I repent and believe in you, trusting in your grace alone. Opening the door of my heart, I invite you in. From now on you are my saviour and I will serve you.”
Thank you for giving me your wonderful salvation.”

3.11 Q: What do I do now that I have believed in Jesus and been saved?

3.12 A: Just as infants grow up, so new believers in Jesus need to become mature and complete in their faith. Believers must no longer live according to their own desires but live according to God’s will. The Lord Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” Five ways to do this are: 1) Read the Bible or
3.13 How to Follow Jesus Christ

1. Read and obey the Bible everyday.
2. Worship only God everyday.
3. Meet together with other believers.
4. Love God and others.
5. Tell others about Jesus.

There are many resources available on the gsungrab.org website to help you.
Chapter Four: The Bible

4.1 Q: What is the Bible?

4.2 A: The Bible is God’s word for all peoples. The Bible has two main parts called the Old Testament and the New Testament. They were both written many centuries before the history of Tibet was recorded. The Old Testament was written about 2,500 - 3,000 years ago, and the New Testament was written during the first century A.D., at the same time as the Han Dynasty in China. The Old Testament is the history of the Jewish people. The New Testament is the story of the Lord Jesus
The Bible contains God’s true words, the way of salvation, righteous laws and the wonderful good news that sinners can be saved. In summary, all we need to know about God is in the Bible.

4.3 Q: Where can I get a copy of the Bible?

4.4 A: You can download a copy from the website: “www.gsungrab.org”.
May God bless you as you discover more about Jesus Christ.