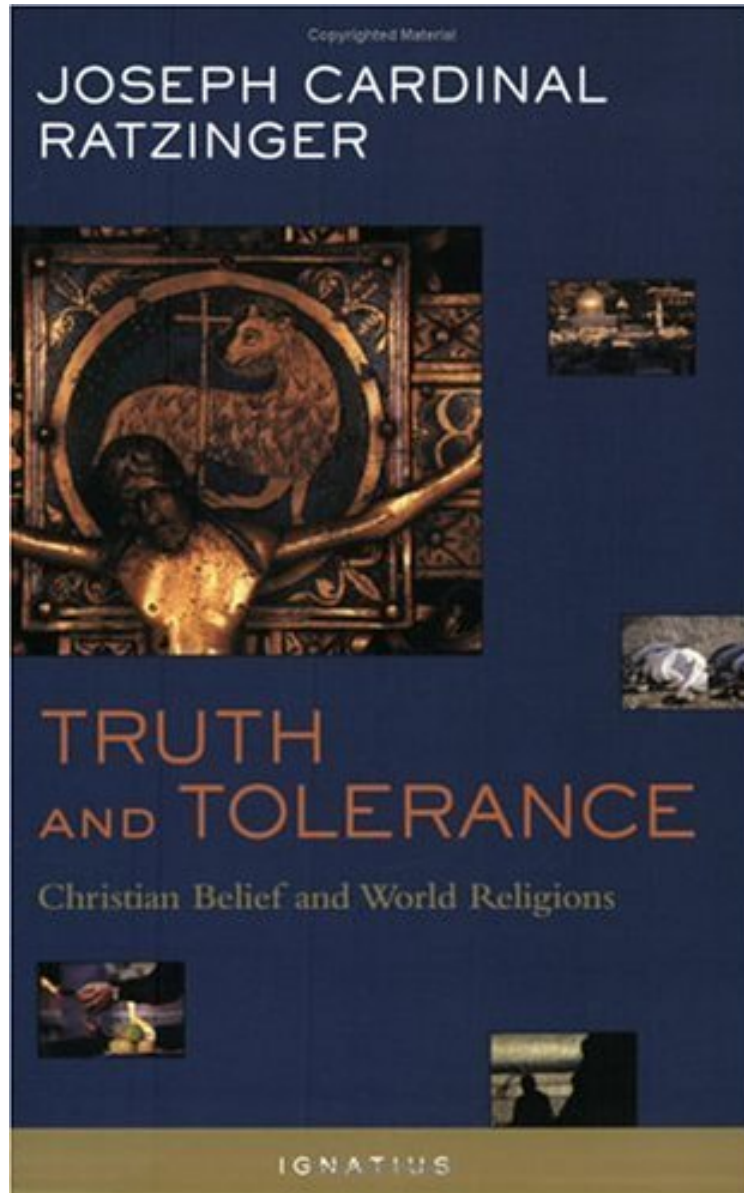


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Truth and Tolerance: Christian Belief and World Religions

Benedict XVI

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#534056 in Books 2005-07-18Original language:GermanPDF # 1 7.90 x 1.00 x 5.20l, .81 #File Name: 158617035X280 pagesPaperback, catholic, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger | File size: 40.Mb

Benedict XVI : Truth and Tolerance: Christian Belief and World Religions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Truth and Tolerance: Christian Belief and World Religions:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Sola Empirica: Unraveling the Tapestry of ModernityBy KSIEver hear someone say, "It doesn't matter what you believe, all that matters is that you are a good person"? I assume you

have. If you are interested in the intellectual-historical development of this phrase, read this book. Here, Pope Benedict XVI does not so much argue for the Truth of Christianity here, as he does argue for the capacity of the human mind. It is a call for a return to original spirit of Philosophy as inspired by Plato: that man can know Truth. Wielding his vast theological, philosophical, and historical erudition, he makes a compelling case that the primary problem facing this age is the notion that reason, and hence truth, is limited to what is quantifiable, i.e., to what science alone can tell us. From such an understanding has stemmed the worldview that what belongs in the realm of the objective is the empirical, the testable, the scientific; while what belongs in realm of the subjective is the sentimental, the emotional, and the aesthetic. As such, truth and reason are relegated to the realm of the empirical; it has no say in questions of value, beauty, and religion--truth cannot be predicated of such areas. Using this as a hermeneutic key to unlock the problems facing belief today, Pope Benedict XVI spends the majority of the book working to implode this mindset from the inside and expand the scope of truth and reason to once again encapsulate all of human existence. Of particular interest is the way in which he shows: a.) how the rise of eastern mysticism in the west and the the predominance of pluralistic theologians such as John Hick depends particularly on the assumption that reason has no say in questions of religion, b.) how Newton, Francis Bacon, and natural science actually presupposes the Platonic notion of reason that he [Pope Benedict XVI] argues for, c.) how Truth and Goodness are necessarily related to each other, AND d.) how the Mosaic Distinction of Truth and falsity (think of the 1st commandment) in the realm of religion has a historical parallel in the Greek philosophy via Socratic dialectic (Plato's Euthyphro) and how both were synthesized in the Patristic era (Augustine's City of God). This book is excellent. I cannot recommend it highly enough. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read By Mary B Very lucid and insightful analysis of the similarities and differences between Christianity and eastern religions. This book is a must read to give any thoughtful person a starting point for analyzing Christianity compared to eastern religions. Today Christianity is being abandoned by people who feel that it is old fashioned or irrelevant and yet they are drawn to Eastern religions a which are even older and more mystical. This book gives a solid, rational basis for the Christian belief system but it does not violate or demean the perspective of other religions. It would be a good read as you try to find your own way. 23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. The Consolation of the Truth By wvano According to Cardinal Ratzinger (later, Pope Benedict XVI), religious relativism, the popular dogma that the major world religions are equally effective ways of attaining human fulfillment and even eternal salvation, is "the central problem for faith in our time." "Truth and Tolerance" is a collection of essays and speeches addressing this problem. In them, Cardinal Ratzinger explores a variety of approaches - anthropological, philosophical, and theological - but his essential point is that religion cannot prescind from the criterion of truth. Pontius Pilate may have asked it sarcastically, but the person of faith must sincerely pose the question "What is truth?" because truth is an irreplaceable good. The goodness of the Christian doctrines of the Trinity and the Atonement, for example, depends on their being true. Cardinal Ratzinger argues persuasively that our postmodern awareness of cultural diversity does not prove the superiority of relativism. Instead, the mass media, the global economy, and other current realities can be seen as signs pointing to our common humanity and our need for universal truths. The truth is that, in the face of contemporary pluralism, the Christian faith offers meaning of universal value.

Is truth knowable? If we know the truth, must we hide it in the name of tolerance? Cardinal Ratzinger engages the problem of truth, tolerance, religion and culture in the modern world. Describing the vast array of world religions, Ratzinger embraces the difficult challenge of meeting diverse understandings of spiritual truth while defending the Catholic teaching of salvation through Jesus Christ. "But what if it is true?" is the question that he poses to cultures that decry the Christian position on man's redemption. Upholding the notion of religious truth while asserting the right of religious freedom, Cardinal Ratzinger outlines the timeless teaching of the Magisterium in language that resonates with our embattled culture. A work of extreme sensitivity, understanding, and spiritual maturity, this book is an invaluable asset to those who struggle to hear the voice of truth in the modern religious world. "Beyond all particular questions, the real problem lies in the question about truth. Can truth be recognized? Or, is the question about truth simply inappropriate in the realm of religion and belief? But what meaning does belief then have, what positive meaning does religion have, if it cannot be connected with truth?" Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger From the Preface

About the Author Pope Benedict XVI (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger) is widely recognized as one of the most brilliant theologians and spiritual leaders of our age. As Pope he authored the best-selling *Jesus of Nazareth*; and prior to his pontificate, he wrote many influential books that continue to remain important for the contemporary Church, such as *Introduction to Christianity* and *The Spirit of the Liturgy*.