

**7.3a: Christianity: The New Testament**

Questions:

**1. What must a worshipper do to receive the blessings of Vishnu? How difficult is it to get these blessings? Are the things a worshipper must do personal or communal?**

A worshipper can receive the blessing of Vishnu by praying with a composed, clean mind, and a pleasant heart. After you shower, brush your teeth, dress in clean clothes (yellow is the ideal color of choice for your clothing) and apply a tilak of either yellow sandalwood or a mix of turmeric and sandalwood, you are ready to pray to Lord Vishnu. Once a worshipper receives this blessing, they must give an offering in devotion to Vishnu. This gift can be a leaf, flower, or a single drop of water. Vishnu's favorite color is white, and he is very much a lover of nature, so a nature-given gift is a good choice. Vishnu cares more about the intentions of the prayer, rather than getting it "right." Things a worshipper does are more personal or individual rather than communal, as it involves making personal offerings to the divine status. Worshipers will often repeat the names of their favorite gods or goddesses and repeat short memorized phrases (mantra's,) while praying to Lord Vishnu.

**2. What strikes you the central message of Devotional Hinduism? What screen image of Hinduism does Vishnu Purana project? What is the appeal of that image?**

The central message of Devotional Hinduism is that it is not a single, unified religion; it is more like a family of beliefs. Examples of these beliefs are that truth is eternal, brahman is truth/reality, everyone should strive to achieve enlightenment, individuals' souls are internal, and there are many more core beliefs found within Hinduism. The name itself, Hinduism, can sound very misleading knowing this information, teaching you to not judge something before learning more about it. Vishnu Purana projects one of the principle's divinities of Hinduism and gives the image of a guardian as he is the Supreme God of Hinduism. Vishnu's role is to protect humans and to help with the restoration of the world. It is said that Vishnu presence is found within every object and force in creation. A few Hindus observe Vishnu as a divine being from which all things appear or are created by. This imagine is so appealing as Gods are held very high in many people's standards, a higher being in which can protect you and the earth you walk on, I mean I am almost sold here. Vishnu has a unique nature and comes across to me as a literal guardian angel.