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Reflection 2

Summary

Chapter 2 begins with the comparison between the Christian view of God and the Islamic view of God. Tennent's questions are, "Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? Are the terms "Allah " and "God" interchangeable? Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad? Are these all just different ways of asking the same question?" (27). Tennent's answer is yes and no. Both share the concept that there is one God who is creator, true, and powerful. But there are many differences. The attitudes of God in the Bible and Allah are not the same. Specially Trinity and Jesus as God.

I enjoyed reading the Islamic perceptive on Christians. For muslim, we have committed sin and we are in the position to receive Allah's wrath. Tennent writes "we Christians do not know the "God of Muhammad" because we have rejected the revelation of the Quran. We have turned away in unbelief. We falsely claim that Jesus is divine" (47). The truth is Muslim are in the place to receive God's wrath. Jesus himself declares that "no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus is only way to Father. Without Him, there is no reconciliation or forgiveness of sin.

Key Learning

Before I read this chapter, I thought that "Allah" is just Arabic word of God but Tennent showed me it is deeper than that. Christian and Muslim do worship monotheistic God. As a Christians, "we can celebrate with Muslims their timely rejection of idolatry and their acceptance of monotheism"(44). However, we don't worship same God. Christian believe in triune God:

God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In other words, Christians believe trinity, in the deity of Christ, the doctrine of the incarnation, the redemptive power of the cross, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (37-38). Our God is Creator, powerful, true, and personal. Where as Islam rejects the Trinity and the New Testament teaching of Jesus Christ as the eternal God. They only consider Him as a prophet and novel character of New Testament. Allah as one true God and everything else is less for Muslim. Allah's attribute are not same as God of the Bible. "Muhammad is the prophet of God and equates obedience to Allah with obedience to his messenger" (42). Islamic faith confess that "There is no god, but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah" (42). Where as Christian that "Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead (Rom 10:9). Jesus is only the savior for human kind. In other words, there is no salvation in Muhammad but Jesus alone.

Implication

This chapter helped me to understand Muslims a little more. While sharing my faith with them, I will be mindful of their view of God and Jesus. But one question that kept coming to my mind while reading this chapter is: should I refer to Allah for God while witnessing Muslims? I don't know if it is correct; I might use it in the initial period of evangelism to start the conversation. However, I would explain the difference later because it is curial for Muslims to understand the God of the Bible.