

Chapter 3

With Christianity growing in areas where another religion is dominant the question was posed how Christians relate to the sacred texts of the religions in those regions while spreading the gospel. The theologian A. J. Appasamy placed prayers in a book and placed this book in the church for their use. This was done to show the continuity between the Christian and Hindu background. Some did not understand why Appasamy would do such a thing but Appasamy believed that there was more to what Jesus said than what Christians limited thinking allowed. Appasamy also presented that when Jesus said He came to fulfill the law not destroy it, Jesus could also have come to fulfill the hopes, dreams and longings of other world religions. This is part of what the prayer book or Temple Bells, was to put one in mind of. As Christians are exposed to the language, images and discourse of the Hindu it will help one to understand the eastern way of thinking. This can also aid in introducing the gospel to the Hindu.

Also, what stood out to me in this chapter was that Appasamy was not the only one who thought that relating to other religions in some way would be an avenue for the spread of the gospel. An example given was Paul quoting Cretan poets and using their statements to refer to God, such as In Him we live, move and have our being. Although this is a statement used for Zeus, Paul uses it for God. So, we see that we can take advantage of materials from other religions but they must be used appropriately. It should not be used as an independent document isolated from the Bible and it must be used in a way that is aimed toward Christ. These are important factors in reading or using material from other religions and this will make

our witness, evangelizing or outreach effective.