**Buddhism a.k.a. “The Force”**

**Reading: John 14:1-6**

**Compared to the Teaching of the Bible**

1. There is a certain “force” (tao) that penetrates all things, and that force is God. **THE BIBLE says** God is a spirit who is Creator and Sustainer, yet **separate** from the creation. ***(Genesis 1:1-3) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. {2} The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. {3} Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light… John 4:24 “God is a spirit; and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.***

2. Truth (enlightenment) differs from person to person. Each person can have his or her own personal truth. **The Bible says** that Truth is objective – originates from outside of man. ***Psalm 117:2 “For His loving kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord is everlasting.”--- John 8:31-32 “”If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

3. Salvation is a state of non-existence achieved by one’s own effort; no outside help is necessary. **The Bible says** us that all have sinned by violating God’s law are personally responsible for their actions. ***(Romans 3:23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, --- (1 John 3:4) Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.--- (Hebrews 5:9) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,***

4. Man’s entire existence is evil and full of suffering. **The Bible says** that man is the crowing jewel of God’s creation – made in the image of God ***(Genesis 1:26,27; 2:7)... (Psalms 8:4-5) What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? {5} For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.***

5. No reason given for suffering. **The Bible says** suffering exists because of sin. ***(Romans 8:18-23) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. {19} For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. {20} For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; {21} because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. {22} For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. {23} Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*** Rather than being a meaningless experience, suffering can help refine our character and make us stronger. ***(Romans 5:3-5) And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; {4} and perseverance, character; and character, hope. {5} Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.***

**Jesus is the “Force”**

Jesus Christ spoke in agreement and by the authority of Jehovah God: ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. … And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14)… “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” (John 14:6)***

***“Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31)***

There is no hope for the Buddhist except he come to believe in Jesus Christ. ***“in none other is there salvation, for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).***