

ABSTRACT

This thesis is a comparative study on the doctrine of salvation in Christianity and Theravada Buddhism for the communication of the gospel. The study investigates the main teachings pertaining to salvation in Theravada Buddhism. This is achieved primarily by studying the Four Noble Paths that are fundamental to Buddhist belief. The study also examines the doctrine of salvation in Christianity, and focuses mainly on the doctrine of justification by faith alone, in Christ alone, through grace alone. It also discusses the distinctiveness of Christian salvation and its benefits.

From these investigations, the differences between Christian salvation and that of Theravada Buddhism are identified and examined. It does not, however, attempt to prove or disprove the truth claims in both Christianity and Theravada Buddhism.

The doctrine of salvation provides a number of viable points of contact for communication of the gospel to adherents of Theravada Buddhism. The study anticipates these points of contact as possible and pertinent avenues for communicating the gospel. It also discusses the potential problems and barriers in carrying out this task.

The conclusion of this thesis is that, the doctrine of salvation in Christianity and Theravada Buddhism is radically different in its process and ultimate purpose. This important doctrine of salvation, however, offers an important bridge to communicate the gospel to the Theravada Buddhists.