



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY  
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**Americans for Freedom of Religion**

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### **The Unique Contributions of Christianity to the World**

Christianity has made numerous contributions to the world, demonstrating that it turned the ancient world upside down and laid the foundation for positive changes in societies around the world. While some choose to list the faults of those who claim to be Christians but have done great harm, the actual good done in the name of Christ is astonishing.

"It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the coming of Christianity. It brought with it, for one thing, an altogether new sense of human life. For the Greeks had shown man his mind; but the Christians showed him his soul. They taught that in the sight of God, all souls were equal, that every human life was sacrosanct and inviolate," wrote Yale historian R.R. Palmer. <sup>(1)</sup>

"The gospel not only converts the individual, but it changes society. On every mission field ... the missionaries carried a real social gospel. They established standards of hygiene and purity, promoted industry, elevated womanhood, restrained anti-social customs, abolished cannibalism and human sacrifice, organized famine relief, checked tribal wars, and changed the social structure of society," wrote Princeton Prof, Samuel Zwerner. <sup>(2)</sup>

Despite its humble origins, Christianity made more changes on earth for good than any other movement in history. "Education, social reform, medicine, democracy, the arts and modern science all owe much of their current existence to the teaching and ideas of the followers of Jesus Christ," wrote author David Robertson. <sup>(3)</sup>

\* Following Emperor Constantine's conversion in A.D. 325, the churches built hospitals, hospices for travelers and houses for orphans, widows and the indigent. Historians note that charitable organizations are almost unknown in the ancient world until the time of Christ.

\* Christians took real, practical steps helping the sick. The Emperor Charlemagne (800-814) decreed that every cathedral was required to have an attached hospital.

\* Monasteries generated the copying of Scripture and other literature, especially from Greece, and their libraries provided the inspiration for the first universities in the 12th and 13th centuries.

\* Christianity places a high value on truth and that truth about the existence of God can be discovered through observation of the natural world, thus having a positive impact on the development of the sciences.

\* Christianity produced a middle class not known to mankind. It had always been the rich and the poor, the elite and the serfs or slaves. But with Christ, the carpenter, there was now honor in all work as a God-given calling, helping to produce a vibrant middle class. <sup>(4)</sup>

***"Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom." Corinthians 3:17***