



Two Young Men

Often when we seek to advance the Kingdom of God we are actually advancing Christianity and not Christ. When that happens, when we advance our religion, other religions become the competition. In some cases, even the enemy.

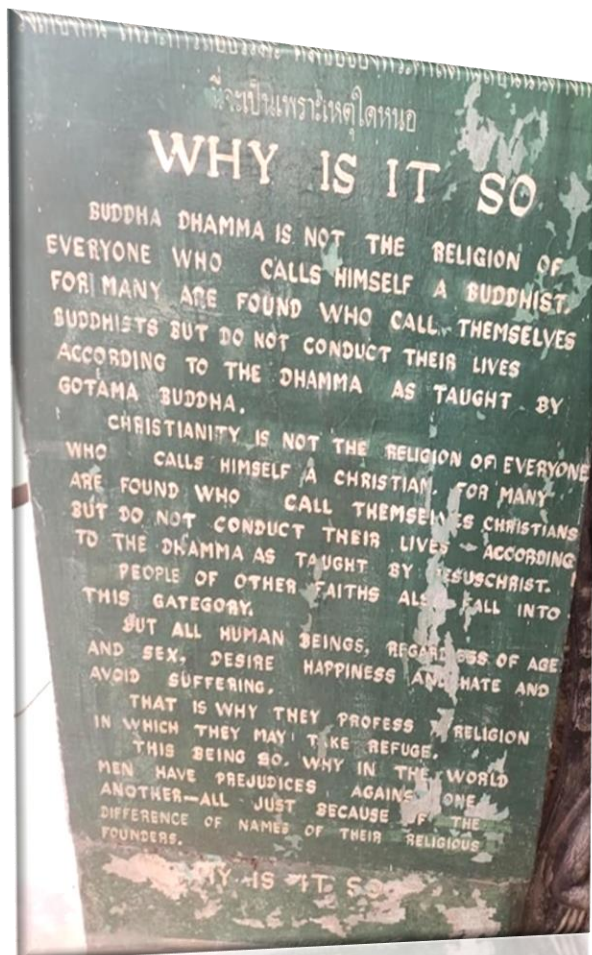
The discussion is not about God, the Father, being the Lord of all, or Jesus receiving authority over all. It becomes a comparative religion class. Which is better, which is worse.

I know there is a lot of the Bible that I “miss” because I am looking through my cultural lenses. I know that other cultures, in my case the Thai culture, has questions I have never even thought about. If I am passing on my religious heritage and not the Gospel of the Kingdom, the part of the Bible I miss and the questions I have no answers for never get addressed. I miss out, and my Thai friends miss out as well.

Vijayan, a friend, quoting Jim Petersen, says, “Your God is too small, your Bible too little.” God speaks to so many things, many of which I have no experience with, but I want to know God in His fullness.

In My last letter I spoke of meeting a monk at Wat Umong and that he said, “I really like Jesus' teaching.”

Yesterday I went to Wat Umong with two young men, friends of my brother Danny. They had a lot of very good questions. I think they liked it, but they struggled to figure out what Jesus was “doing” in a Buddhist temple.



They also questioned, is this an accurate representation of Jesus.

[This video shows](#) you that on the entry of each meditation cubical there is a painting, a rendition, of Christ and Scripture from the Bible. When we are in this room I often say to my friends, “You meditate to acquire peace, but to really find that peace you must pass through Christ.”

If we, and more importantly, Christ in us, are not there then they may not see the significance of Jesus. They may not have an accurate representation.

When we bring Thai friends to this temple, friends with whom we are discussing Christ, these images have a powerful affirming impact.

I like this verse from Mark 7:24, it is when Jesus goes to Tyre trying to “get away” for a bit, “He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.”

He is Present, and it is no Secret!