

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Tanya A. Martin **Humanities Discipline:** Philosophy (Ethics)

Date: 3/27/2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module Title: *Social Implications of Christianity in the United States*

Teaching Module Goal:

How have the interpretations of Christianity influenced both U.S. government policy and popular opinion toward Native Americans, African Americans, poor people, women, and other historically oppressed persons? The goal of this teaching module is (1) reveal the role of Christianity in social prejudice and political behavior treatment and (2) compare and contrast this legacy with selected Christian scriptures.

Readings:

American Philosophies: An Anthology edited by Leonard Harris, et al. *What the Indian means to America* by Luther Standing Bear pp 420-422; *Letter to the Taino/Arawak Indians, 1493 (King Ferdinand of Aragon)* pp 9-10; *Speech: Sa-Go-Ye-Wat-Ha* pp 11-14

Kristin E. Kandt; Historical Essay: In the Name of God; An American Story of Feminism, Racism, and Religious Intolerance: The Story of Alma Bridwell White, 8 Am. U. J. Gender, Soc. Pol. & L 753 (2000)

Christianizing the Klan: Alma White, Branford Clarke, and the Art of Religious Intolerance by Lynn S. Neal Church History June 2009

World Religions: The great faiths explored and explained by John Bowker c. 1997, 2003, 2006 Professor John Bowker; (*Introduction*; *Jesus' Teaching* page 150 *The Life of Christ* page 154

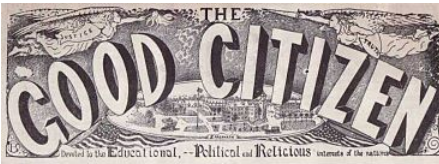
2 Peter 3:16

2 Corinthians 4:2

2 Timothy 2:15

Matthew 19:16-24

Divining America-Religion in American History: The Religious Origins of Manifest Destiny by Donald M. Scott Professor of History Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York ©National Humanities Center



Vol. 14, No. 7. (Total No. 143). Zarephath, N. J., July, 1926. Price, 5c a Copy.



Questions and prompts for discussion:

1. Does/Did American Manifest Destiny have any relation to the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels?
2. How did dominant interpretations of Christianity shape the lives of Native, African, and European Americans?
3. What role did Christianity play in slavery and ethnocide?
4. We will discuss various consequences of how and when the United States (and other nations) have claimed a special providence and mission from God.

Assignments:

In a Wiki or Blog, students will address the following:

1. In your opinion, what did Jesus mean when he said "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God"?
2. What does the previous statement reveal about Jesus' attitude toward personal property, the attainment of wealth or capitalism in general?
3. What do you think Jesus would say about the way this American lands were conquered and turned into privately-held or U.S. government property?
4. Based on your interpretation of the assigned readings, are there tensions between what Jesus said to do and what Christians actually did in the era of slavery?