

TEN RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED

By Guy V. Caskey

RECENTLY, I saw a list of Ten Religious Questions Most Frequently Asked. I should like to repeat these questions and let the Bible answer them without any comment at all from me-in hope that you will derive personal good as well as divine information you will be able to pass on to others.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15).

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17: 11).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, . . ." (Hebrews 1: 1, 2).

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; . . ." (Hebrews 2:1-3).

DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN SALVATION?

"But continue thou in the things which thou has learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:14-17)

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalms 19:7).

"According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and to virtue: . . . Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Peter 1:3, 4).

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8: 31, 32).

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

"It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

"No man can come unto me, except the Father who hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall be all taught of God. Every man, therefore, who hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me' " (John 6:44, 45).

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

"But He answered and said, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4).

"For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

"And now, brethren, I commend you unto God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever . . . and this is the word which by the gospel was preached unto you" (I Peter 1:22-25).

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed . . . " (Romans 1: 16, 17).

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:30, 31).

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain" (I Corinthians 15: 1, 2).

IS SALVATION FOR ALL OR JUST A SELECT FEW?

"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely'" (Revelation 22:17).

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11: 28-30).

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:3, 4).

"My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2: 1, 2).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men" (Titus 2:11).

"Then Peter opened his mouth and said, 'Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him'" (Acts 10:34, 35).

"Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink' " (John 7:37).

". . . And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

WILL GOD THEN SAVE EVERYONE?

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

"Not everyone that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

"Many will say unto me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess unto them, 'I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity'" (Matthew 7:22, 23).

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:26-29).

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9, 10).

"But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelations 21:8).

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7, 8).

"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely'" (Revelations 22:17).

WHY WILL MANY BE LOST?

"Not everyone that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

"And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Verily, I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 18:2, 3).

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

"Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many believed on Him: but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42, 43).

". . . know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commendeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

"Jesus answered, 'Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God' " (John 3:5).

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

"Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Act 3:19).

"Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:38).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9,10).

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:21).

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3: 26, 27).

"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism unto death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

MUST I BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO BE SAVED?

". . . and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Act 2:47).

"And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church? which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22, 23).

"And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18).

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles . . . " (I Corinthians 12:13).

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body" (Ephesians 5:23).

OF WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I BE A MEMBER?

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Psalms 127:1).

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15).

"For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (I Corinthians 12:12).

". . . Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 3:11).

". . . Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13).

CAN A MAN ONCE SAVED BE LOST?

"Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12).

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (II Corinthians 11:3).

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He hath taken away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.... Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:2-6).

"From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him" (John 6:66).

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:41, 42).

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27).

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:9,10).

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire'" (II Peter 2:20-22).

"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Revelations 3:16).

WHEN SHOULD I BE SAVED FROM MY SINS?

"For he saith, 'I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation' " (II Corinthians 6:2).

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6, 7).

WHY NOT WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY?

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

"I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4).

"Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44).

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (II Peter 3:10, 11).

"O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not" (Matthew 23:37).

"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, 'Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.' And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, 'Understandest thou what thou readest?' And he said, 'How can I, except some man should guide me?' And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this: 'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened He not His mouth: in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.' And the Eunuch answered Philip and said, 'I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the Eunuch said: 'See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?' And Philip said, 'If thou believes' with all thine heart, thou mayest.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:29- 38).

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

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