

The Most Important Question

The Bible contains many different examples of people asking questions of Godly teachers. These questions are recorded for examples of what God wants us to do today. But of all these questions, none are as important as the question asked, “What must I do to be saved?”

When Peter was preaching in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost he reasoned from the scriptures about Jesus being the Christ and Messiah. Peter stated, “Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified” Acts 2:36. The people, after hearing this great condemnation, were terrified for what they had done. Peter had convinced them that they were guilty of crucifying the Lord! Fully believing in Jesus and in the fact that they had done wrong, they asked the question, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37.

Saul of Tarsus decided to travel to Damascus in order to persecute Christians. The Bible reads, “And as he journeyed, it came to pass that he drew nigh unto Damascus: and suddenly there shone round about him a light out of heaven: and he fell upon the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Acts 9:3-4. In the following verses, Saul learns that he is persecuting Jesus himself. Fully believing in Jesus and that he was Lord of all, Saul asked, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Acts 9:6.

Paul the Apostle was traveling on a missionary journey through Philippi. After being persecuted and thrown in prison, the Lord miraculously opened the prison so Paul could escape. Thinking the prisoners had escaped, the jailor decided to kill himself. Paul shouted out, “Do thyself no harm: for we are all here” Acts 16:28. The jailor, realizing that Paul was preaching for the living God asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30.

The answer to these questions is always the same. Peter told the people “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:38. Jesus told Saul, “Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” Acts 9:6. The prophet of

God in the city asked Paul, “And now why do you wait? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name” Acts 22:16. Paul told the Jailor “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”, Acts 16:31, and in verse 32 it is reported that he “was baptized”, fulfilling the command of Jesus, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” Mark 16:16.

God clearly demonstrates that in order to be saved one must hear about Jesus, believe in him, and then be baptized. The answer was never “Just believe”, “Accept Jesus into your heart”, or “say the ‘Sinners Prayer’”. Believe, be baptized, and live a faithful life, and you too will have a home in heaven.

Resisting the Devil

“Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” 1 Peter 5:8. Peter informs us that our worst enemy, the devil, is always looking for someone to devour. Are we making his job easier? The Bible teaches us that the devil uses our own weaknesses against us. James stated, “But each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed” James 1:14. The devil uses our lust to bring temptation, and this causes us to sin against God. James states, “Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is full grown, bringeth forth death” James 1:15. Once we give in to lust, we sin. Sin brings spiritual death, “For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23a. When we give in to our own weaknesses, the devil devours us.

What can we do about this problem? Peter answers, “Whom withstand steadfast in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world” 1 Peter 5:9. We have a responsibility in defeating the adversary by leaning upon our faith. Faith, when used as a weapon against the devil, will help us to withstand his tempting ways and keep us from his clutches. James states, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7. When we submit our lives to the will of God and resist the devil, he will leave us alone! The devil flees from us

when we are responsible enough to have the courage to resist him and submit to God's will.

Where does this faith come from? Paul stated, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" Romans 10:17. I can develop the faith to defeat the adversary by hearing the word of God and being responsible to it. Peter stated, "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 virtue" 2 Peter 1:3. God has given us "*all things*" for defeating the devil, and it is found "through the knowledge" of God found in the Bible. When we come to know God by studying the faith found in the Bible, we can be good soldiers against the devil.

The Bible clearly teaches that in order to defeat the adversary, we must do our part. We must submit to God, accept his saving Gospel, resist the devil, and use our faith as a weapon against him. Paul stated, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" Romans 1:16.

The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork, Psalms 19:1

There is a story that dates back to the time when Benjamin Franklin was ambassador of the U.S.A. to France. While living in Paris, Franklin was a member of an elite scientific club. At certain meetings of this intellectual group, atheistic sentiments were expressed, leaving the impression that only the superstitious and uninformed still believe in God as the creator of the universe. At the next meeting, Franklin brought a beautifully designed and executed model of the sun and our solar system. The earth and the other planets were perfect in scale. It was a masterpiece. Upon seeing it, one of the Sophisticated Atheists asked, "Who made this!" Franklin replied, "No one, it just happened."

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

07/19/2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Weekly Item Needed: Paper or Plastic Plates

Wednesday's Wisdom:

Preaching is what saves us, brought by Austin Truss

Please remember Robin and Cheryl Haley in your prayers while they are traveling home from Ukraine. They should be home Monday night.