

More Questions; More Answers!

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A good question creates a good response because it makes us think before replying. Even though we might think we know the answer to this question, it still is a good one to ask—Why did Jesus have to suffer and die on the Cross? Was there not some other way to accomplish what He did by the sacrifice of Himself?

The short answer is, if there was, God would have done it some other way—He is the source of all knowledge and only He would know what it would take to break Satan’s grip on mankind—a grip that is ever tightening on most people in the world.

Because everyone begins life with a sin nature in control—a nature that wants to do everything *wrong* and desires everything *opposite* to what God wants us to have, Jesus had to suffer and die to break that hold *on* us and bring change *in* us—a change that is impossible to bring about in any other way.

Only God can change our direction and only He knew how it would be accomplished—that is why Jesus suffered and died on the Cross—that was the way to break Satan’s grip and the way to provide a plan that anyone could accept—if they will.

So, if Heaven is our goal, we will have to *give* our heart and our attitudes to God for His control every day. It is vitally important to have God change us to what He wants us to be—only then could we respond and treat others in a right way.

Children sometimes say things that has the parents asking them where they learned to say

that—only to have them say: *That is what you said yesterday when someone called you on the phone!* It is an awesome *responsibility* parents have to always show a Christ-like example by their words and responses. Children are *watching, listening, and learning* by the way *we* answer and respond.

There really is no excuse not to set a right example, because Jesus taught us *how* to meet things in a scriptural way; He told us *how* to respond when insulted; He explained *how* to trust the Father for finances and *every* need of *every* day! It is how *He* lived and He invites us to follow Him in faith.

There are many questions that need answers—like: *Am I spending too much time on social media, on entertainment, or on sports—and at the expense of my spiritual interests? Am I too involved with things that have no connection to my eternal life—something that is the focus for myself and family?* Getting a person to *think* is the purpose of a question.

The apostle had ² Timothy 4:7 fought the good fight of faith; he had finished his life still faithful to God’s plan. Since he had *kept* his faith in Jesus and *trusted* God every day, he was *assured* of a *crown* and of *Heaven*—something that will be given ² Timothy 4:8 “*Unto all them also that love his appearing.*”

We would *love His appearing* if we were following His *instructions* and heeding His *warnings* about *responding* and *replying* and *treating* people in the way He taught us to do.

He has *invited* us to enter His Kingdom—and it is *our* responsibility to value that invitation. We must not *ignore* it but *accept* it and *live* it—thereby growing spiritually and meeting things right.

How we *finish* the *race of life* is *vitally* important—we finish *strong*; or we finish *wrong*!

Are we ^{Titus 2:13} “*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*”

We anticipate His return because He ¹⁴ “*Gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*”—zealous for good attitudes and zealous to stay in the will of God.

We must finish *strong*—*not* wrong and keeping our faith in the mighty Name of Jesus—because ^{Acts 4:12} “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*”

The question *Who is using you*—has us think and ponder and reply because, whether we realize it or not, one of two powers will be *using* us—either for right or for wrong purposes.

In whatever way we *choose*, we are going to be *used*—our life will be *lived* for one or the other.

Are we being a right influence on our circle of friends? Do we set a right example by the way we act; the clothes we wear; the books we read, and the conversations we take part in?—just more questions needing good answers!

It says—¹ Kings 4:30 “*Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt,*” but it is *spiritual* wisdom that is important.

Even with all the king’s knowledge, he made many mistakes concerning life choices, and he committed serious sins. The only sinless Person is Jesus. *He* is the One we go to for *spiritual* wisdom and the only One who can *enlighten* us to spiritual truth.

Jesus Himself asked many questions during His time on earth—there are about 135 recorded questions in the New Testament! We might wonder why He would ask *any* questions since He is *all-knowing* and already aware of the answers. No doubt He wanted to make people think,

respond, and explain their convictions—or their lack of them.

When He asked the Pharisees who they thought He was—Matthew 22:46 “No man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.” His questions compelled people to defend their position or remain silent.

Jesus asked those who challenged Him Luke 6:9 “Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?” They did not want to answer, and the Bible does not record if they did. Jesus then said to the man Luke 6:10 “Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”

God is the *Potter* and we are the *clay*—we must be *pliable* in His hands and allow Him to *train* us in Christ-like ways so that we can answer the question: *Are we living every day in the light of God’s Truth? Are we being a right example to those we interact with?*

In today’s culture, it is easy to *defile* our conscience and to *trespass* onto forbidden areas—we must *consistently* be aware of how the devil tries to trip us up, or to place a stumbling block on our path. We should say Psalms 101:3 “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”

We can *always* ask the question: *How should I be living to be worthy of Heaven?* Jesus answered that question Matthew 19:17 “If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” That means keeping our trust and faith on Him concerning all issues—and since He paid for our sins and purchased our life on the Cross, we must live the life He explained in many Bible verses.

Anything that is *causing* us to disobey the Scriptures, we must *eliminate* and actively *remove* from our life. It is much better to get *rid* of them and be able to Matthew 18:8 “Enter into life” without

them, than to *keep* them and keep being *tempted*—and eventually, if there is no repentance, being “Cast into everlasting fire.” Mark 9:46 adds, “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched”—which is a verse omitted in some modern translations NIV, NLT, WEY. Who is in back of *that* omission, we ask?

Jesus asked the scribes in three Gospels: Matthew 9:5 “For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?” Those who had gathered could *hear* Jesus say to the man with palsy Matthew 9:2 “Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee,” but they could not actually *see* his sins forgiven. They *could* see if he was able to walk, however, so Jesus adds Matthew 9:6 “Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.”

Jesus is God who forgives sins—and those who had gathered would certainly *praise God* for the great thing He had just done—*forgiving* the man’s sins and *freeing* him from Satan’s grip. The *external* miracle proved that an *internal* miracle had taken place—the man *believed* in his heart that God had forgiven him!

When the man picked up his own bed, it was *proof* that the physical miracle had taken place. When the *internal* miracle of a cleansed heart from past sins took place, the *external* miracle of walking on his own was proof of Christ’s deity and the man’s believing faith.

The man’s *life* would be *used* by the *Lord* from that moment—it would be a *new life* and he would be a *different person*.

A converted heart *repents* of sins, and *trusts* God each day for everything. It is the only way we could *glorify* Him with our words, our music, our decisions, and life choices. The world could then *see* how a believer in Christ *lives*—and it may be the only *truth* they ever see.

Another good question: *Are we growing in spiritual knowledge by reading the Bible?*

Are we putting that *first* before *other* kinds of reading material? *Am I involved in any activity, interest or entertainment that would be moving me in a wrong direction?*

If so, make the correction Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Eternal life through Jesus paying for our sins means trusting Him for everything. John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

Questions that need answers could number one-thousand and one—and no good question should ever be ignored. We should *answer* them correctly with the help of the Holy Spirit. We must keep our focus on our spiritual concerns and setting a Christ-like example for our family, children, friends, and co-workers.

If we want to hear Matthew 25:21 “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” from the King of kings, then we must *live* our life in a way that would enable Him to *say* that. We must say as the apostle 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

If we keep our faith *in* and our trust *on* the Blood sacrifice Jesus made for us—*that* assures us of a *crown* and a home in *Heaven*. How we finish the *race of life*—still trusting God in faith is so vitally important that we must never lose sight of the race we are running.

We either finish *strong*; or we finish *wrong*! May it always be *Strong* for the *Lord*!



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