

Question Night – July, 2010

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Introduction: Are we looking for Bible answers to the issues of life?

I. By faith, I just know that God has a purpose for all that he does. In creating the universe he specifies that he created the 'heavens and the earth'. Why is earth, which is like a grain of sand on a vast beach when compared to the universe, the only body of the heavens mentioned separately. What was God's purpose in creating the rest of the universe?

- A. God has revealed His mind to us in the things we need to know. There are “secret things” that belong to God and are not revealed. **(Deut 29:29)**
 - 1. He does not explain everything He does to us! We could not comprehend it! **(1 Cor 2:9-10, 16)**
 - 2. Consider the volumes that could be written on the life of Christ alone. **(Jn 21:25)**
- B. God has spoken on the purpose of the universe. It was made to glorify God. **(Psa 19:1-7)**
 - 1. It would point one to God's existence and ultimately to a greater show of His power, the revealed, written word of God. **(Psa 19:7)**
 - 2. All men are expected to know there is a God and that He has infinite power. **(Rom 1:20)**
 - 3. The entire universe was made by God through Christ and exists for His pleasure. **(Col 1:15-17, Jn 1:1-3; Rev 4:11)**
- C. God's focus is upon man because unlike the universe, man is unique, created in God's image. **(Gen 1:27)**

Secondly, who or what created the creator? These must seem to be dumb questions but they are things that that are unfathomable to me and make me wonder.

- A. God is the creator and was not created. **(Col 1:17; 1 Tim 6:16)**
- B. God wants us to be filled with awe and wonder at His power. But He also wants us to know what He has revealed! **(Deut 30:11-14)**

II. Explain the power of prayer. What are the limits of what we can ask for? How can our prayers be limited (1 Pt 3:7; 4:7)?

- A. Jesus spoke about the power of prayer. **(Mt 21:21-22; Mk 11:23-24)**
 - 1. When God says ask and I will do it then we are speaking about the power of God!
 - 2. What God can accomplish through us is above all that we ask or think. **(Eph 3:20)**
 - 3. While there are limits placed by God on how His power is used, that in no way diminishes the vast potential of that power.
- B. God has limited His power to accomplishing His will. **(1 John 5:14-15)**
 - 1. That limit applied to Jesus' prayers too. **(Mt 26:39)**
 - 2. Our entire existence is to glorify God and it will only be done when we do His pleasure. **(Eph 1:9-12)**

C. We must be in a right relationship with God.

1. We must have a covenant that defines our relationship with God and which we keep! **(Heb 13:20-21)**
2. We must walk by faith and be seeking His will. **(Jn 9:31; 1 Pt 3:12)**
3. We can mistreat our mates and our prayers not be heard. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
4. Our motives can be wrong. **(James 4:1-4)**

D. Remember, our God delights in giving and he wants us to ask! **(Mt 7:7-11)**

III. Please speak about the house church movement. When can it be wrong/right? What are the dangers of that movement? What is our authority for church buildings in light of all churches in the NT being in the homes of brethren?

A. Early churches met in homes but not exclusively. **(Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15)**

1. For a time the church in Jerusalem met in the temple. **(Acts 2:46)**
2. For a time the church in Ephesus met in the school of Tyrannus. **(Acts 19:9)**
3. A local church must have a place in order to assemble. There is no specific kind of place demanded in scripture. **(Jn 4:19-24)**

B. Authority may be placed under Two categories: general authority and specific authority.

1. General authority includes all things necessary to fulfilling a command or authorized action. Here we find that there are things authorized by God which may not be specifically named.
2. Specific authority means that God has specified a particular thing to be done. When God specifies then we must not substitute!
3. God has authorized a place! We can buy, rent or borrow a place. **(1 Cor 14:23)**
4. Where is your book, chapter and verse for a church building? **(1 Cor 11:23-25)**
 - a. It does not need to be specifically named to be authorized!
 - b. Many think if there is no example then there is no authority. This is wrong!

IV. How can I have full assurance of my salvation? When I see others sincere but wrong in their zeal, how I can be sure that is not the same situation I am in? What about the possibility that I may be unaware that I am in sin?

A. God wants us to have a full assurance as to our place before Him. **(1 Jn 5:11-13)**

1. This assurance comes through God's promises. Consider how this comes.
2. I must know that I am cleansed by the blood of Christ. **(Heb 10:22-23)**
 - a. I must also believe that God is faithful!
 - b. Here is where God's promises and my conscience lines up! **(Rom 8:16-17)**
3. My assurance is not on my perfection but on my forgiveness! **(1 Jn 1:6-9)**

B. We must draw closer and closer to God in knowledge. **(Heb 6:11, 17-18)**

1. How do you come to trust another person?
2. Remember all that God has done to save us. If we want to go to heaven God will give us the opportunity to know what we need. **(Rom 8:31-39)**

Conclusion: Let's open our Bibles and carefully examine our hearts and our practices! (Acts 17:11)