

Questions Often Asked

Outline

1. Things To Keep In Mind When Studying The Bible.
2. What Happens to Infants And Little Children If They Die?
3. What Is The Age Of Accountability?
4. Is Abortion Right Or Wrong?
5. Is Homosexuality A Trait Of Birth Or A Sinful Perversion?
6. Does God Predestinate People to Salvation?
7. Is Hell A Real Place?
8. What Did Jesus Look Like?
9. Should Christians Observe Christmas?
10. Should Christians Observe Easter?
11. How Can I Know God's Particular Will For My Life?
12. Is It Possible For Me To Reach A Stage Of "Sinless Perfection?"
13. What Should I Do About My Worries?
14. Why Do I Sometimes Go Through Trials?

Questions Often Asked

The ABCs of Christian Growth is designed to teach you the basics of Christian Life. But as most things in life, we never stop learning and find life is more complicated and interrelated than we thought. You will find yourself asking questions such as: What does the Bible say about...? Or, How may I...?

Answers to many questions will be found in the studies you have completed (or will complete). It is recommended you review completed studies to refresh your mind about what God's Word has to say about various issues.

In this study, we will study Bible answers to a number of commonly – asked questions that are not covered in this series of studies. This study can expand as different questions are asked so don't hesitate to ask more mature Christians or your pastor about anything you wish to know from the Bible!

1. Things To Keep In Mind When Studying The Bible.

- A. The Bible is God's COMPLETE revelation of Himself to man. It does not tell us EVERYTHING there is to know, but everything God wants us to know. Read John 21:25
²⁵And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

- B. The Bible has the answer – sometimes it requires diligent and searching study to find it, not because God wants to make things difficult (unless He's teaching us), but because we are sinful, weak, finite, or perhaps are just spiritually immature. Read Hebrews 5:11-14 ¹¹Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. ¹²For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- C. There are some things we may NEVER really understand, especially when it comes to the Lord's workings in our life and those around us. Most believers develop a "list" of things they want to ask when they get to Heaven – yet they know God already has an answer, and it's the right one. Read Genesis 18:25(e) ²⁵That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**
- D. Don't try and stump the preacher or other Christians even though you might be able to do so... this will not profit you or anyone else.
- i) Read II Timothy 2:23 ²³**But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.** We are to avoid **foolish and unlearned questions!**

ii) Read I Timothy 4:7 ⁷But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. Definition of profane:

1. characterized by irreverence or contempt for God or sacred principles or things; irreligious.
2. not devoted to holy or religious purposes; unconsecrated; secular (opposed to [SACRED](#)).
3. unholy; heathen; pagan: *profane rites*.
4. not initiated into religious rites or mysteries, as persons.
5. common or vulgar.
6. to misuse (anything that should be held in reverence or respect); defile; debase; employ basely or unworthily.
7. to treat (anything sacred) with irreverence or contempt; violate the sanctity of: *to profane a shrine*.

E. Be careful not to MAJOR ON THE MINORS or MINOR ON THE MAJORS. One of Satan's traps is to get the believer to run off on some incidental tangent to the neglect of soul winning, real Bible study, Christian fellowship, Faithfull Christian living, etc. Read I Timothy 6:3-5 ³If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ⁴He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising. ⁵Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

F. When you discover a Bible answer, put it into practice. Some answers you (or your nature) will not like. Nevertheless, put it into practice. Read James 1:22 ²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

2. What Happens to Infants And Little Children If They Die?

A. Was King David saved? Read:

- i) Acts 13:22 ²²And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

- ii) II Samuel 23:1- 2 ¹Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, ²The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

B. Where did David go when he died? Read:

- i) I Kings 2:10 ¹⁰So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.
- ii) Psalm 23:6 ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

C. Read II Samuel 12:23 ²³But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him**, but he shall not return to me. When the child of David and Bathsheba dies at just one week old, David said, "I shall go to him."

This amount to proof that little ones are SAFE in Jesus and will go into the presence of the Lord should they die. How sad that so many people have their babies sprinkled after birth because they have been taught to fear dying unbaptized."

3. What Is The Age Of Accountability?

- A. This is a non-Biblical term used to express the Bible teaching that a child is safe in Jesus until it reaches an age of understanding and moral responsibility. It is the time of life when a child comes to understand right and wrong and is able to make deliberate choices in actions. At this point, a child can and needs to be saved – and a child can understand how to be saved.
- B. While there is no set age for this age of accountability, the Bible indicates there is such an age for each child:
- i) Read Deuteronomy 1:39³⁹ Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day **had no knowledge between good and evil**, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.
 - ii) People are accountable for their actions when they have eyes to see and ears to hear. Read Ezekiel 12:2² Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.
 - iii) Read Genesis 8:21²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; **for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth**; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.
 - iv) Read II Chronicles 36:9⁹ Jehoiachin was **eight years old** when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

- v) Read Matthew 19:16-20 ¹⁶And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? ¹⁷And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. ¹⁸He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, ¹⁹Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁰The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? The rich young man was able to keep the Ten Commandments from his birth (or so he thought!)

Notes:

- Never force/pressure your children into making a profession of faith
- Always pray for their salvation and guide them along spiritual paths
- Children can learn the scripture which one day will lead them to salvation.
Read II Timothy 3:15 ¹⁵And 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.
- Young children can serve the Lord and be faithful. Great training for when they are saved. Read I Samuel 3:1, 7 ¹And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.
- Jesus welcomes little children and He taught the necessity of “child-like” faith.
Read Mark 10:13-15

4. Is Abortion Right or Wrong?

The act of terminating unwanted pregnancies is epidemic around the world. The basic issue in this debate is whether human life exists before birth... that is in the womb.

A. Pro-abortionists argue that an embryo is just a mass of cells and tissue – simply a part of the mother's body. To them, abortion is nothing different than a tonsillectomy.

i) Read Psalm 139:13-16 (**about God's interest in King David before birth**)

¹³For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

ii) Read Psalm 51:5 (**when David received his sinful nature**) ⁵Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

iii) Read Jeremiah 1:5 (**when did the Lord know Jeremiah?**) ⁵Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

iv) Read Luke 1:44 (**When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, her baby expressed the emotion of JOY in her womb**) ⁴⁴For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

v) Read Genesis 25:22-23 (**Esau and Jacob in the womb – twins scwabbling before birth and the Lord giving promises concerning unborn children**) ²²And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

vi) **Names written in the book of life (imputing that unborn children are alive):**
Ephesians 1:4 ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

B. The conclusion from scripture is that life begins at conception – also supported by medical fact. Abortion is another sin of pride and is murder!

5. Is Homosexuality A Trait Of Birth Or A Sinful Perversion?

“Alternate lifestyles” are being openly promoted in today’s society. As nations increasing forget God and turn their ears from the Truth, we are seeing behavior which at one time was never tolerated now being flaunted. Homosexuals and lesbians are demanding total acceptability by, and integration into, the community, claiming they were born that way and as such are normal though different. What does God have to say?

Let’s look at the Old Testament:

A. Look up verses below. What does the Bible call so-called “Gays?”

- i) I Kings 14:24 ²⁴And there were also **sodomites** in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.
- ii) I Kings 15:12 ¹²And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.
- iii) II Kings 23:7 ⁷And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

B. The Biblical designation of the homosexual comes from the name of the wicked city of SODOM.

C. According to Genesis 19:24, Gods judgment upon Sodom was: ²⁴Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

- D. Read Genesis 19:4, 5 to see the extent of the perversion: ⁴But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both **old** and **young**, all the people from **every quarter**: ⁵And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.
- E. God calls homosexuality an abomination. Leviticus 18:22 ²²Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.
- F. God's punishment for homosexuality was: Leviticus 20:13 ¹³If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
- G. A nation tolerating homosexuality **is defiled**. Leviticus 18:22 – 24 ²²Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. ²³Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. ²⁴Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Let's look at the New Testament

- H. **The New Testament supports the use of the Mosaic (Old Testament) law.** Read I Timothy 1:9 - 10 ⁹Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,
- I. Read the scripture below **to confirm that homosexuality is against nature (that is it is Unnatural and NOT a fact of birth or heredity.)**
- i) Romans 1:26, 27 ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto **vile** affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and **receiving in themselves that recompence of their error** which was meet.
- ii) Romans 1: 32 ³²Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of **death**, not only do the same, **but have pleasure in them that do them.** [refers to a whole list of sins in previous verses]
- J. Note how God refers to homosexuality and how homosexuals **CAN** change and be saved. Study I Corinthians 6: 9-11 ⁹Know 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**, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor

covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹And such **were** some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. **[Note present tense.]**

Clearly, homosexuality is a perverted sexual practice and one which the Bible strongly condemns. It is destructive to any nation and individuals and damning to anyone practicing it. Christ is the only hope for homosexuals!

6. Does God Predestinate People to Salvation?

There is a very popular long-time theory in religious circles which hold salvation to be a matter of predestination. That is, you are saved because God predestined you to be saved. The logical (and often stated) corollary is: “if some were predestined to heaven, the rest were predestined to hell.” This teaching which began with Augustine (354-430 AD) and was systematized by the Protestant reformer John Calvin (1509-1564) is usually called “Calvinism.” It affirms that we have no choice in the matter of salvation: it was settled long before the world was created.

- A. Calvinism basically teaches you are predestinated to receive Christ.
- B. THE BIBLE says the moment you receive Christ [**become a believer**] – AS A CHRISTIAN – you have a great (pre-determined) destiny.

- i) According to Romans 8:29 ²⁹For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. [the **believer** is predestined to be conformed to image of Christ.]
- ii) According to Ephesians 1: 5 ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, [the **believer** is predestined to the adoption of children... we become sons and daughters of God.]
- iii) According to Ephesians 1:11 ¹¹In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: [the pre-determined destiny of each **believer** is called an inheritance.]

Discussion

- **If God knows the eventual outcome of ALL actions/decisions, what is the point of all existence?**
- **Some religious / cults take this “predestination” to the extreme implying we existed before the creation of the universe.**

7. Is Hell A Real Place?

A. Read Luke 16:19-31 19There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. ²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. ²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

- i) Is this passage ever referred to as a parable? – NO
- ii) Was the rich man conscience in Hell? – YES
- iii) Could the rich man ever leave Hell? - NO

B. Read:

- i) Matthew 25:41 (JESUS speaking) ⁴¹Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

(1) Hell was prepared for the cursed.

- ii) Some say hell means “annihilation” but Matthew 25:46 (JESUS speaking) ⁴⁶And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Refers to hell eternal torment!

C. Read Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged** every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were **cast into the lake of fire**. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire

- i) The eternal region of the lost is called the LAKE OF FIRE.
ii) Who are cast into this awful place? THOSE NOT FOUND IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

D. Read SCRIPTURE SPOKEN BY JESUS:

- i) Matthew 5:22 ²²But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of **hell fire**.
- ii) Matthew 10:28 ²⁸And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in **hell**.
- iii) Matthew 13:40-42 ⁴⁰As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. ⁴¹**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;** ⁴²And shall cast them into a **furnace of fire**: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

iv) Mark 9:43-49 ⁴³And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁴Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁵And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to **be cast into hell**, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁶**Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.** ⁴⁷And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast **into hell fire**: ⁴⁸Where their worm dieth not, **and the fire is not quenched.** ⁴⁹For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

8. What Did Jesus Look Like?

Nobody knows! Religious artists over the centuries have take license to portray Him as a pale faced, long haired, effeminate “hippy.” This is nothing but wild imagination.

- A. There was nothing physically attractive about Jesus. Read Isaiah 53:2 ²For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness [pleasing in appearance]; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
- B. Jesus did not stand out in a crowd. Judas needed to specifically identify Jesus with a kiss. Read Matthew 26:48 ⁴⁸Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

- C. Would Jesus have had long hair? Read I Corinthians 11:14 ¹⁴Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?
- D. It is certain Jesus looked like an average Jew. An olive complexion, short dark hair, and a beard (see Isaiah 50:6 ⁶I gave my back to the smiters, **and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair**: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.) is a probable description of Jesus.

The fact that no Biblical description is given of our Saviour is no doubt meant to prevent the idolatrous worship of images and pictures. **God DOES NOT WANT to be portrayed**

physically. Read:

- Romans 1:23 ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.
- I John 5:21 ²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen
- Exodus 20:4 ⁴Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, **or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above**, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

9. Should Christians Observe Christmas?

The Christmas season has largely become a time of revelry and fleshly indulgence, and no Christian ought to join in such things:

- Galatians 5:19 – 21¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication** [note: the first 2 are sexual in nature], uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- I Corinthians 5:11 ¹¹But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a **fornicator** [note: the first is sexual in nature], or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Christmas is also a time given over to many religious customs and ideas which have absolutely nothing to do with the Word of God. This is another area of danger for a Bible-believing Baptist. Read Colossians 2:8

We encourage God's people to use this season for evangelism. According to John 3:16, the central message of the birth of Jesus Christ is "God seeking the salvation of men."

So...

- Use the opportunity in visiting family and friends to share the greatest of all Gifts (Romans 6:23b)
 - Give sacrificially to missions at this time
- A. Jesus was NOT born on Dec 25th. This would have been in the middle of winter, and shepherds would not have had their flocks in the field.
- B. There were not three wise men. There was a company of Magi – they brought three kinds of gifts.
- C. The wise men did not meet with the shepherds around the manger.
- i) According to Matthew 2:11 ¹¹And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. The wise men came to a **house** and saw Jesus as a **young child**.
- ii) Matthew 2:16 ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet,... **This scripture indicates the young child was almost two years old.**
- D. Involving children in the myth of Santa Clause is not wise. Santa Clause is named after Roman Catholic cardinal “Saint Nicholas” .

10. Should Christians Observe Easter?

Easter is the most religious observance in Christendom. The question is, does the Lord want us to set aside one day a year to remember His death and resurrection?

A. According to John 20:1 ¹The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre., **Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week.**

B. According to:

- i) Acts 20:7 ⁷And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.
- ii) I Corinthians 16:2 ²Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

First century churches began meeting on the first day of the week

C. We also remember these events when we meet to observe the Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11:24-26 ²⁴And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

D. We also remember these events whenever we witness a Baptism. Romans 6:4

⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into 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.

Keep in mind that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on a Wednesday, and that He rose from the dead on Sunday. Calculating backwards and reading Matthew 12:40 ⁴⁰For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. This is why we DO NOT observe "Good Friday".

11. How Can I Know God's Particular Will For My Life?

A. Every believer ought to pray. Read Acts 9:6 ⁶And he [Paul] trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. "Lord, what wilt thou have me do?"

B. **The Lord reveals His will for our lives through the following means:**

i) **The Bible:** Read Psalm 119:105 ¹⁰⁵Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. **God will NEVER lead you contrary to His Word.**

ii) **The HOLY SPIRIT**

(1) Acts 8:29 ²⁹Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot

(2) Acts 16:6-7: ⁶Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, ⁷After

they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: *but the Spirit suffered them not.*

(3) John 16:13 [Jesus speaking of the Holy Spirit] ¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

iii) **The counsel of others...** [judged in the light of the Word of God] Proverbs 11:14

¹⁴Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

(1) Your Parents

- Ephesians 6:1 ¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- Proverbs 13:1 ¹A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

(2) Your Pastors. Hebrews 13:17 ¹⁷Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. [Always feel free to speak to your pastor about anything since he is ready to give you spiritual counsel from the Bible.]

(3) Your Church. In the areas of major decision making, especially involving Christian service, the advice of your church should be sought. [Read All of Acts 15 to understand the context.]

- Acts 15:25 ²⁵It seemed good unto us, **being assembled** with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

- Acts 15:28a ²⁸For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, **and to us**, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

iv) The PROVIDENTIAL [Happening as if through divine intervention; opportune.] LEADING of God – that is through circumstances. Psalm 27:11 ¹¹Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

12. Is It Possible For Me To Reach A Stage Of “Sinless Perfection?”

A. Each believer experiences an inward battle between the Spirit and the flesh.

Read Galatians 5:17

¹⁷*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

¹⁸*But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. [Mosaic Law]*

¹⁹*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*

²⁰*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*

²¹*Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³*Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

²⁴*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

²⁵*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

B. Anyone who says they no longer sin has deceived them self.

Read I John 1:8 - 2:1

⁸*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

⁹*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

¹⁰*If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

2 ¹*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

²*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

³*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

C. One of the most victorious Christians of all time (Paul) said that within his old nature (the flesh) [before you are saved] dwelleth **NO GOOD THING**.

Read Romans 7:15-21

¹⁵*For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

¹⁶*If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.*

¹⁷*Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

¹⁸*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

¹⁹*For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

²⁰*Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

²¹*I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

- D. The Only time a Christian will be sinless and perfect is when delivered from the body of this death.

Read Romans 7:24 ²⁴O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

- E. Nevertheless, what kind of life should a Christian strive to lead by God's Grace? ... **A**

PURE Life!

- Titus 2:12 ¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- I John 3:3

¹*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

²*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

³***And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.***

13. What Should I Do About My Worries?

- A. It is **VAIN** to worry. **Read Psalm 127:2** ²*It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*
- B. God works through ALL THINGS for our good. **Read Romans 8:28** ²⁸*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- C. Worry is a lack of FAITH or TRUST in a Great God. Lack of Faith is UNBELIEF and a SIN!

- **Read Romans 14:23** ²³And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.
- **Read Hebrews 3:12** ¹²Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

D. What are we to cast upon the Lord? I Peter 5:7 ⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

E. We are to be careful (anxious) for nothing but... **Read Philippians 4:6-7**

⁶*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*

F. **Read Matthew 6:25-34**

²⁵Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

²⁶Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

²⁷Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

²⁸And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

²⁹And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

³⁰Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

³¹Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³²(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

14. Why Do I Sometimes Go Through Trials?

All believers will pass through various trials in their life on Earth. Some trials come from Satan, some from other people, some from our own doing, some from life in general, and some from the Lord.

Understand religious persecution is a HISTORICAL OCCURRENCE!

In present day secular America, it is difficult to understand TRUE religious persecution since we enjoy freedom of religion. Understand that religion has historically played a central role in most governments and communities and that separation of church and state was a foreign concept until very recent history. Moreover, do NOT underestimate the religious zeal of past generations and religious zeal in some modern theocracies. Examples of religious zeal can be found in some contemporary cults such as Islam.

A. Read I Peter 4:12 ¹²*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **We are not to think such things [trials] STRANGE or unusual.***

- B. Read I Peter 1:7 ⁷*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **Trials are precious events in our lives because they purify our faith in God.***
- C. Read James 1:2-3 ²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **Trials help us develop PATIENCE.**
- D. Study the scripture below to determine that God provides you a way to escape temptations.
- i) I Corinthians 10:13 ¹³There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man [your temptation is not unique to you]: **but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**
- ii) II Peter 2:9 ⁹The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
- E. We need not fear men's actions because He will never leave us. Read Hebrews 13:5-6 ⁵Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

F. **Living godly lives WILL result in persecution!** Read II Timothy 3:12 ¹²Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

G. Read Acts 5:41 about the persecution of the apostles in Jerusalem.

⁴⁰And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

⁴²And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

H. "The servant is not greater than his lord." according to John 15:18-22

¹⁸If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. ²¹But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

I. The believer does not understand or have the **peace** of provided by the love of Jesus Christ. Read John 14:27 ²⁷Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

J. What are we to do in times of trouble? Read I Peter 5:7

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: **⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.** ⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. ¹⁰But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. ¹¹To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Study Outline

1. Things To Keep In Mind When Studying The Bible.

2. What Happens to Infants And Little Children If They Die?

3. What Is The Age Of Accountability?

4. Is Abortion Right Or Wrong?

5. Is Homosexuality A Trait Of Birth Or A Sinful Perversion?

6. Does God Predestinate People to Salvation?

7. Is Hell A Real Place?

8. What Did Jesus Look Like?

9. Should Christians Observe Christmas?

10. Should Christians Observe Easter?

11. How Can I Know God's Particular Will For My Life?

12. Is It Possible For Me To Reach A Stage Of "Sinless Perfection?"

13. What Should I Do About My Worries?

14. Why Do I Sometimes Go Through Trials?