

ANSWERS TO KEY RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

Introduction

- 1) As we were often told in school, “There are no bad questions!”
- 2) People have many questions when it comes to God and religion
 - a) We encourage people to ask questions with hearts sincerely seeking answers
- 3) The questions discussed today are some that many people ask – maybe even you!
 - a) They deal with fundamental issues of life and religion

I) DOES GOD EXIST?

- A) **YES!** (Genesis 1:1)
 - 1) We can “see” God in His handiwork [design] of creation (Psa. 19:1)
 - 2) We can see (recognize) His power and divinity (Rom. 1:20)
- B) Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and proved it with miracles (Acts 2:22)
 - 1) God has spoken and revealed Himself – the Bible is His message to man

II) CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

- A) **YES!** (1 Peter 1:23-25)
- B) God revealed His word to mankind by inspiration (2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 2:10-13)
 - 1) Holy Spirit was fully involved in the process from beginning to end
 - 2) God revealed His word for man and guided its preservation (cf. 2 Pet. 3:16)
- C) Vast evidence exists proving that the original writings were remarkably preserved
 - 1) Over 5,000 manuscripts of NT, going back to early second century AD
 - 2) Manuscripts of OT go back to second century BC in the Dead Sea scrolls
 - 3) Manuscripts and versions were meticulously copied and preserved over the centuries
- D) Bible faithfully preserved for us today: *“The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries”* (Sir Frederic Kenyon). New Testament is the last word (Heb. 1:1-2)!

III) DO I HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO BE SAVED?

- A) **YES!** (Ephesians 5:23)
- B) Jesus built His church (*ekklesia* – those called out; Matt. 16:18)
 - 1) Those who have been called out of sin are the saved – added to the church (Acts 2:47)
 - 2) Baptized into one body [church] (1 Cor. 12:13)
- C) God has no children outside of His household (Eph. 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15)
 - 1) There are no spiritual “free agents”; we are to work and worship with other believers
 - 2) Who would desire to be “in Christ” yet not want to be “in His body,” the church?

IV) IS HELL REAL?

- A) **YES!** (Matthew 25:41, 46); just as real as heaven
- B) God has prepared eternal places of reward and punishment (v. 46)
- C) Hell is a place for the wicked (Rev. 21:8), those not in the book of Life (20:15)
 - 1) It is a place for those who reject God and disobey Him (2 Thess. 1:7-9)
 - 2) It is not a place anyone should desire to go (2 Cor. 5:11; Heb. 10:31)

Conclusion

Do you need to ask this question: “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30)? Believe and obey Jesus! Ask: “What hinders me from being baptized?” Answer with your obedience today!