

“The Three Most Important Questions!”

Hearing the name of “Jesus” often arouses several different feelings and responses:
One of disbelief or even anger; one of interest or curiosity; one of gladness and joy.

I) Does (did) Jesus really exist?

- 1) The Bible is wonderful evidence that Jesus did and does exist. It has been shown to be an accurate and reliable book of history and archaeology, besides the living and active Word of God!
- 2) There is much evidence by writers of history and archeology outside of the Bible about Jesus.

II) Is Jesus the Messiah (Savior of the world)?

- 1) The Bible teaches much about the Messiah in the Old and New Testaments.
- 2) Jesus made claims that He is the Messiah and the Son of God.
- 3) Evidence of Jesus' resurrection gives support that He is who He claimed to be.
 - a) The empty tomb.
 - b) The women who were the first eyewitnesses of His resurrection.
 - c) Jesus' Apostle's new found courage!
 - d) More than 500 eyewitnesses of the risen Jesus.
 - e) The Apostle Paul's conversion when the risen Jesus appeared to him.
 - f) Most of the apostles died for what they believed. One may dare to die for what one believes to be true, but who would die for something they know is a lie?
- 4) Some claim that Jesus was only a good person and teacher but was not the Messiah or God's Son. This really is NOT an option based on the things Jesus said about Himself and what He came to do.
 - ◆ After all, Jesus claimed to be God's Son, the Messiah, and to be equal with God.
 - ◆ The only three options to believe (from “More Than A Carpenter” by Josh McDowell).
 - 1) He was a liar
 - 2) He was a lunatic.
 - 3) He really is Lord

III) Is Jesus your Lord and Savior?

1) What does God save us **FROM?**

- a. The PENALTY of sin: (spiritual death - Ephesians 2:1-3; eternal death - 1 Corinthians 15:42-55) in addition to God's wrath as taught in Revelation 6,8,9,16 and elsewhere)
- b. The POWER of sin: (2 Peter 2:19; Romans 8:5-11)
- c. The PRESENCE of sin: (not yet, but soon to come - Revelation 21:3-5)

2) What does God save us **FOR?**

- a. A restored relationship with Him (Romans 5:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
- b. All of God's amazing blessings (His peace, protection, purpose, power, promises and provisions)
- c. To do God's work in His power, not ours (Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Timothy 1:7)

3) What are the things that only faith in Jesus Christ can provide?

(Real love, peace / free from fear and worry, purpose and meaning, hope, joy, His amazing promises, power to love and receive love, and many other things!)

4) Cheap substitutes for the things that only Jesus can provide?

(Money, drugs / alcohol, sex / pornography, food, entertainment, seeking power and fame, controlling others, anger and violent behavior, etc.)

5) What do we do to be saved?

- a. Repent of our sins - (Matthew 4:17)
- b. Believe in Jesus - (John 3:16)
- c. Receive Him as our Lord and Savior - (John 1:12; Romans 10:9-10)

6) This involves “death” to our selfish nature!

- a. John 12:24-26: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot grow and bear fruit!
- b. Phil. 3:7-11: All we have and all we are is like rubbish compared to knowing Christ.
- c. Gal. 2:20: Our old self is “crucified” with Christ. He now lives in us when we surrender to Him!
- d. Phil. 2:3-8: We give up our selfish ambition and look to the interest of others.
- e. Col. 2:20-23: We die to the principles and rules of this world that look good but really lack value.

Final thoughts:

- ◆ God's Gift and invitation are offered to **all** people.
- ◆ God loves **you** and wants a relationship with **you**!
- ◆ God gave us a choice. He is a Perfect Gentleman and will never force His love upon anyone.
- ◆ The door to the human heart can only be opened from the inside. (Revelation 3:20)
- ◆ A time will come when our chance to choose will end; and then we will get our wish.
- ◆ God does not keep us from heaven and from an eternal relationship with Him. We do.