

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

The Bible is unlike any other book because the very words were breathed (inspired) by God and they still contain God's breath (His life) and they are our spiritual food: *God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.*^{2Tim.3:16} Life is spiritual. Your physical existence doesn't contribute to that life. The words that I have spoken to you are spiritual. They are life.^{Jn.6:63} Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man doesn't live only on bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^{3Matt.4:4} But remember the difference between **exegesis** and **eisogesis**. Exegesis is the process of getting "out" ('ex') of the text what is truly there in the first place. The opposite to **exegesis** is **eisogesis** which is the process of putting "into" ('eis') the text something that wasn't intended by the author and is almost a "blank cheque" for you to make the Bible say whatever you want!

To do **exegesis**, the correct principles of Bible interpretation (hermeneutics) need to be understood. **The first principle is context.** Always read the entire passage/chapter/book before preaching from a single verse. **The second principle is consistency.** Never interpret a text so that your interpretation contradicts the overall message of Scripture.

Base your answers on clear New Testament teaching (it's alright to use OT references to illustrate NT doctrine, but don't base your doctrine only on OT verses). Don't be afraid of using other references studies besides the Bible—even Paul did that: *When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.*^{2Tim.4:13} But just be careful that you don't get side-tracked from the main purpose of the Bible—which is to explain God's plan of salvation to mankind through Jesus Christ, His Son and our Saviour!

Contents

21/12/2022	3
07/12/2022	7
30/11/2022	10
23/11/2022	14
17/11/2022	17
07/11/2022	21
2/11/2022	25
26/10/2022	29
19/10/2022	33
05/10/2022	36
28/09/2022	39
21/09/2022	43
14/09/2022	46
31/08/2022	51
24/08/2022	54
17/08/2022	55
10/08/2022	58
03/08/2022	62
27/07/2022	66
20/07/2022	72
13/07/2022	75
06/07/2022	79
29/06/2022	84
22/06/2022	87

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

08/06/2022	93
01/06/2022	97
25/05/2022	101
18/05/2022	105
11/05/2022	111
04/05/2022	114
27/04/2022	117
20/04/2022	121
13/04/2022	124
06/04/2022	128
30/03/2022	133
23/03/2022	137
16/03/2022	140
09/03/2022	142
02/03/2022	145
23/02/2022	149
16/02/2022	153
09/02/2022	156
02/02/2022	160
26/01/2022	164
19/01/2022	169
12/01/2022	173
05/01/2022	178

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

21/12/2022

Video WW1 THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE 1914

Is.8:19-9:7

Questions:

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. *[The LORD's intense devotion to his people will accomplish this.NET]*

What sort of government does Jesus have?

What sort of peace does Jesus bring?

Will there ever be “peace on earth and good will to men”?

Away in the manger... and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

Where is heaven?

Is heaven a real place?

Where in the Bible does it say that we will live in heaven?

What was the significance of Jesus going to Egypt?

Questions

Can we be different without being divisive?

When should we have divisions?

How does Jesus cause people to fall and how does He cause them to rise?

Comments

Can we be different without being divisive?

The analogy of the Body shows that we are not expected to be the same as each other

There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ. [13] We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Greeks, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink.[14] The body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. [15] Suppose the foot says, “I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body.” It is still part of the body. [16] And suppose the ear says, “I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body.” It is still part of the body.[17] If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? [18] God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. [19] If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? [20] As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.[21] The eye can't say to the hand, “I don't need you!” The head can't say to the feet, “I don't need you!” [22] In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. [23] The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. [24] The parts that can be shown don't need special care. But God has joined together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. [25] In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of each other. [26] If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy.[27] You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.1Cor.12:12-27

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

[3] For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. [4] For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your* faith; [7] if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; [8] if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,* do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Rom.12:3-8

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. We are one Body and should live in harmony with one another

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.* Do not be conceited. [17] Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. [18] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. [19] Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"* says the Lord. Rom.12:14-19

[16] Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col.3:15-17

When should we have divisions?

Before Jesus' Resurrection the Disciples had disputes

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. [25] Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. [26] But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. [27] For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. [28] You are those who have stood by me in my trials. [29] And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, [30] so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [31] "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you* as wheat. [32] But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Lk.22:24-32

Paul and Barnabas had disputes with others

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." [2] This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. Acts.15:1-2

Paul and Barnabas also had disputes with each other

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." [37] Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, [38] but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. [39] They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, [40] but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. [41] He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. Acts.15:36-41

s. (although this is recorded in Scripture, there is no comment on whether this was good or bad but was eventually resolved

Do your best to come to me quickly, [10] for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. [11] Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 2Tim.4:9-11

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth explaining that sometimes there must be divisions:

But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized! When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!^{1Cor.11:17-22}

The Biblical way of resolving disputes is to bring it to the Church

If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? [2] Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? [3] Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! [4] Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? [5] I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? [6] But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? [8] Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. [9] Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men [10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. [13] You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 2Cor.6:1-13*

Some of the people were behaving selfishly and ignoring the other members of the Church—which is Christ's Body. By dishonouring other Believers, we dishonour Jesus Himself.

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.^{1Jn.4:19-21}

The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread. Having given thanks, he broke it and said, This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me. After supper, he did the same thing with the cup: This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you. Each time you drink this cup, remember me. What you must solemnly realize is that every time you eat this bread and every time you drink this cup, you re-enact in your words and actions the death of the Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master returns. You must never let familiarity breed contempt. If you give no thought (or worse, don't care) about the broken body of the Master when you eat and drink, you're running the risk of serious consequences. That's why so many of you even now are listless and sick, and others have gone to an early grave. If we get this straight now, we won't have to be straightened out later on. Better to be confronted by the Master now than to face a fiery confrontation later. So, my friends, when you come together to the Lord's Table, be reverent and courteous with one another. If you're so hungry that you can't wait to be served, go home and get a sandwich. But by no means risk turning this Meal into an eating and drinking binge or a family squabble. It is a spiritual meal—a love feast.^{1Cor.11:23-34}

How does Jesus cause people to fall and how does He cause them to rise?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

We gave our allegiance to Jesus by confessing Him as Lord and any defamation of the character of Jesus Christ is hurtful. To some Jesus is the aroma of life and is precious but to others, Jesus is the aroma of death—He has become offensive.

In Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse. This is a terrific responsibility. Is anyone competent to take it on?^{2Cor.2:14-16}

For us, Jesus' is the highest authority and His Name is above all names; it is like anointment poured forth; it is like honey from the comb—Scripture and many of the songs we sing in Church remind of this. But for many other people, Jesus is just a swear word and instead of being the Way, He gets in the way; instead of being a Rock in which to take refuge, He is a stumbling stone over which they trip.

Christ is the living Stone. People did not accept him. But God chose him. God places the highest value on him. You also are like living stones. As you come to him you are being built into a house for worship. There you will be holy priests. You will offer spiritual sacrifices. God will accept them because of what Jesus Christ has done. In Scripture it says, "Look! I am placing a stone in Zion. It is a chosen and very valuable stone. It is the most important stone in the building. The one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." The stone is very precious to you who believe. But to people who do not believe, "The stone the builders did not accept has become the most important stone of all." And, "It is a stone that causes people to trip. It is a rock that makes them fall." They trip and fall because they do not obey the message. That is also what God planned for them. But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are a people who belong to God. All of this is so that you can sing his praises. He brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people. But now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy. But now you have received mercy.^{1Pet.2:4-10}

07/12/2022

Psalm.50:1-6

Video Case for Faith. 52:23-59:36

Questions

Why can we be certain of our hope in God?

What does “blessed” mean?

How are we blessed?

Are God’s blessings dependant on what we do?

Are all Bible verses promises or are some just possibilities?

How can we be sure of what God has actually promised?

Comments

Why can we be certain of our hope in God?

God has guaranteed His promise with His Word and His oath

Our “*hope*” is also backed up by God’s oath. God made a clear and definite statement about His promise and recorded it in Scripture for our encouragement. The writer of Hebrews takes the example of Abraham and explains that we too have a guaranteed promise that God will keep His word to us. God’s Word backed up with an oath puts an end to all arguing and disputes about Himself and His purpose for us. God’s does not change and He wants us to know that we can trust Him, so we won’t give up.

God made a promise to Abraham. Since he had no one greater on whom to base his oath, he based it on himself. He said, “I will certainly bless you and give you many descendants.” So Abraham received what God promised because he waited patiently for it. People take oaths by someone greater than themselves. An oath makes a promise certain. It puts an end to all arguing. So God took an oath when he made his promise. He wanted to make it very clear that his purpose does not change. He wanted those who would receive what was promised to know that. God took an oath so we would have good reason not to give up. We have run away from everything else to take hold of the hope offered to us in God's promise. So God gave his promise and his oath. Those two things can't change. He couldn't lie about them. Our hope is certain. It is something for the soul to hold on to. It is strong and secure. It goes all the way into the Most Holy Room behind the curtain. That is where Jesus has gone. He went there to open the way ahead of us. He has become a high priest forever, just like Melchizedek.^{Heb.6:13-20}

God has also given us the Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing His promise

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.^{Eph.1:13-14}

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.^{2Cor.1:21-22}

Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.^{2Tim.1:12-4}

Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight.^{2Cor.5:5-7}

What does “blessed” mean?

Blessed, possessing the favour of God, that state of being marked by fullness from God. It indicates the state of the believer in Christ (Mt 5:3-11, "Blessed . . . for my sake"; Lk 6:20-22, "Blessed . . . for the Son of man's sake"), said of one who becomes a partaker of God's nature through faith in Christ (2Pe 1:4). The believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit because of Christ and as a result should be fully satisfied no matter the circumstances. *Makários* differs from the word "*happy*" in that the person is

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

happy who has good luck (from the root hap meaning luck as a favourable circumstance). To be *makários*, blessed, is equivalent to having God's kingdom within one's heart (Mt 5:3,10). Aristotle contrasts *makários* to *endeeś* (1729), the needy one. *Makários* is the one who is in the world yet independent of the world. His satisfaction comes from God and not from favourable circumstances.

How are we blessed?

We are blessed by God Himself (like Abram was

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Gen.12:1-3

We are blessed by obeying God

and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." Gen.22:18

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. Deut.28:1-6

We are blessed by living according to God's Kingdom principles

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Matt.5:3-11

But the greatest blessing that Abraham received was being justified—of having sins forgiven:

What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ...David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." ...The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

Every Believer has been blessed with the blessing of their sins forgiven and their conscience cleansed:

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Those blessings come from the heavenly world. They belong to us because we belong to Christ. Eph.1:3

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Heb.9:14

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 1Tim.1:3-7

Are God's blessings dependant on what we do?

God's grace is completely free and so are God's blessings and so God's blessings are not dependant on what we do. However, our enjoyment of them is dependant on our response Faith (believing) is a

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

gift from God (even though we are responsible for building ourselves up in the faith). And as with all gifts from God, there is a cycle—God gives to us, we give to Him and He gives us more:

“In that day I will respond,” declares the LORD—“I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth; and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. [Jezreel means God plants.] I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”^{Hos.2:21-23}

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.^{Lk.6:38} When Paul, Barnabas, Judas and Silas brought a letter from Jerusalem to the Church at Antioch, the Believers were blessed, encouraged and strengthened—and then they in turn blessed Judas and Silas with a blessing of peace: *Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers. After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.*^{Acts.15:32-33}

When we are blessed, we are expected to sow that blessing into other people and keep the cycle going:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.^{2Cor.1:3-4}

It is more blessed to give than to receive!

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”^{Acts.20:35}

Are all Bible verses promises or are some just possibilities?

The Bible contains many promises but not everything within the Scripture is a promise for us today. There are some promises made to sinners and some promises to saints. There were some promises made to OT believers which are not relevant to NT Believers. Many of the proverbs are actually possibilities rather than promises that are guaranteed to us. However, all scripture was written for our encouragement and for us to learn from

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*^{Rom.1:1-4}

This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.^{Rom.4:22-25}

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.^{Rom.15:4}

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.^{1Cor.10:11}

How can we be sure of what God has actually promised?

There are some promises in a letter written a long, long time ago
They're not getting older they're getting better because He still wants us to know...

He didn't bring us this far to leave us. He didn't teach us to swim to let us drown

He didn't build His home in us to move away. He didn't lift us up to let us down

Never use the word “defeat”; claim His promises, every one of them

Every spoken word He'll keep because we're everything to Him

30/11/2022

Psalm.49

Video Case for Faith. 40:47-

Questions

What does “*Christ*” mean?

What should our attitude be to the festival of Christmas?

How did John prepare people to receive Jesus?

How can we prepare people to receive Jesus?

Why aren't people interested in the Gospel?

How can we be more effective in sharing the Gospel?

What can we do to be better prepared to share the Gospel?

Comments

What does “*Christ*” mean?

Anointed One or Ruler or Deliverer

This has clear implications of God's presence and power rather than just a political saviour.

Anointing also implies blessing, expansion and increase

In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders, their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be broken because you have grown so fat.

[It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.] Is.10:27

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. Is.9:6-7

To anoint means to rub in oil

“Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil [anointed with oil]. 2Sam.1:21

Get up, you officers, oil [anoint] the shields! Is.21:5

In Scripture, oil is used to portray the Holy Spirit

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward, 1Sam.16:13

And so when Jesus is called the Christ (Anointed One) He is being described as filled with the Holy

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Is.61:1

You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Acts.10:37-38

What should our attitude be to the festival of Christmas?

The only Christian festival the early Church celebrated was Jesus' resurrection—and that was weekly

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ... A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Jn.20:19;26

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Acts.20:7

Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 1Cor.16:1-2

However, the Jews celebrated more festivals than the prescribed festivals from Moses

Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor. So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them... Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them, the Jews took it on themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed. These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants. Esther 9:20-28

Even though some people abuse the festival of Christmas, it should not stop us from celebrating it with holy joy and reverence—like the Jews celebrated Purim! Even non-Christian traditions can be enjoyed if we celebrate with a holy attitude—that is, godly and joyful attitude

How did John prepare people to receive Jesus?

He told people how to be saved

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God. You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare the way for him. You will tell his people how they can be saved. You will tell them that their sins can be forgiven. ^{Lk.1:76-77}

John preached repentance by exhorting people and proclaiming good news to them

the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.' "... John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with* the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.* ^{Lk.3:2-18}

How can we prepare people to receive Jesus?

Ensure that we are honourable citizens of heaven!

When we are born again, we become spiritually brand new—which means we are spiritually clean. But we should make every effort to be mentally clean, emotionally clean and morally clean—and also physically clean too! *If you have heard Jesus and have been taught by Him according to the truth that is in Him, then you know to take off your former way of life, your crumpled old self—that dark blot of a soul corrupted by deceitful desire and lust—to take a fresh breath and to let God renew your attitude and spirit. Then you are ready to put on your new self, modelled after the very likeness of God: truthful, righteous, and holy. So put away your lies and speak the truth to one another because we are all part of one another. When you are angry, don't let it carry you into sin. Don't let the sun set with anger in your heart or Give the devil room to work. If you have been stealing, stop. Thieves must go to work like everyone else and work honestly with their hands so that they can share with anyone who has a need. Don't let even one rotten word seep out of your mouths. Instead, offer only fresh words that build others up when they need it most. That way your good words will communicate grace to those who hear them. It's time to stop bringing grief to God's Holy Spirit; you have been sealed with the Spirit, marked as His own for the day of rescue. Banish bitterness, rage and anger, shouting and slander, and any and all malicious thoughts—these are poison. Instead, be kind and compassionate. Graciously forgive one another just as God has forgiven you through the Anointed, our Liberating King.* ^{Eph.4:21-32 [The Voice]}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

We should be able to tell people how they can be saved—to be able to explain how they can know that their sins have been forgiven. We don't need to be academic theologians but we do need to be able to communicate the Christian message simply and effectively—and to do that we must have a clear understanding of the Gospel ourselves and be prepared to share our own story of redemption (we call this our “testimony”)

Make every effort to be mature

Maturity requires a good working knowledge of Scripture

We have a lot to say about that. But it is hard to explain it to you. You learn too slowly. By this time you should be teachers. But in fact, you need someone to teach you all over again. You need even the simple truths of God's word. You need milk, not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk is still a baby. That person does not want to learn about living a godly life. Solid food is for those who are grown up. They have trained themselves with a lot of practice. They can tell the difference between good and evil. So let us leave the simple teachings about Christ. Let us grow up as believers. Let us not start all over again with the basic teachings. They taught us that we need to turn away from doing things that lead to death. They taught us that we must have faith in God. They taught us about different kinds of baptism. They taught us about placing hands on people. They taught us that people will rise from the dead. They taught us that God will judge everyone. And they taught us that what he decides will last forever. If God permits, we will go beyond those teachings and grow up. Heb.5:11-6:3

Maturity means that we are able to stand firm with our own faith

Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be brave. Be strong. Be loving in everything you do. ^{1Cor.16:13-14}

Your faith is not under our control. You stand firm in your own faith. But we work together with you for your joy. ^{2Cor.1:24}
If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. ^{Is.7:9}

So put on all of God's armour. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing. So stand firm. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armour of godliness on your chest. Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace. Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all of the flaming arrows of the evil one. Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word. ^{Eph.6:13-17}

Why aren't people interested in the Gospel?

Although by nature, everyone has a “God-hole” that only God can fill, no one seeks after God of their own volition

It is written, “No one is right with God, no one at all. No one understands. No one trusts in God. All of them have turned away. They have all become worthless. No one does anything good, no one at all.” Rom.3:10-12

God shows his anger from heaven. It is against all the godless and evil things people do. They are so evil that they say no to the truth. The truth about God is plain to them. God has made it plain. Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the qualities of God that are not seen. I'm talking about his eternal power and about the fact that he is God. Those things can be seen in what he has made. So people have no excuse for what they do. They knew God. But they didn't honour him as God. They didn't thank him. Their thinking became worthless. Their foolish hearts became dark. They claimed to be wise. But they made fools of themselves. They would rather have statues of gods than the glorious God who lives forever. Their statues of gods are made to look like people, birds, animals and reptiles. Rom.1:18--23

We need God to find us!

Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Lk.19:9-10

How can we be more effective in sharing the Gospel?

Show what Jesus is really like by the way we live

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 2Pet.2:11-12

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. Col.1:9-12*

What can we do to be better prepared to share the Gospel?

Have a credible testimony:

But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect. Live so that you don't have to feel you've done anything wrong. Some people may say evil things about your good conduct as believers in Christ. If they do, they will be put to shame for speaking like that about you.

Other translations put it this way:

Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.TM

Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defence with gentleness and respect.^{GW}

And if anyone asks about the hope living within you, always be ready to explain your faith with gentleness and respect.^{TPT}

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear.^{NLT}

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.^{2Pet.2:13-17}

23/11/2022

Psalm 48

Video Case for Faith. 29:30-40:47

Questions

Why is it important that we learn the facts about Jesus?

How can we ensure that we have heart knowledge about Jesus as well as head knowledge?

What is so important about conversion?

What do you remember most about your conversion?

Why should we pray for others?

How should we pray for others?

What happens when we pray for others?

What happens if we don't pray for others?

Comments

Why is it important that we learn the facts about Jesus?

So we can be confident we are right about our salvation

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled* among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.Lk.1:1-4

Also it is important that we know the truth

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."Jn.8:31-32

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.Jn.14:16-17

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.1Jn.2:20-23

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."Jn.4:23-24

Cone of Learning

we remember

10% of what we read,

20% of what we hear,

30% of what we see,

50% of what we see
hear,

75% of what we
see, hear and talk
about,

90% what we
see, hear, talk
about & do.



In other words, the more we can interact with all of our senses, the more likely we are to retain what we have been taught.

However, this principle was known to Moses nearly 3500 years earlier

Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ^{Deut.6:4-9}

Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn away from it to the right or the left. Then you will have success everywhere you go. Never stop reading this Scroll of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything that is written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success. Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go. ^{Josh.1:7-9}

How can we ensure that we have heart knowledge about Jesus as well as head knowledge?

Ask God to reveal His truth (reveal/revelation is unveiling or removing a veil)

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. ^{Ps.119:18}

I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. ^{Acts.26:17-18}

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. ^{Eph.1:18-19}

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. [Think it over. God will make it all plain.] ^{2Tim.2:7}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

What is so important about conversion?

Everything

Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. Jn.3:3

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, 2Cor.5:17

What do you remember most about your conversion?

Why should we pray for others?

God says we should.

We are partners together

So we can lead peaceful lives

How should we pray for others?

With thanksgiving

With confidence that God hears us

With an expectation that God will answer

At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people. Eph.6:18

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil.1:3-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Col.4:2-4

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thess.1:2-3

I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 2Tim.1:3

What happens when we pray for others?

We are partners with them, sharing the burden and the reward

God helps them

God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many. 2Cor.1:10-11

What happens if we don't pray for others?

God is bigger than us, our weaknesses and our strengths. God created the world without our help and He continues to sustain the world without our help.

God's love, care, protection and provision is not dependant on our prayers but on Himself and His character

17/11/2022

Psalm 47

Video Case for Faith. 20:24-29:30

Questions

What practical things can we do to help ourselves remember what God remembers?

What is a covenant?

What makes the New Covenant different from the other Covenants that God has made?

What does it mean that God “*remembers our sins no more*”?

Does God remember all our faults and failings when He remembers us?

Comments

What practical things can we do to help ourselves remember what God remembers?

OT Worship used memorials

Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD, making atonement for your lives. Ex.30:16

They mounted the onyx stones in gold filigree settings and engraved them like a seal with the names of the sons of Israel. Then they fastened them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the LORD commanded Moses. Ex.39:6-7

The priest is to take a handful of the finest flour and some olive oil, together with all the incense on the grain offering, and burn the memorial portion on the altar as an aroma pleasing to the LORD. Lev.6:15

Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God.” Nu.10:10

OT used objects for Memorials

These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day. Josh.4:7-9

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer [stone of help], saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.” 1Sam.7:12

We can regularly read and talk about what God has done

I pray that you will be active in sharing what you believe. Then you will completely understand every good thing we have in Christ. Phile.1:6

Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn away from it to the right or the left. Then you will have success everywhere you go. Never stop reading this Scroll of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything that is written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success. Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go. Josh.1:7-9

We can make “*memorials*” for God’s goodness just as we do for birthdays and state events. However, most of our memories are personal and so most of memorials will also be personal rather than church.

What is a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement or alliance between 2 parties. God made a covenant with Adam, another one with Noah, another one with Abraham and of course the covenant with Israel given through Moses. Actually, each of these covenants progressively revealed God’s redemptive plan—which is to bring people together in unity with Himself.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

But now through Christ Jesus you, who were once far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. So he is our peace. In his body he has made Jewish and non-Jewish people one by breaking down the wall of hostility that kept them apart. He brought an end to the commandments and demands found in Moses' Teachings so that he could take Jewish and non-Jewish people and create one new humanity in himself. So he made peace. He also brought them back to God in one body by his cross, on which he killed the hostility. He came with the Good News of peace for you who were far away and for those who were near. So Jewish and non-Jewish people can go to the Father in one Spirit. That is why you are no longer foreigners and outsiders but citizens together with God's people and members of God's family. You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone. In him all the parts of the building fit together and grow into a holy temple in the Lord. Through him you, also, are being built in the Spirit together with others into a place where God lives.^{Eph.2:13-22}

Another meaning of a “covenant” is a “will” or “testament” and just as a person’s last will and testament does not take effect until that person dies, so God’s Covenant could only take effect once Jesus had died:

In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.^{Heb.9:16-23}

What makes the New Covenant different from the other Covenants that God has made?

The reason the New Covenant is greater than any of the previous covenants is that this new covenant actually works and our sins are forgiven— our sins are expunged, remised and sent away from us and from God!

Jesus has been given a greater work to do for God. He is the go-between for the new covenant. That covenant is better than the old one. It is based on better promises. Suppose nothing had been wrong with that first covenant. Then no one would have looked for another covenant. But God found fault with the people. He said, “A new day is coming, says the Lord. I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel. I will also make it with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their people of long ago. That was when I took them by the hand. I led them out of Egypt. My new covenant will be different because they didn't remain faithful to my old covenant. So I turned away from them, says the Lord. This is the covenant I will make with Israel after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds. I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God. And they will be my people.”^{Heb.8:6-10}

Jesus introduced God’s New Covenant with His own death:

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”^{Lk.22:19-20}

And this New Covenant brought an end to the commandments and demands found in Moses' Teachings by making that old covenant obsolete.

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.^{Heb.8:10-13}

What does it mean that God “remembers our sins no more”?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

God doesn't "forget" our sins in a lapse of memory—only to remember them again sometime in the future! No! God consciously and deliberately "*remembers them no more*" because they are no more—they are gone.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ^{Ps.103:11-12}

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. ^{Is.43:25}

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." ^{Is.1:18}

These statements are prophecies written under the Old Covenant, but they are fulfilled in the New Covenant—the covenant that Jesus implemented and the covenant that God remembers.

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son, whom he loves. His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven. ^{Col.1:13-14}

All the prophets testify that people who believe in the one named Jesus receive forgiveness for their sins through him. ^{Acts.10:43}

I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. ^{Mk.2:10}

Does God remember all our faults and failings when He remembers us?

In a very real yet mystical way, we are united with God (mystical means a mystery—we don't understand how it works).

But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with him in spirit. ^{1Cor.1:17}

And so we are never alone—even when things are going badly for us—because God is with us.

*Give thanks to the One who **remembered us** when things were going badly for us. His faithful love continues forever.* ^{Ps.136:23}

Because God the Holy Spirit indwells every Believer, God is with us in a very personal and tangible way

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. ^{Rom.8:8-11}

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? ^{1Cor.6:19}

God does not remember our faults and failures because there is no record of them—but God does remember us

That is why the new birth and the new creation is so important—not just as a fact but for us to remember and as Peter writes:

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. ^{2Pet.1:12-15}

God has engraved our names on the palms of His hands very dramatically at Calvary—the nails that the Romans used to pin Jesus to the cross also engraved our names on His hands!

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands, ^{Is.49:15-16}

Jesus has our names imprinted on His hand and His heart. God will never forget us or forsake us! Remember these things, O Jacob, for you are my servant, O Israel. I have made you, you are my servant; O Israel, I

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

will not forget you. I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.^{Is.44:21-22}

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"^{Heb13:3-6}

When the thief asked Jesus to remember him, Jesus gave him the assurance that He would not only remember him but that he would be with Him forever:

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."^{Lk.23:42-43}

07/11/2022

Psalm 46

Video Case for Faith. 10:10-20:24

A Summary of the Five Pillars of Biblical Christianity

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	The Revelation of Salvation <i>Not the writings of a man</i>
Solo Christo – Christ Alone	The Provider of Salvation <i>Not any human “Vicar”</i>
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	The Basis for Salvation <i>Not because we can earn it</i>
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	The Means of Salvation <i>Grace is received by the gift of faith</i>
Soli Deo Gloria – Only for God’s Glory!	The Reason for Salvation

Questions

Why has God saved us?
 How can we enjoy God?
 How can we show our gratitude to God?
 How is our ministry more glorious than Moses’ ministry?
 What is God’s glory like?
 In what way is God’s glory tangible?
 Can we experience God’s glory here on earth?

Comments

Why has God saved us?

Soli Deo Gloria—for the glory of God alone!

To God be the glory: *I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.* ^{Is.42:8}

The reason we are saved is so that we can glorify God. It is true that reason Christ died for us was to save us from our sins—and also from the just wrath of God for our sin—but the main reason Christ redeemed us, was for the glory of God.

Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! ^{Rev.19:6-7}

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ^{2n.5:44}

How can we enjoy God?

The first article in the Westminster Shorter Catechism is: *What is the chief end of man? – The chief end of man is to enjoy God and glorify Him forever.*

The purpose of our life is to enjoy God and glorify Him! *God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him.* ^{J.Piper}

Enjoyment and glorifying God are inseparable—we will never have true lasting enjoyment without honouring God, praising Him, investing Him with dignity, giving Him esteem and honour by calling Him “Lord”.

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. ^{Ps.1:1-3}

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. ^{Ps.37:3-8}

Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands. ^{Ps.112:1}

Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. ^{Ps.119:24}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 1Cor.13:6

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil.4:4-7

How can we show our gratitude to God?

Say “Thankyou”.

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” Lk.17:14-19

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfil my vows. Ps.22:25

I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfil my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Ps.116:17-18

One of the main Greek words for “glory” is “*doxa*” (from where we get *doxology*) and it means to recognize, honour, praise, invest with dignity, give anyone esteem or honour by putting them into an honourable position.

When we give glory to Jesus, we are recognizing Jesus as God, we are honouring Him, praising Him, investing Him with dignity—we are giving Him esteem and honour by putting Him into an honourable position (*i.e.* by calling Him “Lord”).

How is our ministry more glorious than Moses' ministry?

God is always with us

What is God's glory like?

God's glory is His presence, His personality and is described as light, darkness, cloud, fire.

There is always a tangible sense of God's holiness.

To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. Ex.24:17-18

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. 2Chron.7:1-2

The cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in. A cloud filled the inner courtyard. Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim. It moved to the doorway of the temple. The cloud filled the temple. And the courtyard was full of the brightness of the glory of the LORD. The sound the wings of the cherubim made could be heard as far away as the outer courtyard. It was like the voice of the Mighty God when he speaks. Ez.10:3-5

Darkness

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. Gen.1:1-5

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the LORD said to him, Gen.15:12-13

The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. Ex.20:21

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Is.60:1-3

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you. Ps.139:11-12

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). Mk.15:33-34

In what way is God's glory tangible?

Seen, heard, felt, smelled, tasted

Can we experience God's glory here on earth?

We can in experience God's glory part but we should not make the mistake of thinking an emotion is spiritual. Emotions are natural and physical whereas God's glory is spiritual. Cf "falling in the Spirit" or "feeling goose-bumps"

Harold Horton said: *The Cross is dangerous, it will acquit or sentence you. The Blood is mighty, it will cleanse, or stain you. Fire is terrible, it will inflame, or scorch you. Risen power is all hallowed, it will resurrect or slay you. The Upper Room will drench or drown, charm or terrify you. The Holy Ghost will satiate or scatter you.*

Elim Conference 1991

CONCLUSION - THE WAY FORWARD

1. Reject All Attempts To Manipulate Or Control "Spiritual Power"

Any formula, technique or methodology that promises to give you special power with God leans dangerously toward the occult. In all ministry of the Holy Spirit, if God does not do it we cannot. God will not perform to order, be manipulated or in any way bend to our wills. It is simply not His nature to do so. We must at all times resist the temptation to "steady the ark" or "put fire under the sacrifice". God does not want our helping hand. He hates it when we try to make it happen or try to make it look as if it is happening. This is primarily an issue of the heart. Are we willing to die to our fleshly love of power and the desire to look good in front of others?

2. Develop A New Emphasis On Personal And Corporate Closeness To Christ

God's presence in our lives and meetings must become our primary goal. We must cultivate a close relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit seeking Him for Himself and not as a means to an end - not even that of powerful Holy Spirit ministry. As we seek Him, He invariably brings His blessings, but this must never become the reason for our spiritual quest.

3. Ensure That All Teaching And Practices Emerge Out Of Sound Biblical Study Rather Than Extra Biblical Sources

All Charismatic doctrines and practices must have their basis in the Word of God. We must resist the temptation to teach ideas and practices that are based solely in experience or prophetic utterances

Our people must be taught to go to God's Word and His Testimony, not just to the writings and testimonies of men and women.

4. Develop A Clear Biblical Understanding Of The Place Of The Miraculous

The place of signs and wonders in evangelism and church life must be carefully examined. We must recognise that while God does confirm His Word through miracles, signs and wonders, these carry their own limitations Signs are given to encourage but never to replace faith. Signs always point away from themselves to Christ. They are not to sought as an end in themselves We need to assert that miracles in and of themselves do not validate a person or his teaching. We must also be careful to

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

discern true and false miracles The hallmark of the miraculous is its redemptive purpose. But in all of this we need to be in the place with God where we can be used to cast out demons, heal the sick and even raise the dead. Deep repentance is necessary as the Holy Spirit is frequently grieved by our scepticism and unbelief. We need both sound doctrine and effective biblical practice of the miraculous

5. Ensure That The Mind Is Not Neglected In Your Relationship With God

There is today a desperate need for "Spirit-filled thinking". We need to re-assert the primacy of Biblical study. "Doctrine" and "Theology", must not be dirty words among us. But we must learn to study with the Mind of Christ, the intellect bowing to the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Our distinctive Pentecostal contribution to the Body of Christ in Britain and the world can be sound theology together with warm-hearted experience—worship with the mind and the spirit

2/11/2022

Psalm 45:6-17

A Summary of the Five Pillars of Biblical Christianity

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	The Revelation of Salvation <i>Not the writings of a man</i>
Solo Christo – Christ Alone	The Provider of Salvation <i>Not any human “Vicar”</i>
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	The Basis for Salvation <i>Not because we can earn it</i>
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	The Means of Salvation <i>Grace is received by the gift of faith</i>
Soli Deo Gloria – Only for God’s Glory!	The Reason for Salvation

Questions

What is the difference between a belief and saving faith?

What is salvation?

How are we saved?

Can our faith be measured?

How much faith do we need?

What is the result of our faith? (see 1Pet.1:9)

Comments

What is the difference between a belief and saving faith?

A general belief is merely based on facts. With this kind of belief, a person can believe a fact without that belief necessarily changing who they are. I believe that Nero was Emperor of Rome in 64AD when he launched an intense 42 month persecution of the Christians. That *'belief'* is based on known facts.

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?^{Jas.2:19-20}

But **saving faith** is much, much more than just giving assent to the facts—it is trust and is based on the **gift of God**. Many people claim to *'believe'* in God, yet they have never received the gift of faith from God. Simply believing certain facts does not give us the means of being regenerated—even demons believe in God and they are not regenerated!

A saving belief in God is only through Jesus Christ:

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.^{Rom.3:22}

And this is a spiritual rebirth through the revelation of Jesus being the Christ and the Son of God.

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered, “You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because no person taught you that. My Father in heaven showed you who I am.”^{Matt.16:16-17}

Revelation is an unveiling and this is the work of the Holy Spirit

Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. No one can enter God’s kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit. People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised when I say, ‘You must all be born again.’ “The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born through the Spirit.”^{Jn.3:5-8}

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”^{Lk.2:29-32}

What is salvation?

Safety and deliverance—especially from sin

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”^{Matt.1:21}

How are we saved?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

We are saved by knowing God **and** Jesus Christ in a personal way

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.^{Jn.17:1-3}

Salvation involves a reaching out to God and asking Him to save you—as well as a trusting belief in Jesus' death and resurrection and a declaration of your submission to Jesus' authority

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say that Jesus is Lord. And so you are saved. Scripture says, "The one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." (Is.28:16) There is no difference between those who are Jews and those who are not. The same Lord is Lord of all. He richly blesses everyone who calls on him. Scripture says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Joel 2:32) How can they call on him unless they believe in him? How can they believe in him unless they hear about him? How can they hear about him unless someone preaches to them? And how can anyone preach without being sent? It is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Is.52:7) Rom.10:9-15

Can our faith be measured?

Although God can measure our faith, we have nothing to measure it with because we can't see it.

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*Rom.12:3-6

Whilst we can't measure faith, **lack of faith** is visible and is a vote of no confidence in God

*Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they **took offense at him**. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honour." And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*Matt.13:54-58

*And **they took offense at him**. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.*Mk.6:3-6

*Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their **stubborn refusal to believe** those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*Mk.16:14-16

Little faith

*O you of little faith? So **do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*Matt.6:30-34

*But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you **so afraid**?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*Matt.8:24-46

*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "**why did you doubt**?"*Matt.14:30-31

*Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? **Do you still not understand**? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he was not telling them to **guard** against the yeast used in bread, but **against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.** Matt.16:8-12*

*O you of little faith! And **do not set your heart on** what you will eat or drink; **do not worry** about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Lk.12:28-31*

Great faith

When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." Matt.8:10

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith!" Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment. Matt.15:28

Great assurance in the faith is a requirement for leadership

A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. 1Tim.3:12-13

How much faith do we need?

Our faith is in God not in our faith, so we don't actually need much faith!

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. Mk.11:21

Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." Acts.27:23-26

Because faith is a gift from God and it is spiritual, we will always have enough faith (regardless of how little or much we think we have). Like the manna, there will always be enough to meet our needs! Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'" The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed. Ex.16:15-18 [NB an omer is about 3lbs]

What is the result of our faith? (see 1Pet.1:9)

The result of faith is the salvation of our souls—maturity

You are receiving the salvation of your souls. It is the result of your faith. 1Pet.1:9

We have a lot to say about that. But it is hard to explain it to you. You learn too slowly. By this time you should be teachers. But in fact, you need someone to teach you all over again. You need even the simple truths of God's word. You need milk, not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk is still a baby. That person does not want to learn about living a godly life. Solid food is for those who are grown up. They have trained themselves with a lot of practice. They can tell the difference between good and evil. So let us leave the simple teachings about Christ. Let us grow up as believers. Let us not start all over again with the basic teachings. They taught us that we need to turn away from doing things that lead to death. They taught us that we must have faith in God. They taught us about different kinds of baptism. They taught us about placing hands on people. They taught us that people will rise from the dead. They taught us that God will judge everyone. And they taught us that what he decides will last forever. If God permits, we will go beyond those teachings and grow up. Heb.5:11-6:3

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Eph.4:7-15

Maturity is more than charisma or extrovert attitude—maturity has all the characteristics of love because faith and love (together with hope) are inseparable

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. ^{Gal.5:6}

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ^{1Tim.6:11}

If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 1Cor.13:2-14:1

26/10/2022

Sola Gratia – Grace Alone

Psalm 45:1-8

Video Why Did God Create the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil_

A Summary of the Five Pillars of Biblical Christianity

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	The Revelation of Salvation <i>Not the writings of a man</i>
Solo Christo – Christ Alone	The Provider of Salvation <i>Not any human “Vicar”</i>
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	The Basis for Salvation <i>Not because we can earn it</i>
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	The Means of Salvation <i>Grace is received by the gift of faith</i>
Soli Deo Gloria – Only for God’s Glory!	The Reason for Salvation

Questions

How does Adam’s sin and guilt corrupt us?

We are made in God’s image but in what way is the human race like God?

Does spiritual death render us unable to respond to God?

How dependent are we upon the grace of God?

How dependent are we upon the grace of God?

What is the difference between God’s **general grace** and God’s **saving grace**?

How can we keep ourselves in the grace of God?

Comments

How does Adam’s sin and guilt corrupt us?

Adam’s sin brought spiritual death to him and all his descendants are conceived with a spirit that his separated from God.

Sin entered the world because one man sinned. And death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people... Death ruled even over those who did not sin as Adam did. He broke God's command. But he also became a pattern of the One who was going to come. God's gift is different from Adam's sin. Many people died because of the sin of that one man. But it was even more sure that God's grace would also come through one man. That man is Jesus Christ. God's gift of grace was more than enough for the whole world. The result of God's gift is different from the result of Adam's sin. God judged one sin. That brought guilt. But after many sins, God's gift made people right with him. One man sinned, and death ruled because of his sin. But we are even more sure of what will happen because of what the one man, Jesus Christ, has done. Those who receive the rich supply of God's grace will rule with Christ in his kingdom. They have received God's gift and have been made right with him. One man's sin brought guilt to all people. So also one right act made all people right with God. And all who are right with God will live. Many people were made sinners because one man did not obey. But one man did obey. That is why many people will be made right with God. Rom.5:12-19

Adam was created innocent but his disobedience made him guilty.

We are innocent at birth (we cannot actually commit any sin before we are born) but we are impure and inherit Adam’s guilt at conception—it’s part of our DNA.

Because of you the LORD became angry with me also and said, “You shall not enter it, either. But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it. And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it. But as for you, turn around and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea. Deut.1:37-40

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. Is.7:14-16

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Rom.3:10-12 [Ps.14:1-3; 53:1-3; Eccl.7:20]

We are made in God's image but in what way is the human race like God?

We are to take responsibility for God's creation—rule = have dominion

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Gen.1:26-27

We are to judge fairly and without partiality

God presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the "gods": "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. "The 'gods' know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler." Ps.82:1-7

We have God's "breath" or spirit in us (i.e. we have an eternal spirit that can never be annihilated)

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Gen.2:7

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; Eccl.3:11

Although we have God's life/breath/spirit within us, it is "dead" and unable to relate to God

Does spiritual death render us unable to respond to God?

People are not able to come to God unless He draws them

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Rom.3:10-12

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. Jn.6:37

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. Jn.6:44
The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. Jn.6:63-66

But God wants all to come to Him

And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. Matt.18:13

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet.3:9

As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? Rom.10:11-15

Everyone is called but few respond

"For many are invited, but few are chosen." Matt.22:14

Only God can see the whole picture—we can only see our side of the story

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. 1Thess.1:4-8

How dependent are we upon the grace of God?

We are totally dependant on God's grace but there is more than enough to meet our every need!

To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. 1Pet.1:1-2

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2Pet.1:1-2

What is the difference between God's general grace and God's saving grace?

The difference between God's **general grace** and God's **saving grace**.

God's **general grace** allows us the awesome privilege of living on this planet, enjoying the pleasures of life, giving and receiving, working, playing, and expressing ourselves. Everybody benefits from this grace. God's general grace also allows us to choose to follow Christ

God's **saving grace** is what actually saves us

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph.2:8-9

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1Tim.1:14

God's **saving grace** is found only in Jesus Christ:

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Jn.1:17

How can we keep ourselves in the grace of God?

Don't abuse God's love—even though God's grace is seen most clearly where sin is abundant

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Rom.5:20-6:2

Don't insult God

How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb.10:29-31

Do stay humble, holy and alert:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1Pet.5:6-11

Do be gracious—God is gracious and Jesus spoke gracious words!

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; Ps.103:8-13

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. Lk.4:21-22

19/10/2022

Solo Christo – Christ Alone

Psalm 44:1-8

What Do Christians Mean by _God the Son___ _STR University

A Summary of the Five Pillars of Biblical Christianity

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	The Revelation of Salvation <i>Not the writings of a man</i>
Solo Christo – Christ Alone	The Provider of Salvation <i>Not any human “Vicar”</i>
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	The Basis for Salvation <i>Not because we can earn it</i>
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	The Means of Salvation <i>Grace is received by the gift of faith</i>
Soli Deo Gloria – Only for God’s Glory!	The Reason for Salvation

Questions

In what way is Jesus unique?

What does “salvation” mean?

What role does the Church have in our salvation?

What did Jesus do to save us?

What can we do to be saved?

Do we have to do anything for our salvation after we are saved?

Comments

In what way is Jesus unique?

Jesus was a human like and was tempted like us

For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Heb.2:16-18

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Phil.2:6-8

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Heb.5:7-10

We have a high priest who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. Heb.4:15

But in practically every other way He is unique

He pre-existed and created everything that has been created

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. Jn.1:1-5

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col.1:16-17

and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 1Cor.8:6

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. 1Tim.2:5-6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 1:1-4

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers... Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah. Matt. 1:1-7

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat,... the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. Lk. 3:21-38

What does "salvation" mean?

Deliverance

In the NT, salvation is deliverance from sin and its spiritual consequences, involving an attachment to the body of Christ, and admission to eternal life with blessedness in the kingdom of Christ

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts. 4:10-12

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21

What role does the Church have in our salvation?

The Church is the Body (group) of people who have been saved but like any group there must a structure. Only God can remit sin or retain sin—the Church is able to affirm what God has already declared but no more

But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Matt. 9:6

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matt. 26:28

This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Lk. 24:46-47

Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be [Or will have been] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be [Or will have been] loosed in heaven. Matt. 16:17-19

What did Jesus do to save us?

He paid the price of our sin—the penalty of sin

He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the pain that should have been ours. But we thought God was punishing him. We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer. But the servant was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us. Is. 53:4-5

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Rom. 4:25

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 1 Cor. 15:3

so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Heb. 9:28

What can we do to be saved?

Believe (that is trust God)

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts.2:37-41

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom.10:8-13

Belief is more than just acknowledging the facts

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. Jas.2:17-19

Those who believe or trust in Jesus will find Him and His words (or values and principles) precious

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 1Pet.2:4-7

The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. Ps.19:9-10

The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Ps.119:72

How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Ps.139:17

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2Pet.1:1

Do we have to do anything for our salvation after we are saved?

Yes and No!

Rooted and built up

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. Col.2:6-8

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Eph.3:16-19

Exercise our faith

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet.1:8-9

05/10/2022

Psalm 43

Video: *The Story of Reality*

A Summary of the Five Pillars of Biblical Christianity

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	The Revelation of Salvation <i>Not the writings of a man</i>
Solo Christo – Christ Alone	The Provider of Salvation <i>Not any human “Vicar”</i>
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	The Basis for Salvation <i>Not because we can earn it</i>
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	The Means of Salvation <i>Grace is received by the gift of faith</i>
Soli Deo Gloria – Only for God’s Glory!	The Reason for Salvation

Questions

What is the purpose of Scripture?

Why is it important that we can read the Bible in our own language?

Why do we believe that the Bible without error?

In what way is the Bible our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct?

How can the various translations of the Bible be the Word of God when they use different words?

Can a “word from God” (i.e. prophecy) be inspired (i.e. have God’s breath or life)?

Are there other reliable revelations of God’s truth than the Bible?

How do we discern what is of God and what is of human origin?

Comments

What is the purpose of Scripture?

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Tim.3:16-17

Why is it important that we can read the Bible in our own language?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom.12:1-2

So we can have understanding—we have to learn about God with our mind as well as our spirit (as we have to love God with our mind and our spirit)

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Ps.119:130

I thought, ‘Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.’ But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding. It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right. Job.32:7-9

Listen, my sons, to a father’s instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. Prov.4:1-2

With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. Eph.1:8-10

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, Col.1:9-10

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 1Jn.5:20

We learn about God from His Word

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Ps.119:105

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on their God. Is.50:10

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*Is.8:20

Why do we believe that the Bible is without error?

*As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.*2Sam.22:31

*As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.*Ps.18:30

*"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar."*Prov.30:5-6

*Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—"*Jn.10:34-35

*"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David."*Acts.1:13

In what way is the Bible our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct?

*I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.*Ps.138:2

How can the various translations of the Bible be the Word of God when they use different words?

An old Italian proverb goes: "a translator is a traitor" because any language translation inevitably involves interpretation and a choice between

formal equivalence (a literal word-for-word translation that gives priority to what the original language says and how it says it)

dynamic equivalence (a thought-for-thought translation that gives priority to what the text means to make the text as readable for a modern audience as possible). In other words, do you translate the literal words in the text or their meaning. For instance, Ephesians 1:1-2—

NKJV (formal equivalence): *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

NLT (dynamic equivalence): *This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.*

NIV (combination): *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Tyndale deliberately used new terms for words that had a long legacy among Catholicism. For example, he used "congregation" instead of "church," "elder" instead of "priest," "repentance" instead of "do penance," and "love" instead of "charity." Although these were more accurate translations of the Greek, they differed from the familiar Vulgate upon which much Christian theology had been based. In several cases Tyndale solved translation problems by coining new English words, such as:

Beautiful, Fisherman, Landlady, Seashore, Stumbling block, Taskmaster, Zealous, Jehovah, Passover, Scapegoat, Atonement, Modesty, Mediocrity, Industrious, Long-suffering, Peacemakers.

Can a "word from God" (i.e. prophecy) be inspired (i.e. have God's breath or life)?

True Prophecy is **inspired** because it is God speaking to us through a person

*But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.*1Cor.14:3-5

But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" 1Cor.14:24-25

Prophecy is not **authoritative** i.e. we are not under an obligation to heed the prophecy but we should judge it

*Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.*NKJV 2Cor.1:24

*Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.*NIV

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 1Cor.14:29-32

True prophecy will always testify to Jesus and honour Him (including His values)

that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."Rev.19:10

Are there other reliable revelations of God's truth than the Bible?

Yes truth is truth where ever it is.

The Scriptures make it plain that God has revealed His righteousness through His creation:

The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.^{Ps.97:6}

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.^{Ps.19:1-2}

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.^{Rom.1:20}

Therefore, *Sola Scriptura* is not saying that Scripture is the only way of knowing the truth, but it is saying that Scripture is the highest authority of the truth and the point of reference for all things pertaining to spiritual matters.

How do we discern what is of God and what is of human origin?

*But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honoured by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*Acts.5:34-40

Note, Gamaliel was not a Believer and he was not addressing believers. He has some common sense but this is not God's instruction for us to discern

*Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*Is.8:20

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!*Gal.1:6-8

*I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.*Rev.22:18-19

*"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.*Prov.30:5-6

*Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*Deut.4:2

28/09/2022

Psalm 42

Video Tlo Miracle 4-47

Build yourselves up in your most holy faith.^{Jude.1:20}

Questions

What is faith?

What are the characteristics of faith? (What is the result of faith?)

There is only one faith, so what is the difference between OT and NT Believers?

How much interaction should we have with people from other faiths?

Explain simply: **Repentance**, **Remission** of sins and **Righteousness**

How can we build ourselves up the faith?

May I never think I prosper unless my soul prospers; or that I am rich, unless rich toward You; or that I am wise, unless wise unto salvation. May I seek first Your kingdom and its righteousness. May I value things in relation to eternity. May my spiritual welfare be my chief solicitude (consideration). I would rather be poor, afflicted and despised—and have Your blessing, than be successful in enterprise, or have more than my thought can wish, or be admired by my fellow-men—if thereby these things make me forget You. May I regard the world as dreams, lies, vanities, vexation of spirit and desire to depart from it. And may I seek my happiness in Your favour, image, presence, service.

Comments

What is faith?

Trusting God

It is the evidence or proof of our hope

Faith means ·being sure [the assurance; or the tangible reality; or the sure foundation] of the things we hope for and ·knowing that something is real even if we do not see it [the conviction/assurance/evidence about things not seen]. Faith is the reason ·we remember [or God commended/approved] ·great people who lived in the past [the people of old; the ancients; our spiritual ancestors]. Heb.11:1-2

What are the characteristics of faith? (What is the result of faith?)

Salvation

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 1Pet.1:8-11

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. Rom.6:22*

Action

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.^{1Jn.4:16-21}

There is only one faith, so what is the difference between OT and NT Believers?

Some people erroneously believe that the Jews don't need to be born again as they are God's chosen people.

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” Jn.3:1-3

Some people erroneously believe that there will be another Temple in Jerusalem with priests and sacrifices.

But when Jesus died, He said it was completed—the debt was paid in full—

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Jn.19:30

“Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land,” declares the LORD, “people will no longer say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. Jer.3:13-16

When Jesus ushered in the New Covenant, he made the old obsolete

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.[11] No longer will they teach their neighbour or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord, because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place... Heb.8:10-9:3

There is only one faith, just as there is only one God, one Spirit and one Lord

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Eph.4:4-6

The OT saints saw Jesus from afar

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad. Jn.8:56

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.” Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. Jn.12:39-42

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Acts.2:29-32

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. 1Pet.1:10-12

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. Matt.13:16-17*

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb.11:13;39-40

How much interaction should we have with people from other faiths?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1Cor.15:33

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. 1Cor.5:9-13
Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 2Cor.6:14-15*

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Eph.5:11

"If you will not," said Naaman, "please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this." "Go in peace," Elisha said. 2Kgs.5:17-19

Explain simply: Repentance, Remission of sins and Righteousness

Repentance, change of mind

Repentance from sin is different from **remorse** (which is feeling sorry for being found out!) True repentance changes lives, but leaves no scars: *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*^{Matt.3:8} *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*^{2Cor.7:10}

True repentance from sin will always include:

Acknowledgement of the wrong. **Apology** for the wrong. **Action** of determination to change. **Appreciation** of God's forgiveness. **Attitude** of grace, gratitude and gentleness towards God and people.

Remission of sins forgiveness and separation from sin so that we are now reconciled to God

Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.^{Lk.24:25-47}

Remission means dismissal or release and is also translated forgiveness or freedom: *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*^{Lk.4:18-19}

God has dismissed our sins from us and we are no longer joined to them. *For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.*^{Ps.103:111-112}

those of us who believe in Jesus Christ are free from our sins! *Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.*^{Acts13:38-39}

Righteousness we are given Jesus' righteousness. Not just sins forgiven but Jesus' goodness (or rightness) is added to us. The English word means "**right-wise-ness**"—we are right with God and wise about it (wisdom is applied knowledge and so we know we are right with God and we are acting upon that information).

Righteousness is now our nature not just our position

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.]^{2Cor.5:21}

But now God has shown us how to become right with him. The Law and the Prophets give witness to this. It has nothing to do with obeying the law. We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. That happens to all who

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

believe. It is no different for the Jews than for anyone else. Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. The free gift of God's grace makes all of us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. God gave him as a sacrifice to pay for sins. So he forgives the sins of those who have faith in his blood.^{Rom.3:21-25}

How can we build ourselves up the faith?

Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Let the Holy Spirit guide and help you when you pray. The mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ will bring you eternal life. As you wait for his mercy, remain in God's love.^{Jude.1:20-21}

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.^{Col.2:6-8}

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.^{1Thes.5:8-11}

21/09/2022

Psalm 41

Video Tlo Miracle 4-1 38.31

Safe Eternally. *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.*^{Jude.1:24}

Questions

How can we ensure that we keep to sound doctrine and not fall into heresy?

How can we be sure that God won't hold our sin against us?

How can we live in God's light?

Why do people stumble over Jesus?

We are all capable of stumbling ^{Jas. 3:2} so if we do fall, what can we do to get up again?

What practical steps can we take to keep us from falling?

O You who hear prayers, teach me to pray. I confess that in religious exercises, the language of my lips and the feelings of my thoughts have not always agreed; that I have often desired things which would have injured me; that I have depreciated some of my chief mercies; that I have erred both on the side of my hopes and also of my fears. Let Your Spirit help my infirmities, so that I will pray as I should. Let Him produce in me wise desires by which I may ask right things—then I shall know You hear me. May I never be importunate for temporal blessings but always refer them to Your Fatherly goodness—for You know what I need before I ask.

Comments

How can we ensure that we keep to sound doctrine and not fall into heresy?

Know the Scriptures and also the power of God

You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.^{Matt.22:29}

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.^{Ps.119:18}

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.^{1Tim.1:8-11}

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.^{1Tim.6:2-5}

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.^{2Tim.1:13-14}

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.^{2Tim.4:3-5}

Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.^{Tit.1:13-16}

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.^{Tit.2:1-2}

How can we be sure that God won't hold our sin against us?

He cleanses us from all unrighteousness

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.1Jn.1:8-2:2

He has removed our sin from us

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.Ps.103:11-12

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."Lk.24:45-49

He will remember our sin no more

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.Heb.10:16-23

Jesus has been raised from the dead

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.1Cor.15:12-20

How can we live in God's light?

Read the Scripture with understanding

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.Ps.119:105

The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.Prov.20:27

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.2Pet.1:19-21

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him... The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.Acts.8:30-35

Why do people stumble over Jesus?

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."Lk.2:34-35

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. Jn.6:53-64

We are all capable of stumbling^{Jas.3:2} so if we do fall, what can we do to get up again?

We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. Jas.3:2

Repent

Renew

Recommit

What practical steps can we take to keep us from falling?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people

Keep our love for God dynamic—alive and alert

Study and show ourselves approved workmen, rightly dividing the Word of God

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2Tim.2:15

We can minister to darkness, but we should not fellowship with darkness

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1Cor.15:33

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. 1Cor.5:9-13

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 2Cor.6:14-15*

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Eph.5:11

14/09/2022

Psalm 40

Video Tlo Miracle 4-1 11.45

Questions

Why should we defend the faith?

How can we contend for the faith?

What faith should we contend for?

Why do people find the Bible difficult?

What is God's light?

What difference should it make when God's light has shone in our hearts?

How do we walk in the light?

Comments

Why should we defend the faith?

The Bible says that we should

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ^{1Tim.6:12}

Defend

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. Phil.1:29-30

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Heb.12:1-2

Our defence of the faith is being able to articulate what we believe

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1Pet.3:15-16

How can we contend for the faith?

Guard the gospel by continuing in the truth already revealed.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2Tim.3:14-15

In other words, when all else fails, read—and follow—the directions

The key to contending for the faith—to surviving the spiritual onslaught of the 21st century—is to guard the gospel. The key to that is found in two simple phrases. One, “**Continue in the things you have learned.**” Back to the basics. Back to the Word as it has been entrusted to us. And two, entrust it to faithful disciples who will be able to teach others also

We fight for the faith by destroying lies, myths and falsehoods and superstitions with the truth

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2Cor.10:4-5

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 2Cor.3:3-7

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2Tim.4:1-5

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe. 1Tim.4:1-10

What faith should we contend for?

It's not just any old faith that we are to fight for, but the original authentic gospel message:

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. [I have to write insisting—begging!—that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish.] Jude.1:3

To do this, we need to know God's precepts and God's power:

You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. Matt.22:29

Why do people find the Bible difficult?

We are spiritually blind until God opens our eyes

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Ps.119:18

'Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Acts.26:15-18

'I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. Is.42:6-8

Some people don't have the Holy Spirit. They don't accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. Things like that are foolish to them. They can't understand them. In fact, such things can't be understood without the Spirit's help. 1Cor.2:14

When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Is.8:19-9:2

What is God's light?

God is light and He brought light into the world: *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.* ^{Gen.1:3-4}

This light was not the sun (which was created on the 4th day) but God's presence—His glory—and it is God's presence that illuminates heaven:

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. ^{Rev.22:3-5}

God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen. 1Tim.6:15-16

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. Lk.9:28-31

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Acts.9:3-4

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. Jas.1:16-18

What difference should it make when God's light has shone in our hearts?

The account of Creation in Genesis is not only historical, but it is also an allegory to illustrate God's new creation—conversion. *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.* ^{2Cor.4:6} *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.* ^{2Cor.5:17-20}

How do we walk in the light?

Acclaim God

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD. They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favour you exalt our horn. Ps.89.15-17

Follow Jesus

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jn.8:12

Be holy—keep pure and sinless

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1Pet.1:14-16

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1Jn.1:5-7

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Rev.21:23-27

Many other things we might give warning of (gentle Reader) if we had not exceeded the measure of a Preface already. It remains, that we commend you to God, and to the Spirit of his grace, which is able to build further then we can aske or think. He removes the scales from our eyes, the veil from our hearts, opening our wits (minds) that we may understand his word, enlarging our hearts, and correcting our affections, that we may love it above gold and silver, and that we may love it to the end.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our king Charles. We pray for all who are in authority. We pray that we will live peaceful and quiet lives. And we pray that we will be godly and holy. This is good. It pleases God our Saviour. He wants everyone to be saved. He wants them to come to know the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. ^{1Tim.2:2-6}

Puritan Prayer

In prayer may I know You as the path in which my feet tread; as the latch upon the door of my lips; as the light that shines through my eyes; as the music of my ears; as the marrow of my understanding; as the strength of my will; as the power of my affection; and as the sweetness of my memory. May the matter of my prayer be always wise, humble, submissive, obedient, scriptural, and Christ-like. Give me unwavering faith so that my supplications are never in vain—and if I seem not to obtain my petitions, that I shall have larger and richer answers that surpass all I ask or think. Thank You that You have given me the greatest Gift of all—the Person of Your Son—and it is in Him You will give me all I need.

Preface to KJV 1611

Therefore as S. Augustine saith, that varietie of Translations is profitable for the finding out of the sense of the Scriptures

An other thing we thinke good to admonish thee of (gentle Reader) that wee have not tyed our selves to an uniformitie of phrasing, or to an identitie of words, as some peradventure would wish that we had done, because they observe, that some learned men some where, have beene as exact as they could that way. Truly, that we might not varie from the sense of that which we had translated before, if the word signified the same thing in both places (for there bee some wordes that bee not of the same sense every where) we were especially carefull, and made a conscience, according to our duetie. But, that we should expresse the same notion in the same particular word; as for example, if we translate the Hebrew or Greeke word once by Purpose, never to call it Intent; if one where Journeying, never Traveiling; if one where Thinke, never Suppose; if one where Paine, never Ache; if one where Joy, never Gladnesse, &c. Thus to minse the matter, wee thought to savour more of curiositie then wisdom, and that rather it would breed scorne in the Atheist, then bring profite to the godly Reader. For is the kingdome of God become words or syllables? why should wee be in bondage to them if we may be free, use one precisely when wee may use another no lesse fit, as

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

commodiously? A godly Father in the Primitive time shewed himselfe greatly moved, that one of the newfangledes called, though the difference be little or none; and another reporteth, that he was much abused for turning Cucurbita (to which reading the people had beene used) into Hedera. Now if this happen in better times, and upon so small occasions, wee might justly feare hard censure, if generally wee should make verball and unnecessary changings. We might also be charged (by scoffers) with some unequall dealing towards a great number of good English wordes. For as it is written of a certaine great Philosopher, that he should say, that those logs were happie that were made images to be worshipped; for their fellowes, as good as they, lay for blockes behinde the fire: so if wee should say, as it were, unto certaine words, Stand up higher, have a place in the Bible alwayes, and to others of like qualitie, Get ye hence, be banished for ever, wee might be taxed peradventure with S. James his words, namely, To be partiall in our selves and judges of evill thoughts. Adde hereunto, that nicenesse in wordes was alwayes counted the next step to trifling, and so was to bee curious about names too: also that we cannot follow a better patterne for elocution then God himselfe; therefore hee using divers words, in his holy writ, and indifferently for one thing in nature: we, if wee will not be superstitious, may use the same libertie in our English versions out of Hebrew & Greeke, for that copie or store that he hath given us. Lastly, wee have on the one side avoided the scrupulositie of the Puritanes, who leave the olde Eccleasticall words, and betake them to other, as when they put washing for Baptisme, and Congregation in stead of Church: as also on the other side we have shunned the obscuritie of the Papists, in their Azimes, Tunike, Rational, Holocausts, Præpuce, Pasche, and a number of such like, whereof their late Translation is full, and that of purpose to darken the sence, that since they must needs translate the Bible, yet by the language thereof, it may bee kept from being understood. But we desire that the Scripture may speake like it selfe, as in the language of Canaan, that it may bee understood even of the very vulgar.

Many other things we might give thee warning of (gentle Reader) if wee had not exceeded the measure of a Preface already. It remaineth, that we commend thee to God, and to the Spirit of his grace, which is able to build further then we can aske or thinke. Hee removeth the scales from our eyes, the vaile from our hearts, opening our wits that wee may understand his word, enlarging our hearts, yea correcting our affections, that we may love it above gold and silver, yea that we may love it to the end. Ye are brought unto fountaines of living water which yee digged not; doe not cast earth into them with the Philistines, neither preferre broken pits before them with the wicked Jewes. Others have laboured, and you may enter into their labours; O receive not so great things in vaine, O despise not so great salvation! Be not like swine to treade under foote so precious things, neither yet like dogs to teare and abuse holy things. Say not to our Saviour with the Gergesites, Depart out of our coasts; neither yet with Esau sell your birthright for a messe of potage. If light be come into the world, love not darknesse more then light; if foode, if clothing be offered, goe not naked, starve not your selves. Remember the advise of Nazianzene, It is a grievous thing (or dangerous) to neglect a great faire, and to seeke to make markets afterwards: also the encouragement of S. Chrysostome, It is altogether impossible, that he that is sober (and watchfull) should at any time be neglected: Lastly, the admonition and menacing of S. Augustine, They that despise Gods will inviting them, shal feelee Gods will taking vengeance of them. It is a fearefull thing to fall into the hands of the living God; but a blessed thing it is, and will bring us to everlasting blessednes in the end, when God speaketh unto us, to hearken; when he setteth his word before us, to reade it; when hee stretcheth out his hand and calleth, to answere, Here am I; here wee are to doe thy will, O God. The Lord worke a care and conscience in us to know him and serve him, that we may be acknowledged of him at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with the holy Ghost, be all prayse and thanksgiving. Amen.

31/08/2022

Psalm 39

Video Tlo Miracle 4-1 11.45

Questions

What “Memorials” do you reflect on?

Why is the Bible called God’s Word?

In what ways are Christians changed from being spiritually useless to spiritually useful?

Does being spiritually useful make any practical difference to a person?

Why is it important that are our words are wholesome?

What practical things can we do to ensure we don’t lose our enthusiasm for representing God?

Comments

What “Memorials” do you reflect on?

Personal events where God intervened in your life

Why is the Bible called God’s Word?

2 Greek words for “word” — “Logos” and “Rhema” and they are interchangeable.

Logos = word, statement, speech, account, reasonable, message

Rhema = word, statement, discourse

The Bible is called God’s Word because it is the expression of God Himself.

Words are a means of communicating and God communicates through His Word, the Scriptures

All your commands are trustworthy; help me, for men persecute me without cause. Ps.119:86

The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy. Ps.119:138

and God communicates through His Word, Jesus

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. Heb.1:1-3

Which is why Jesus is the Word of God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. Jn.1:1-3

The Bible is the record of Jesus’ ministry—both before and after His incarnation

And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Jn.5:37-40

them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Lk.24:25-27

In what ways are Christians changed from being spiritually useless to spiritually useful?

We become new creations

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 2Cor.5:17-19

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Eph.2:1-7

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. Col.2:13-14

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Rom.5:8-9

Does being spiritually useful make any practical difference to a person?

Yes it should

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1Pet.2:9-10

Why is it important that are our words are wholesome?

We are Ambassadors for Christ—we are His emissaries and represent Him here on earth

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2Cor.5:20

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Phil.4:8-9

What practical things can we do to ensure we don't lose our enthusiasm for representing God?

Think, meditate, reflect on Jesus—what He has done for us in His death, burial and resurrection. *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate [Or reflect] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2Cor.3:17-18*

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body. 2Pet.1:12-13

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles. 2Pet.3:1-2

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Josh.1:7-9

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills...

This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. [18] Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin...

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. Ps.73:1-29

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people—meet together in Jesus' Name

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10:24-25

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. Acts. 2:42-43

When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 1 Cor. 5:4

24/08/2022

Psalm 38

Video Tlo Miracle 4-1 2.19 –

Questions

What is Christian maturity?

How can we develop our Christian maturity?

What is God's will for us?

Comments

What is Christian maturity?

Willing and cheerful obedience to God. Conforming to the image of Jesus

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Rom.8:28-30

Complete perfection (complete maturity) will happen when Christ returns at the resurrection

As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 1Cor.15:48-49*

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2Cor.3:18

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Phil.3:20-21

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1Jn.3:1-3

How can we develop our Christian maturity?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people. Water the seed of God's Word with faith. Use the people God has given to the local Church by interacting with them, listening to them, fellowshiping with them, encouraging them, praying for them

That is why we need the Church—not necessarily an organisation but the gathering together of Believers in the Name of Jesus Christ. It is in the Church that God intends to display His wisdom. ^{Eph.3:10} It is to the Church that God has given His gifts (actually God has given the gift of the Holy Spirit and what we usually call “*gifts of the Spirit*” are a manifestations of the Holy Spirit through a person rather than person who is gifted. ^{1Cor.12;Rom.12;Eph.4}

What is God's will for us?

17/08/2022

Psalm 37:30-40

Video Tlo Miracle 4-1 2.19 -

Let Your will be done. *I want your will to be done, not mine.* ^{Lk.22:42}

Questions

What are the similarities and differences between fate and faith?

Why can we place our trust in God?

How was Jesus an example for us?

Can we be a Christian and not behave like one?

Comments

What are the similarities and differences between fate and faith?

Both appear to be resigned to the future

Fate is a passive resignation to whatever happens

Faith is an active trust in God for His providence and protection

Fate is based on either nothing or superstition

Faith is based on God's character and word—who God is and what God has said

Why can we place our trust in God?

God is Sovereign—but He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient and also Omnibenevolent.

God can do anything He chooses to do—but He is all powerful, all present, all knowing and all good!

Seeing what God has done in the past gives us the confidence to trust God for the future

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us." 1Sam.7:12 [Ebenezer means stone of help.]

When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster. Write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you. Deut.27:2-3

So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day. Josh.4:8-9

How was Jesus an example for us?

In His obedience; In His behaviour; In His speech

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." Jn.13:13-17

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1Pet.2:19-23

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph.5:1-2

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1Tim.1:16-17

Can we be a Christian and not behave like one?

Yes! The Corinthians were immature and behaved badly but Paul doesn't question the validity of their faith but says that they were acting like mere humans (not Holy Spirit filled believers!) These are the same people who Paul instructs about faith and spiritual giftings!

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?"^{1Cor.3:1-4}

Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.^{1Cor.14:20} [This is OT but the principle is the same: "My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."^{Jer.4:22}]

What is Christian maturity?

Willing and cheerful obedience to God. Conforming to the image of Jesus

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.^{Rom.8:28-30}

Complete perfection (complete maturity) will happen when Christ returns at the resurrection

As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.^{1Cor.15:48-49}*

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.^{2Cor.3:18}

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.^{Phil.3:20-21}

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.^{1Jn.3:1-3}

How can we develop our Christian maturity?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people. Water the seed of God's Word with faith. Use the people God has given to the local Church by interacting with them, listening to them, fellowshiping with them, encouraging them, praying for them

That is why we need the Church—not necessarily an organisation but the gathering together of Believers in the Name of Jesus Christ. It is in the Church that God intends to display His wisdom.^{Eph.3:10} It is to the Church that God has given His gifts (actually God has given the gift of the Holy Spirit and what we usually call "gifts of the Spirit" are a manifestations of the Holy Spirit through a person rather than person who is gifted.^{1Cor.12;Rom.12;Eph.4}

What is God's will for us?

Although in general terms, God's will for us is **maturity** (i.e. to be like Jesus), the Scripture mentions some specific things that are God's will for us:

To be sanctified (i.e. to live a holy life). *It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable.^{1Thess.4:3-4}*

To rejoice, pray and give thanks in every circumstance. *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.^{1Thess.5:15-18}*

To do good. *For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.^{1Pet.2:15}*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

To be rescued from this present evil age: *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*^{Gal.1:3-5}

See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.^{Matt.18:11-14}

Dear friends, here is one thing you must not forget. With the Lord a day is like a thousand years. And a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. He is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed [not willing that any should perish]. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins.^{2Pet.3:8-9}

But even though knowing God's will is important, doing God's will is even more important. So let's make Jesus' prayer, our prayer: *I want your will to be done, not mine.*^{Lk.22:42} **Amen!**

10/08/2022

Psalm 37:21-30

Video Tlo Miracle 2-1 108

Is your faith secure? *Those of us who have taken refuge in him hold on to the confidence we have been given. We have this confidence as a sure and strong anchor for our lives.*^{Heb.6:18-19,2}

Questions

What is faith?

Why is faith so important?

How do we get faith?

Can we lose our faith?

What is the evidence of faith?

What can we do to grow our faith?

Comments

What is faith?

Faith is the confident trust in God based upon who He is and what He has said (His character and His Word)

Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. Faith is the reason we remember great people who lived in the past. It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God's command so what we see was made by something that cannot be seen.^{Heb.11:1-3}

Why is faith so important?

We cannot please God without faith

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.^{Heb.11:6}

How do we get faith?

Faith is a gift from God

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.^{Eph.2:8}

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.^{Rom.10:17}

And the Word of God dwells in us as we worship and share our faith

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.^{Col.3:16}

Can we lose our faith?

We can doubt

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"^{Matt.14:30-31}

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.^{Mk.16:14}

We can lack fruit

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.^{Matt.13:22}

We can't "lose" our faith, but we can sell our birthright

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.^{Heb.12:14-17}

We can't "fall" from grace (grace is a free and unmerited gift)—**but we can forfeit grace and our soul!**

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you.” Jonah 2:8-9

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.” Mk.8:36-38

What is the evidence of faith?

The evidence of faith is a saved soul (i.e. a sanctified personality). Eternal life begins at conversion and is completed at the resurrection

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet.1:8-9

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom.6:22-23

What can we do to grow our faith?

Be led by the Holy Spirit

*But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and **praying in the Holy Spirit**, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.* Jude.1:20-21

*For those who are **led by the Spirit of God** are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”* Rom.8:14-15

*But when you are **directed by the Spirit**, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we **live by the Spirit**, let us **keep in step with the Spirit**. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.* Gal.5:18-26

*Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. Rescue me from my enemies, LORD, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; **may your good Spirit lead me on level ground**. For your name's sake, LORD, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.* Ps.143:8-11

The Scriptures are God-breathed

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Tim.3:16-17

That means they have God's Spirit within them

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Jn.6:63

To pray with “*borrowed words of the Bible*” is a great way to be led by the Spirit and to keep in step with Him.

When suffering and grief make it difficult to pray, we can rest in the reality that the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ will continue to intercede on our behalf. When we go through seasons of dryness, we can persevere in faith, remembering that our experience of prayer is not foundational. Jesus Christ himself is the foundation, the Word of God, who always lives to intercede for us. Praying with the borrowed words of the Bible was one way God rebuilt my life of prayer on a more solid basis, reminding me that prayer is answering God, not generating my relationship with God.

Live thankful lives in fellowship with Jesus Christ (i.e. involve Jesus in our daily routine and recognize that He is Lord)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Col.2:6-7

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1Thess.5:10-11

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Stand firm (*i.e.* be strong, stable and sober minded) **and not intimidated** by the devil or any of his ploys (either direct or indirect)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1Pet.5:8-9

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. 1Cor.16:13-14

Be an active member of a local Church congregation (*i.e.* a partner with other Believers in the security of the Church)

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. Phile.1:6-7

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. Eph.3:10-12
So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph.4:11-13

Listen to correction but don't listen to myths or arguments from unBelievers (*i.e.* any spiritual or moral direction must be aligned with the New Covenant teaching of the Bible)

For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth [follow the teachings of those who reject the truth]. Tit.1:10-14

Do a regular self-examination of the basics of our faith

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 2Cor.13:5

Here are some lists to check what we believe (and reassure ourself of our faith)

*Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of **repentance from acts that lead to death**, and of **faith in God**, instruction about **cleansing rites [baptisms]**, the **laying on of hands**, the **resurrection of the dead**, and **eternal judgment**. And God permitting, we will do so. It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Heb.6:1-6*

*Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about **sin and righteousness and judgment**: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. Jn.16:7-11*

To love is to will the best for another person regardless of the cost. It is not to like someone or to have warm, fuzzy feelings toward them. It is to act in their best interest, again regardless of the cost. 1Cor.13

03/08/2022

Psalm 37:11-20

Video Tlo Miracle 2-1 57.27

Questions

- Why do we give at Church?
- Why is good stewardship important for Christians?
- How important is our attitude when we give?
- What are the principles of Christian Giving?
- Should the Church ask non-Christians for money?

Comments

Why do we give at Church?

Giving is a basic principle of God's Kingdom, starting with God giving His Son for us

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.^{Jn.3:16}

Jesus gave up His heavenly comforts for earthly discomforts so we could be united with Him in heaven

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.^{2Cor.8:9}

We should emulate Jesus' example

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.^{Jn.13:14-17}

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.^{Eph.5:1-2}

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.^{2Pet.2:21}

Giving is a privilege and a blessing

Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.^{2Cor.8:3-4}

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'^{Acts.20:35}

Giving is primarily an act of worship (worship is showing respect and honour to God) and God should be honoured with our finances:

Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.^{Pron.3:9-10}

But there are practical benefits from giving (such as supporting the Church infrastructure of people and property)

Don't we have the right to food and drink? Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever ploughs and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. 1Cor.9: 3-14

If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need. The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 1Tim.5:16-18

The Church is to look after the poor (although in the UK with our NHS and State benefits, the responsibility for caring for the poor is less)

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts.2:44-47

(NB the word "common" has the same root as "fellowship" and so this implies the Believers' priority was to provide for other Believers rather than everyone in general)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Acts.6:1

Why is good stewardship important for Christians?

Actually, good stewardship is important for everyone! But Christians should have a higher moral standard because of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. 1Cor.4:1-2

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. Rom.14:7-9

Good stewardship honours God and gives us credibility by showing that we take our role as custodians of God's earth seriously

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Gen.1:26

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Gen.2:15-17

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.

Amen. 1Pet.4:9-11

And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." 1Cor.8:10-15

How important is our attitude when we give?

Attitude is everything (especially our attitude towards God—which is faith)

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. Heb.11:4

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.^{Pron.3:9-10}

We should always have the same attitude and mind as Christ

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.^{Rom.15:5-6}

But we have the mind of Christ.^{1Cor.2:16}

What are the principles of Christian Giving?

As a Privilege—to give is to be like God: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*^{John 3:16} *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*^{2Cor.8:9}

Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.^{2Cor.8:3-4}

God should be honoured with our finances: *Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*^{Pron.3:9-10}

As a Percentage:

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.^{1Cor.16:2}

No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.^{Deut.16:16-17}

As a Partner:

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.^{Phil.1:4-5}

Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;^{Phil.4:15}

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.^{Gal.6:6}

Fully Persuaded:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.^{2Cor.9:7}

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.^{Deut.15:10}

The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD.^{1Chron.29:9}

With a conviction of God's provision:

In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.^{Ps.127:2} *Do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*^{Lk.12:29-31} *Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.*^{Pron.23:4} *My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*^{Phil.4:19}

Should the Church ask non-Christians for money?

An important principle of God's Kingdom is: God will provide

So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."^{Gen.22:14}

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.^{Phil.4:19-20}

Some people only ask God and refuse to ask people for help (like Muller in Bristol)

There is a difference between pleading for help and sharing needs

God is not bankrupt and has made everything for our benefit

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Rom.8:32

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; Ps.24:1

I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Ps.50:11-12

Money is not good or evil and so it really doesn't matter where it comes from BUT we should not beg for finances from anyone (but especially the world).

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth. 3Jn.5-8

God has promised to bless the work of our hands and so we should make every effort to supply our own needs

'Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts.20:32-35

If **God plans something, He will make provision for it**—and He can resource it from anywhere, even from un-believers! If God hasn't planned something, then we should not be trying to make it happen—but it takes faith (trust and confidence in God) not to be anxious when the natural resources run out.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Heb.13:5-6

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matt.6:28-34

27/07/2022

Psalm 37:1-11

Video Here's How to Start a Conversation About Biblical Salvation 10.52

The Genuine Flow of the Holy Spirit

Questions:

What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

How can we become more spiritual?

How can we know if something is genuinely of the Holy Spirit?

Can we know if something is not genuinely of the Holy Spirit?

Are there any “neutral” areas, where it is neither the Holy Spirit or the devil?

What is “wisdom”?

Comments

What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit's ministry is to do today what Jesus did in the Gospels for His Disciples

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. Jn.16:7-15

Jesus is the Counsellor

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. Is.9:6-7

The Holy Spirit is another Counsellor—Jesus' substitute or the “Vicar of Christ”

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” Jn.14:15-21

The Holy Spirit empowers us like he did Jesus

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Acts.10:38

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts.1:7-8

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit... Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. Rom.15:13-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Eph.3:14-19

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. 2Tim.1:7-8

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might. Mic.3:8

I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone. Nu.11:13

The Holy Spirit convicts, converts, challenges and changes us

But what I'm about to tell you is true. It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove that the world's people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment. The world is guilty as far as sin is concerned. That is because people do not believe in me. The world is guilty as far as godliness is concerned. That is because I am going to the Father, where you can't see me anymore. The world is guilty as far as judgment is concerned. That is because the devil, the prince of this world, has already been judged. Jn.216:7-11

How can we become more spiritual?

We can't become more spiritual! We are either born-again of the Holy Spirit and have a new, holy spirit—or we are not born-again and are spiritually dead, separated from God

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Jn.3:5-8*

But we can act more spiritual!

Quarrelling and jealousy are evidence of immaturity (un-spirituality)!

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? 1Cor.3:1-4

Even though we are born-again, we can act like people who are not born-again—mere humans instead of children of God

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matt.5:9

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal.3:26-29

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. Rom.8:13-15

"I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler." Ps.82:6-7

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside—what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." Jn.10:34-38

How can we know if something is genuinely of the Holy Spirit?

The devil masquerades as an angel of light and so not everything that looks good,

wholesome or right is necessarily holy.

“The devil may flood our minds with truth in order to float one lie”

And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. 2Cor.11:12-15

We have a conscience that instinctively knows

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them. Rom.2:14-15

However, a person's conscience can be seared

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 1Tim.4:1-3

We have the Holy Spirit who is an inner witness

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2Cor.1:21-22

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Rom.8:15-16

We can test to see if something is of God.

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Ps.34:8

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1Pet.2:1-3

Questions to ask:

Does it honour God and Jesus Christ?

“The Father doesn't judge anyone. He has entrusted judgment entirely to the Son so that everyone will honour the Son as they honour the Father. Whoever doesn't honour the Son doesn't honour the Father who sent him. I can guarantee this truth: Those who listen to what I say and believe in the one who sent me will have eternal life. They won't be judged because they have already passed from death to life. Jn.5:22-24

Is it compatible with the personality and character of God as revealed by Jesus Christ?

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted. Ps.138:2-3

I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Jon.4:2

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Gal.5:22-26

Does it agree with Scripture (and in particular, the New Testament)?

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. Acts.17:11-12

Scripture is always true [cannot be broken/annulled/set aside]. Jn.10:35

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*Is.8:20
*Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'*Lk.16:29-31
*Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!*Is.1:10

What do other credible Believers say about it (including Believers from previous generations)?

*For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.*Prov.11:14
*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*Prov.15:22
*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*Eph.3:10-12
*Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.*Jude.1:3
*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*1Tim.6:12

Can we know if something is not genuinely of the Holy Spirit?

The Bible is our “rule of thumb” our “plumbline” and so the first question is: **Does it agree with Scripture**—especially the New Covenant?

Then, **is the fruit of the Spirit evident?** (especially love—not our own likings but God’s pure, holy and extravagant love). And then, are we comfortable with it? (but recognise the power of tradition, personality preferences, past bad experiences)

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*Col.3:12-17

*Even one of their own prophets has said, ‘People from Crete are always liars. They are evil beasts. They don't want to work. They live only to eat.’ What I have just said is true. So give them a strong warning. Then they will understand the faith correctly. They will pay no attention to Jewish stories that aren't completely true. They won't listen to the commands of those who turn away from the truth. To people who are pure, all things are pure. But to those who have twisted minds and don't believe, nothing is pure. In fact, their minds and their sense of what is right and wrong are twisted. They claim to know God. But their actions show they don't know him. They are hated by God. They refuse to obey him. They aren't fit to do anything good.*Tit.1:12-16

*Make sure that you don't forget what you have heard from the beginning. Then you will remain joined to the Son and to the Father. That's what God has promised us. We have eternal life. I'm writing these things to warn you about those who are trying to lead you down the wrong path. But you have received the Holy Spirit from God. He continues to live in you. So you don't need anyone to teach you. God's Spirit teaches you about everything. What he says is true. He doesn't lie. Remain joined to Christ, just as you have been taught by the Spirit.*2Jn.24-27

*Keep an eye on anyone who doesn't obey the directions in our letter. Watch that person closely. Have nothing to do with him. Then he will feel ashamed. But don't think of him as an enemy. Instead, warn him as a brother or sister.*2Thess.3:14-15

God poured out the Spirit on us freely because of what Jesus Christ our Saviour has done. His grace made us right with God. So now we have received the hope of eternal life as God's children. You can trust that saying. Those things are important. Treat them that way. Then those who have trusted in God will be careful to commit themselves to doing

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

what is good. Those things are excellent. They are for the good of everyone. But keep away from foolish disagreements. Don't argue about family histories. Don't make trouble. Don't fight about what the law teaches. Don't argue about things like that. It doesn't do any good. It doesn't help anyone. Warn anyone who tries to get believers to take sides and separate into their own little groups. Warn him more than once. After that, have nothing to do with him. You can be sure that someone like that is twisted and sinful. His own actions judge him. Tit.3:6-11

If we are in fellowship with God His Word and His people, we should normally have an inner peace—the witness of the Holy Spirit. (Fellowship means a partnership, a participation, communion.)

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1Cor.2:10-16

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you Rom.8:13-15

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Gal.5:25-26

Are there any “neutral” areas, where it is neither the Holy Spirit or the devil?

Yes. We have a spirit and a soul, we have a will, a personality and emotions.

For many situations we have to make our own mind up about what to do. God lets us choose what we do—and He has promised to bless whatever we put our hand to.

We do have the mind of Christ and we do have the Holy Spirit within us to lead, counsel, inspire, empower and guide

Spiritual people evaluate everything but are subject to no one's evaluation. "Who has known the mind of the Lord so that he can teach him?" However, we have the mind of Christ. 1Cor.2:15-16

but we have to choose what we do—and often there is not a right or wrong choice to make!

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us... Acts.15:28

That is why we commit our way to God and then He will direct our path

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. Ps.119:9

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. Ps.119:133

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him [acknowledge him or remember him], and he will make your paths straight. Prov.3:5-6

What is “wisdom”?

Wisdom is applied knowledge—it is what we do with what we know. It is putting God's Word into practice

In spiritual gifts, wisdom is Jesus personified

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1Cor.1:30-2:6

This was a word of wisdom. His prediction referred to a future event. So, this word of wisdom is just a portion of God's wisdom given to a person for a particular purpose in his life, revealing what He is going to do in the future. I like this definition of the **word of wisdom: A supernatural revelation from God of His mind and purpose concerning a future event.**

My early ministry consisted largely of the whys and wherefores of suffering. Library shelves are full of volumes philosophising on the subject. With a shock, long ago, I saw my intellectualised concerns about the sick had little relevance and anyway the problem was beyond my poor brains. Jesus said "heal the sick!" It never entered my head to ask "Why?" - not even in the recent inconsolable loss of my wife. Debating evil has little to do with faith, except knock it flat.

We are ministers, not philosophers. Our calling is compassion, prayer, faith and the Word. Our terms, full Gospel or 'Foursquare' meant the proclamation of Jesus as Saviour, Baptiser. King and Healer. He is being 'proclaimed', but is Christ as Healer being toned down to general and less specific terms? Is our theology wobbling under the test of objective faith? The term "Foursquare" was coined by healing pioneers of the 19th century, for "Christ the Saviour, Healer, Coming King and Sanctifier". If Healer is no longer written in capitals, is it the Foursquare Gospel? GC

20/07/2022

Psalm 36

Video Here's How to Start a Conversation About Biblical Salvation 00.00-10.52

Between a rock and a hard place. *The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*^{Lk.20:17}

Questions

In what way is Jesus like a rock?

Why is Jesus called a “chief cornerstone”?

Why did God ask Moses to hit the rock?

What was wrong with Moses hitting the rock a second time?

What is the relevance of the phrase “*cleft of the rock*”? (Ex.33:19-23)

What is the rock on which Jesus is building His Church? (Matt.16:16-18)

How do we build on the rock? (Matt.7:25-27)

Comments

In what way is Jesus like a rock?

Jesus is stable, unmoveable, a sure foundation, the source of spiritual nourishment, a fortress
: *I will make known the name of the LORD. Praise God! How great he is! He is the Rock. His works are perfect.*

All of his ways are right. He is faithful. He doesn't do anything wrong. He is honest and fair.^{Deut.32:3-4}

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.^{Ps.18:2}

Why is Jesus called a “chief cornerstone”?

He is the plumbline by which all true measurements are taken. He is the centrepiece and also the part that holds everything together

So the LORD and King speaks. He says, “Look! I am laying a stone in Zion. It is a stone that has been tested. It is the most important stone for a firm foundation. The one who trusts in that stone will never be shaken. I will use a measuring line to prove that you have not been fair. I will use a plumb line to prove that you have not done what is right.”^{Is.28:16-17}

Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.^{Acts.4:11-12}

In Scripture it says, “Look! I am placing a stone in Zion. It is a chosen and very valuable stone. It is the most important stone in the building. The one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” The stone is very valuable to you who believe. But to people who do not believe, “The stone the builders did not accept has become the most important stone of all.” And, It is a rock that makes them fall.” They trip and fall because they do not obey the message. That is also what God planned for them. But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are a people who belong to God. All of this is so that you can sing his praises. He brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people. But now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy. But now you have received mercy.^{1Pet.2:6-10}

Why did God ask Moses to hit the rock?

To illustrate that Jesus would be “hit” in order for us to be saved

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”^{Gen.3:15}

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all... Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.^{Is.53:4-10}

What was wrong with Moses hitting the rock a second time?

He broke the symbol or illustration of Jesus dying (and being punished) once

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them. The LORD spoke to Moses. He said, "Get your wooden staff. You and your brother Aaron gather the people together. Then speak to that rock while everyone is watching. It will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community. Then they and their livestock can drink it." So Moses took the wooden staff from the tent. He did just as the LORD had commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the people together in front of the rock. Moses said to them, "Listen, you who refuse to obey! Do we have to bring water out of this rock for you?" Then Moses raised his arm. He hit the rock twice with his staff. Water poured out. And the people and their livestock drank it. But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron. He said, "You did not trust in me enough to honour me. You did not honour me as the holy God in front of the people of Israel. So you will not bring this community into the land I am giving them."^{Nu.20:7-12}

Because Moses hit the rock a second time, it gave a false prophesy or illustration about Jesus, who was to offer Himself on the Cross just once our sins:

The high priest enters the Most Holy Room every year. He enters with blood that is not his own. But Christ did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again. If he had, he would have had to suffer many times since the world was created. But now he has appeared once and for all time. He has come at the end of the ages to do away with sin. He has done that by offering himself. People have to die once. After that, God will judge them. In the same way, Christ was offered up once. He took away the sins of many people. He will also come a second time. At that time he will not suffer for sin. Instead, he will come to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.^{Heb.9:25-28}

The reality of Jesus just offering Himself once for our sins is such a fundamental truth that, that Moses forfeited the privilege of going into the Promised land when he broke the type!

Then the LORD spoke to Moses. He said, "Go up this mountain in the Abarim range. See the land I have given the people of Israel. After you have seen it, you too will join the members of your family who have already died. You will die, just as your brother Aaron did. The community refused to obey me at the waters of Meribah Kadesh. At that time, you and Aaron did not obey my command. You did not honour me in front of them as the holy God."^{Nu.27:12-14}

¹⁴ In the ritual of the "Mass" (the Catholic version of the Lord's Table), the substance of the bread and wine is believed to turn into Jesus' real body and blood which as it is offered on an "altar". Instead of being an "ordinance" (something that God has "ordained" or commanded) to remind us of Jesus' once for all sacrifice, the bread and wine becomes a repeated sacrifice!

He isn't like the other high priests. They need to offer sacrifices day after day. First they bring offerings for their own sins. Then they do it for the sins of the people. But Jesus gave one sacrifice for the sins of the people. He gave it once and for all time. He did it by offering himself.^{Heb.7:27}

Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.^{Heb.10:9-10}

What is the relevance of the phrase "cleft of the rock"? (Ex.33:19-23)

A hiding place where we can see God's glory

cleft of the rock" in order to see God's glory:

And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."^{Ex.33:19-23}

This "cleft of the rock" was prophetic or an illustration of Jesus' death where His side was pierced—it is only through "hiding" in the death of Jesus that we can experience the glory of God.

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed. He said, "Father, the time has come. Bring glory to your Son. Then your Son will bring glory to you. You gave him authority over all people. He gives eternal life to all those you have given him. And what is eternal life? It is knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth. I have finished the work you gave me to do. So now, Father, give glory to me in heaven where your throne is. Give me the glory I had with you before the world began."^{Jn.17:1-5}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

What is the rock on which Jesus is building His Church? (Matt.16:16-18)

The Rock is Jesus and also the confession (statement) that He is the Christ, the Son of God
Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.*Matt.16:16-20

How do we build on the rock? (Matt.7:25-27)

By listening to God's Word and following it (obeying, putting it into practice)

*"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.*Matt.7:24-25

We build on the Rock but grow on the soil

*Listen then to what the parable of the Sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*Matt.13:18-23

13/07/2022

Psalm 35:1-10

Video: Here's How History Illuminates Revelation 3_13-18 _ STR University_ Never Read a Bible Verse

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. If you had only known today what would bring you peace!^{Lk.19:42}

Questions

What is peace?

What brings peace?

What is the difference between mental peace and spiritual peace?

What does it mean that God is with us?

How can we grow the fruit of peace in our lives?

Can we have God's peace without God's Word?

Comments

What is peace?

Peace is a tranquillity, arising from reconciliation with God and a sense of a divine favour

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Rom.5:1-2

Hebrew peace is Shalom which is God's blessings, happiness and wholeness—true prosperity—especially in death:

You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. Gen.15:15

*So he said to him, "Go and see if **all is well** with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Gen.37:14*

*"**It's all right**," he said. "Don't be afraid. Gen.42:23*

*'Are you **all right**? Is your husband **all right**? Is your child all right?' "Everything is **all right**," she said. 2Kgs.4:26*

*Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; there is no **soundness** in my bones because of my sin. Ps.38:3*

*I form the light and create darkness, I bring **prosperity** and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. Is.45:7*

What brings peace?

God is peace

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace. Jdg.6:24

For he himself is our peace. Eph.2:14

Peace is part of the character of God and so peace is a by-product of fellowship with God, His Word and His people—it is a "fruit of the spirit":

I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this [the fruit of the flesh] will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal.5:21-25

Jesus is the Prince of Peace:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal [passionate commitment] of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Is.9:6-7

Jesus brought us peace through His vicarious death on the cross:

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Is.53:5-6

But now through Christ Jesus you, who were once far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. So he is our

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

peace. In his body he has made Jewish and non-Jewish people one by breaking down the wall of hostility that kept them apart. He brought an end to the commandments and demands found in Moses' Teachings so that he could take Jewish and non-Jewish people and create one new humanity in himself. So he made peace. He also brought them back to God in one body by his cross, on which he killed the hostility. He came with the Good News of peace for you who were far away and for those who were near. So Jewish and non-Jewish people can go to the Father in one Spirit.^{Eph.2:13-18}

We should pray for peace

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.^{Ps.122:6-9}

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.^{Jer.29:7}

We should work for peace

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.^{Matt.5:9}

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.^{Jas.3:17-18}

And we should impart our peace to others

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.^{Lk.10:5-7}

But prayer alone will not impart peace—if the foundations are faulty, the building falter! Peace comes from knowing God the Father, and also His Son, Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.^{2Pet.1:2}

What is the difference between mental peace and spiritual peace?

Mental or emotional peace is a relaxing tranquillity and is essential for our mental health and general wellbeing but is not the same as spiritual peace, which is peace with God because we know our sins are forgiven (remitted not covered)

When Jesus gives us peace, it is true peace—it is spiritual peace: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*^{Jn.14:27}

Mental peace is putting our mind at rest but spiritual peace is putting our spirits at rest

Those who don’t know God, don’t know true peace (or at least they don’t know spiritual peace):

No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one... They don't know where to find peace. They have no fear of God at all.^{Rom.3:10-18}

But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”^{Is.57:20-21}

What does it mean that God is with us?

God is with us through the Person of the Holy Spirit who is our Counsellor, Advocate, Friend, Empowerer,

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor [Advocate; Friend; Helper; Comforter;] to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.^{Jn.14:15-18}

How can we grow the fruit of peace in our lives?

Remain, reside, abide in Jesus

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. [Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you.] No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*Jn.15:1-8

Can we have God's peace without God's Word (without being Bible literate)?

Yes (sort of) because peace is a fruit of the Spirit—BUT without a good, sound understanding of God's Word, we will be spiritually unsettled, disturbed, distracted and even in despair because we have no anchor.

*God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*Heb.6:18-20

Christian Doctrine is the theory of God's kingdom—it is the study of the principles of God's Kingdom. Maturity is the application of those principles—it is putting God's Word into practice

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*Eph.4:11-16

*He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*Col.1:28-29
*Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.*Heb.6:1-3
*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*Jas.1:5-8

*Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.*Ps.119:165

*You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.*Is.26:3

*The LORD's justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Though hail flattens the forest and the city is levelled completely, how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free.*Is.32:16-20

*Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? ... Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her... For this is what the LORD says: I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream.*Is.66:8-12

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.*Prov.3:1-2

*The mountains might shake. The hills might be removed. But my faithful love for you will never be shaken. And my covenant that promises peace to you will never be broken," says the LORD. He shows you his loving concern... I will teach all of your children. And they will enjoy great peace. When you do what is right, you will be made secure.*Is.54:10-13

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **Let** the word of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ^{Col.3:15-17}

06/07/2022

Psalm 34:11-22

Video: Should I Command Healing in Jesus' Name or Ask for It_

Is Lord or Lodger? *I must stay at your house today.*^{Lk.19:5}

Questions

What was Adam's relationship with God before he sinned?

When Adam disobeyed God, what happened to him?

Why couldn't God live within a person until Jesus came?

What does "righteousness" mean for a Believer under the New Covenant?

What has happened to our sin?

In what way does God live within a Believer?

Comments

What was Adam's relationship with God before he sinned?

Adam had God's life/breath/spirit within him

*The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*Gen.2:7

Adam was innocent and sinless.

God spoke to Adam and Eve and blessed them

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.*Gen.1:27-30

Adam worked for God

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*Gen.2:15

*Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.*Gen.2:19-20

Adam had fellowship with God

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day,*Gen.3:8

When Adam disobeyed God, what happened to him?

Adam died spiritually (he was separated from God)

*And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*Gen.2:16-17

Adam was afraid and felt guilty

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*Gen.3:8-10

Adam had to live with the consequences of sin

*To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'"*Gen.3:17-19

(interestingly Abraham listened to his wife's bad advice and took Hagar as his second wife

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. [4] He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. Gen.16:1-3

Job did not listen to his wife's bad advice

His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. Job.29-10

Why couldn't God live within a person until Jesus came?

Sin

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy. Lev.19:1-2

'You must therefore make a distinction between clean and unclean animals and between unclean and clean birds. Do not defile yourselves by any animal or bird or anything that moves along the ground—those that I have set apart as unclean for you. You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. Lev.20:25-26

What does "righteousness" mean for a Believer under the New Covenant?

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Rom.1:16-17

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1Cor.1:30

that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Phil.3:9

the Holy Spirit convicts of Righteousness and sin

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. Jn.16:7-11

Righteousness was the theme of Paul's preaching

Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." Acts.24:24-25

Righteousness is now the Believer's nature—we were sinful and separated from God but are now are righteous and united with God Righteousness is not an action but our new God-given nature. We can never be more righteous than we are right now.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor.5:21
For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Rom.5:17-19

What has happened to our sin?

Nailed to the cross

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Col.2:14-15

Removed

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Ps.103:11-12

'Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.' Zech.3:8-9

Remitted, expunged

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness [remission] of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Lk.24:45-49

Pardoned and forgiven

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1Jn.1:9

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1Jn.2:1-2

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1Jn.4:10

Note atonement in NT is a different word from atonement in OT

OT atonement is covering

NT atonement is propitiation or expiation

Hilasmós, found only in 1Jn 2:2 and 4:10, is equivalent to hilastērion (2435) as used by Paul in Ro 3:25. **It is the means of putting away sin and establishing righteousness.** God is never presented as changing His mind toward the sinner or the sin that estranged the sinner from Him. Man is never said to be able to appease God with any of his offerings, as in the heathen religions where man offered gifts in an attempt to accomplish this. In the NT, we find man incapable of offering anything to placate God because He is a righteous God. For Him to accept sinful man, it was necessary for God, not man, to do something to deliver man from his sin. This is the reason why, in 1Jn 2:1, we find Jesus Christ presented as the righteous One. God demands that the payment for sin be made once and for all. It is Christ Himself, therefore, who becomes hilasmós, the means which is acceptable to God to satisfy His righteousness or His justice. This does not merely appease God but provides the means for the redemption of man. Christ is the propitiation which supplies the method of deliverance from our sin and, being reconciled to God, we are acceptable for fellowship with God. **Christ became the vicarious and expiatory sacrifice for our sins.** John adds that this sacrifice of Christ was a historical event. Jesus Christ does not need to shed his blood and die again for any new believers because it is all-encompassing. Nobody's sins have ever been permanently removed in any other way except by means of the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on Calvary's cross. OT sacrifices pointed toward Christ's sacrifice, which is an objective accomplishment, a finished work for the whole world as a basis from which individual forgiveness and cleansing from sin proceeds.

walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph.5:2

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. Mic.7:18

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. Is.43:25"

In what way does God live within a Believer?

By the Holy Spirit

No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us. We know that we belong to him and he belongs to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit. The Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. We have seen it. We give witness to it. God lives in anyone who agrees that Jesus is the Son of God. That kind of person remains joined to God. So we know that God loves us. We depend on it.^{1Jn.4:12-16}

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.^{Rom.8:9-11}

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.^{Jn.14:15-21}

will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.^{Ezek.36:26-27}

The Holy Spirit also gives witness to us about this. First he says, "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts. I will write my laws on their minds." Then he adds, "I will not remember their sins anymore. I will not remember the evil things they have done." Where those have been forgiven, there is no longer any offering for sin.^{Heb.10:15-18}

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. John 14:23"

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Rev. 3:20

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"[Isaiah 7:14] - which means, "God with us." Matt.1:23

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col.1:27

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Col.3:3

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph.2:22 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Eph.3:17

But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit... Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 1Cor.6:17;19

Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. 1John 3:24

We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 1John 4:13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 2Cor.13:5

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. Rom.8:10

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal.2:20

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Conflict, struggle and unrest	Reconciliation, rest and peace: <i>Col.1:19-20; Eph.2:14-18</i>
Bondage and slavery	Freedom: <i>2Cor.3:17; Gal.4:21-5:1</i>
Law weak and useless	Better and permanent: <i>Heb.7:18-22</i>
Law of sin and death	Law of Spirit and Life: <i>Rom.8:2; 2Cor.3:6</i>
10 Commandments summarized as 2	1 Commandment—Royal law of love: <i>Jn.13:34-35; Gal.5:14; 1Cor.13:13</i>
Was an illustration, a type, a shadow	Is the substance and reality: <i>Col.2:14-17; Heb.10:1</i>
Was inferior and faulty	The New Covenant is permanent <i>Heb.8:6-7</i>
Was temporary until the New had come	The New Covenant replaces the Old Covenant which is now obsolete: <i>Heb.8:13; 10:9.</i>
Made man conscious of sin	Conscience is cleansed: <i>1Tim.1:5/19; Acts 23:1; Heb.9:14; 10:22; 13:18</i>
God's law written on stone	God's law written in our hearts: <i>Heb.8:10;10:16; 1Jn.5:10</i>
Man's Responsibility. <i>If you fully obey... Deut.28</i>	God's Responsibility: <i>Heb.8:8-10; Eph.3:10</i>
Man fails to be righteous	Jesus is our Righteousness: <i>1Cor.1:30; 2Cor.5:21; Rom.3:21-22</i>
Man provides animals for sacrifices	God provides His Son as the Sacrifice: <i>Jn.1:29; 1Cor.5:7; 1Jn.2:2</i>
Man strives for victory	God gives the victory: <i>1Cor.15:57; 2Cor.2:14</i>
Man separated from God by Veil	Nothing separating man from God: <i>Rom.8:39; Eph.2:7</i>
Priest is a man who was a descendant of Aaron	Priest is Jesus: <i>Heb.6:20; 8:1;10:19-22</i>
Priest's ministry is limited by death	Jesus' ministry is unlimited by His Resurrection: <i>Heb.7:26f</i>
Confess sin to approach God	Confess Jesus to approach God: <i>Rom.10:8-10; Heb.4:16;10:19-22</i>
Sacrifices continually repeated	Christ died once for all: <i>1Pet.3:18; Heb.7:27; 9:26; 10:12</i>
Sin temporarily covered over (<i>atoned</i>)	Sin forgiven; taken away permanently: <i>Jn.1:29; Lk.24:45-49; Rom.11:27; 1Jn.3:5</i>
God dwelt in a place	God dwells in people: <i>Eph.2:22; 1Jn.4:12</i>
Worship was at Jerusalem	Worship is in spirit at the New Jerusalem: <i>Heb.12:22-24; Jn.4:23; Phil.3:3; Gal.4:24-26</i>
People were servants	We are sons and friends (albeit still servants): <i>2Cor.6:18; Rom.1:1; Jn.15:12-15; Gal.3:26; 4:6-7</i>

29/06/2022

Psalm 34:1-10

Video: Is God Speaking to Me_ Is It My Conscience_ How Can I Tell_

Questions

Why do you think that Jesus asked if He would find faith on earth when He comes (Lk.18:8)?

Why do you think that the Ephesians forsook their first love (Rev.2:4)?

What can we do to ensure that we keep the faith?

What can we do to ensure that we maintain our hope?

What can we do to ensure that we keep our first love?

What is the evidence of faith, hope and love?

What is the result of faith, hope and love?

Comments

Why do you think that Jesus asked if He would find faith on earth when He comes?

Even though Christianity is a heart religion where God takes out our old spiritually dead heart and gives us a new spiritually alive heart (spirit), we still have a soul that need “sanctifying” and this requires faith

you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet.1:8-9

Initially, faith is a gift from God

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph.2:8-9

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Rom.12:3

But faith has to be exercised—use it or lose it!

Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him.” Lk.8:18

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. Lk.12:48

Faith is alive and will grow by itself with the right conditions

*The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed... Lk.17:5-
“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.” Matt.13:31-32*

Jesus also said, “Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Night and day the seed comes up and grows. It happens whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens. All by itself the soil produces grain. First the stalk comes up. Then the head appears. Finally, the full grain appears in the head. [29] Before long the grain ripens. So the farmer cuts it down, because the harvest is ready.” Mk.4:26-29

Actually it is God that makes it grow

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 1Cor.3:5-9

*Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, 2Cor.10:15
But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2Cor.8:7*

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Gal.5:6

Why do you think that the Ephesians forsook their first love (Rev.2:4)?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favour: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” Rev.2:1-7

Wickedness as well as distractions, diseases, disasters and disappointments can all be factors in the reason why people’s love for God grow cold

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matt.24:9-14

What can we do to ensure that we keep the faith?

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” Jude.1:20-21

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.” Jude.1:3

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1Thess.5:11

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Col.2:6-7

Renew our minds—

*Don't live any longer the way this world lives. **Let your way of thinking be completely changed.** Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.” Rom.12:2*

think like spiritual adults

Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.” 1Cor.14:2

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?” 1Cor.3:1-4

Take intentional actions to change our thinking—read and study the Scriptures

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.” 2Pet.3:1-2

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.” Gal.1:6-7

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Heb.5:11-14

What can we do to ensure that we maintain our hope?

Meet with other Believers (that is people who Believe, not mockers and scoffers c.f. Ps.1)

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you. Ps.42:4-6

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we* boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we* also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.* Rom.5:1-5

What can we do to ensure that we keep our first love?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people

What is the evidence of faith, hope and love?

The evidence of faith, hope and love is appreciation:

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Lk.17:17

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little. Lk.7:47

Maintaining a gentle and quiet spirit is also evidence (this inner beauty will be visible in our face as well as in our attitude)

Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. 1Pet.3:4-5

What is the result of faith, hope and love?

And the result of faith, hope and love is happiness:

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matt.25:23

But Timothy has come to us from you just now. He has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have happy memories of us. He has also said that you long to see us, just as we long to see you. Brothers and sisters, in all our trouble and suffering your faith cheered us up. Now we really live, because you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you because of all the joy that comes only from our God? 1Thess.3:6-9

Your love makes me happier than wine does. The lotion you have on pleases me. Your name is like perfume that is poured out SofS.1:2-3

22/06/2022

Psalm 33:12-22

The 8 Greatest True Stories in The Bible, Video Bible Study, Part 6

Questions

What is the Kingdom of God (or heaven)?

What does the OT foretell of the “last days”?

What does the NT say about the “last days”?

Should we expect the world to get better or worse before Jesus returns?

Why will Jesus’ return?

When will Jesus’ return?

How should we prepare for Jesus’ return?

Comments

What is the Kingdom of God (or heaven)?

The Kingdom of God is wherever God the King has His domain—the Kingdom of God is the dominion or rule of King Jesus.

However, God’s Kingdom is not a political kingdom but a spiritual kingdom, which is why it can’t be detected by visible signs and it certainly can’t be detected by people’s speculation

The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs [by your speculations.] You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you [is within you, or is in your grasp.]^{Lk.17:20-21}

And so the Kingdom of God is already among us (at least in part):

Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.^{Matt.16:28}

To come under Jesus’ domain or authority, we must become citizens of God’s Kingdom—which requires us to be born again (or born from above):

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born from above... I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”^{Jn.3:3-5}

And so God’s Kingdom is already here in people’s lives when they submit to the authority and rulership of Jesus, (no one can be a Christian unless they acknowledge that “Jesus is Lord”^{Rom.10:9-10}).

However, there is a future dimension to God’s Kingdom because it is an eternal Kingdom:

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.^{Is.9:7}

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”^{Lk.7:28}

“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it.^{Lk.16:16}

There is coming a time when Jesus’ authority and dominion will be total and complete—and this will happen when Jesus returns:

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.^{2Pet.1:10-11}

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.^{1Cor.4:20}

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.^{Rom.14:17-18}

What does the OT foretell of the “last days”?

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.^{Is.2:2-3}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.^{Mic.4:1-2}

For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.^{Hos.3:4-5}

Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'^{Acts.2:14-21}

What does the NT say about the "last days"?

Pentecost

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone. 2Tim.3:1-9

Should we expect the world to get better or worse before Jesus returns?

Both!

Jesus told the crowd another story. "Here is what the kingdom of heaven is like," he said. "A man planted good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came. The enemy planted weeds among the wheat and then went away. The wheat began to grow and form grain. At the same time, weeds appeared. The owner's servants came to him. They said, 'Sir, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied. The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull the weeds up?' 'No,' the owner answered. 'While you are pulling up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the workers what to do. Here is what I will say to them. First collect the weeds. Tie them in bundles to be burned. Then gather the wheat. Bring it into my storeroom.'^{2Matt.13:24-30}

Why will Jesus' return?

To take us Home

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."*Jn.14:1-4

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.^{1Thess.4:14-18}

To complete the defeat/destruction of the evil one

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will this happen? What will be the sign that you are coming again, and when will the world come to an end?" Jesus answered them, "Be careful not to let anyone deceive you. Many will come using my name. They will say, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many people. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars. Don't be alarmed! These things must happen, but they don't mean that the end has come. Nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All of these are only the beginning pains of the end. Then they will hand you over to those who will torture and kill you. All nations will hate you because you are committed to me. Then many will lose faith. They will betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. And because there will be more and more lawlessness, most people's love will grow cold. But the person who endures to the end will be saved. This Good News about the kingdom will be spread throughout the world as a testimony to all nations. Then the end will come."^{2Matt.24:3-14}

When will Jesus' return?

No one knows the date or time

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"^{Mk/13:32-37}

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.^{2Pet.3:8-10}

"The world will not last past 1734." Nicholas of Cusa, 1401-1464

"The second coming will take place in the year 1533." Melchior Hofmann, 1531

"The last day is at hand. My calendar has run out. I know nothing more in my Scriptures." Martin Luther, 1532

"I predict the absolute fullness of man's operation on planet Earth by the year 2000 A.D. Then Jesus Christ shall reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years." Lester Sumrall, "I Predict 2000 A.D." 1990

"Only if the Bible is in error am I wrong, and I say that unequivocally. There is no way Biblically that I can be wrong; and I say that to every preacher in town." Edgar C. Whisenant, "88 Reasons Why The Rapture Is In 1988", Nashville, 1988

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30

It's eye opening to realise what this verse does not say. It does not say that Christ will appear on the earth. Again Christ is using Old Testament language to convey His message:

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Daniel 7:13

Christ appears to be quoting Daniel 7:13. This verse gives us increased insight into what Christ is saying in Matthew 24:30. Many have assumed that Christ is describing His *descent to earth*. But these verses actually describe an **ascent to the Father** (*the Ancient of Days*). This is why we must reject links made between *First Thessalonians 4:17*, which **describes Christ descent**, and *Matthew 24:30*.

They are two separate events!

Christ is stating (and Daniel 7:13 affirms), that His *parousia* will be with the clouds of Heaven- not earth! The expression "*the Lord coming on the clouds*" and its variants are Old Testament metaphors describing God judging a nation. These times are often described as a day of the Lord.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind; He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers. Psalm 104:3-4

"Behold, he goes up like clouds, And his chariots like the whirlwind; His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are ruined!" Jeremiah 4:13

For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time of doom for the nations. Ezekiel 30:3

What is also enlightening is the following verse in Daniel 7 from where Christ is quoting. It is my conviction that Christ is describing the **close of the Old Covenant** and the **beginning of His Kingdom on earth** (not a "millennial reign" but a **New Covenant Kingdom**). Otherwise Matthew 16:28 not only makes no sense, it actually makes Christ a liar!

How should we prepare for Jesus' return?

Be ready

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar. Fire will destroy everything in them. God will judge the earth and everything in it. So everything will be destroyed. And what kind of people should you be? You should lead holy and godly lives. Live like that as you look forward to the day of God. It will make the day come more quickly. On that day fire will destroy the heavens. Its heat will melt everything in them. But we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth. Godliness will make its home there. All of this is in keeping with God's promise. Dear friends, I know you are looking forward to that. So try your best to be found pure and without blame. Be at peace with God.^{2Pet.3:10-14}

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people.

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.^{1Pet.4:7-11}

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.^{Rom.13:11-14}

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!^{Jas.5:7-9}

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.^{Col.4:2-6}

A lady once asked John Wesley how he would spend the intervening time, if he knew he would die at midnight tomorrow. His reply: "Why madam, just as I intend to spend it now. I would preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at five tomorrow morning; after that I would ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the societies in the evening. I would then go to Rev. Martin's house, who expects to entertain me, talk and pray with the family as usual, retire to my room at 10 o'clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in Glory." Wesley was then asked what he would do if he knew his Lord would return at that time the next day and he replied: "I would go to bed and go to sleep; wake up in the morning, and go on with my work, for I would want Him to find me doing what he had appointed."

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Yes, we must remain ready because: *the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.* ^{Lk.12:40}

Be dressed and ready for service!

The Rapture? The Reformers of the sixteenth century saw sharp parallels between the apparent evils of an apostate religious group, as described in the Book of Revelation, and the Church of Rome. This opinion was so strong among the Reformers that they went as far as declaring that the Pope was the Anti-Christ, and the Roman Church was the Harlot of Babylon. One only needs to read the Westminster Confession of Faith which plainly states this belief.

VI. There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof. but is that Antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalts himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God.

Many believe that this attack on the Roman Catholic Church, known as Historicism, was strategically countered by a Jesuit, Francisco Ribera (1537 – 1591). He deflected some of this attack by developing the Futurist eschatological system. He published a book in 1591, in which he claimed that the Anti-Christ, the Fall of Babylon, and the destruction of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem would all take place in the final seven years before the commencement of the millennium. Out of the seeds of Futurism grew the teaching of Edward Irving.

Edward Irving (1792-1834) was minister of the Church of Scotland. He was also influenced by the writings of another Jesuit Priest, Emmanuel Lacunza (who used the pseudonym Juan Josafat Ben-Ezra) who wrote a book, “The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty”. Irving translated this Spanish book into English and added a 203 page Preface.

When the Lord shall have finished the taking of witness against the Gentiles... he will begin to prepare another ark of testimony... and to that end will turn his Holy Spirit unto his ancient people, the Jews, and bring them unto those days of refreshing... This outpouring of the Spirit is known in Scripture by ‘the latter rain’. Published by L.B. Seeley & Sons, 1827, London, pp. 5-6.

Irving planted the seeds of Dispensationalism which greatly influenced two other men. The first was John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), an Anglican minister who left the Church of Ireland to commence the Plymouth Brethren. The other was Henry Drummond (1786-1860), a banker, who founded the Catholic Apostolic Church.

In 1831 both Edward Irving and John Nelson Darby began to postulate a two-staged return of Christ. Some believe that Irving was influenced by a young girl, Margaret McDonald, who apparently received this ‘revelation’ from the Lord of a “rapture” of the Church before a time of Great Tribulation at the end of the age.

Through a series of Prophetic Conferences in England and the United States, this view gained popularity. But its most accelerated acceptance came when Cyrus Scofield (1843 – 1921) published his Reference Bible which incorporated the essential elements of Dispensationalism (including a secret rapture of the Church) into its study notes. This was published in 1909. Other such Dispensational Study Bibles began to appear throughout the twentieth century, including Dakes Annotated Reference Bible which almost became the standard text for the growing number of Pentecostals throughout the United States of America and Australia.

Throughout the twentieth century the Rapture theory has been prolifically promoted by Hal Lindsay’s now discredited book, Late Great Planet Earth, and more recently by Tim LaHaye’s and Jerry Jenkins’ fictional Left Behind series.

08/06/2022

Psalm 33:1-11

The 8 Greatest True Stories in The Bible, Video Bible Study, Part 6

Questions

Can a ritual impart any spiritual benefit?

What does the Bible teach about the relationship between State and Church?

Should a person's position in the Church be linked to their social status rather than their spiritual status?

Can we have a role in both the State Kingdom and God's Kingdom?

What are the basic values of God's Kingdom?

Comments

Can a ritual impart any spiritual benefit?

Only faith can impart any spiritual benefit—action (even doing what God has said) without faith is a ritual and keeps people disconnected from God

Abel had faith. So he offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. Because of his faith Abel was praised as a godly man. God said good things about his offerings. Because of his faith Abel still speaks. He speaks even though he is dead... Without faith it isn't possible to please God. Those who come to God must believe that he exists. And they must believe that he rewards those who look to him. Heb. 11:4-6

Abel took care of sheep. Cain worked the ground. After some time, Cain gathered some of the things he had grown. He brought them as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought the fattest parts of some of the lambs from his flock. They were the male animals that were born first to their mothers. The LORD was pleased with Abel and his offering. But he wasn't pleased with Cain and his offering. So Cain became very angry. His face was sad. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why are you looking so sad? Do what is right. Then you will be accepted. If you don't do what is right, sin is waiting at your door to grab you. It longs to have you. But you must rule over it." Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." So they went out. There Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Gen. 4:2-8

Obedience is better than sacrifice *i.e.* God is not so concerned with what we do as why we do it!

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." 1Sam. 15:22-23

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. Hos. 6:6

"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. "When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. Mk 12:32-34*

What does the Bible teach about the relationship between State and Church?

We should honour the State, pray for the national leaders and obey the laws but the Church is not part of the State.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1Tim. 2:1-4

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government. 2Pet. 2:13-17 [TM]

There never has been a "Christian Country" because nations are made up of individuals who may or may not be Believers. In the OT God dealt with nations, kingdom and people groups (see Exodus and Daniel), but under the New Covenant God deals with individuals.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Rom.3:22-24

As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom.10:11-13

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal.3:28-29

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. Acts.2:17-18

However, heaven will be made up of people from every nation:

I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same," he said. He accepts people from every nation. He accepts all who have respect for him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. Acts.10:34-36

After this I looked, and there in front of me was a huge crowd of people. They stood in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb. There were so many that no one could count them. They came from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were wearing white robes. In their hands they were holding palm branches. They cried out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne. Rev.7:9-10

The Divine Rights of Kings asserts that a monarch is not accountable to any earthly authority (such as a parliament) because their right to rule is derived from divine authority. Thus, the monarch is not subject to the will of the people, of the aristocracy, or of any other estate of the realm. It then follows that only divine authority can judge a monarch, and that any attempt to depose, dethrone or restrict their powers runs contrary to God's will and may constitute a sacrilegious act. It is often expressed in the phrase by the *Grace of God*, which has historically been attached to the titles of certain reigning monarchs. Richard I of England was kidnapped on his way back from the Crusades and at his trial at Speyer Germany in 1193 declared: "*I am born in a rank which recognizes no superior but God, to whom alone I am responsible for my actions*", and it was Richard who first used the motto "*Dieu et mon droit*" ("God and my right") which is still the motto of the Monarch of the United Kingdom. Henry VIII of England declared himself the Supreme Head of the Church of England and exerted the power of the throne more than any of his predecessors. It was further developed by James VI of Scotland (1567–1625) and came to the fore in England under his reign as James I of England (1603–1625). Louis XIV of France (1643–1715) strongly promoted the theory as well. Before the Reformation the anointed king was within his realm, the accredited *vicar of God* for secular purposes; after the Reformation he (or she, if queen regnant) became this in Protestant states for religious purposes also. In England, it is not without significance that the sacerdotal vestments, generally discarded by the clergy – dalmatic, alb and stole (liturgical vestments) – continued to be among the insignia of the sovereign (see Coronation of the British monarch).

The divine right of kings was the main issue of the English Civil War, the Royalists holding that "all Christian kings, princes and governors" derive their authority direct from God, the Parliamentarians that this authority is the outcome of a contract, actual or implied, between sovereign and people.

The Magna Carta made the king promise that justice would not be sold to the highest bidder, that due process and the laws of the land would be observed, and that the right to trial by jury was entrenched. These provisions underpinned the development of a genuine rule of law in succeeding centuries, especially after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 created a truly independent judiciary by doing away with the Crown's former right to hire and fire judges at will.

Should a person's position in the Church be linked to their social status or to their spiritual status?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Social status has no spiritual value. Service in the Church is dependant on a person's calling, gifting, willingness, recognition and experience.

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. 1Tim.3:1-13

So if you want to press charges in matters like that, appoint as judges members of the church who aren't very important! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that no one among you is wise enough to judge matters between believers? 1Cor.6:4-5

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2Tim.2:1-3

Can we have a role in both the State Kingdom and God's Kingdom?

Yes! But with caution:

No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 2Tim.2:4-5

After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Lk.8:1-3

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Phil.4:21-23

Do everything you can to help Zenos the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. Tit.3:13

All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. Phil.4:22

Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings. Rom.16:23

What are the basic values of God's Kingdom?

The values of God's Kingdom are the same as the Values of God i.e. His character—the fruit of the Spirit:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Against such things there is no law. Gal.5:22-23

Everlasting, now, expanding, righteous, power, majesty, splendour. It is for the poor in spirit (not people with a spirit of poverty!) for the humble and for the childlike (not childish).

They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. Ps.145:11-13

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.^{Matt.5:3-11}

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.*Rom.14:17-18

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*1Cor.4:20

01/06/2022

Psalm 32:5-11

Video: C ten Boom heaven

Questions

What does repent meant?

How is repentance linked with remission (forgiveness) of sins? (Lk.24:47)

Is there a difference between penance and penitence?

What does this mean: *there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God.* ^{Lk.15:9-10?}

Is God's forgiveness conditional or unconditional?

Should the State forgive people unconditionally?

Should we forgive people unconditionally?

Comments

What does repent meant?

To repent means: *to change your mind*, and in Christian terms, this means: *to change your mind about God*. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to convict about wrong thinking and then enable people to change their minds about sin, righteousness and judgement:

Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. ^{Jn.16:7-11}

True repentance which will always include these 5 A's:

Acknowledgement of the wrong.

Apology for the wrong.

Action of determination to change.

Appreciation of God's forgiveness.

Attitude of grace, gratitude and gentleness towards God and people.

Without repentance there can be no restoration and neither can there be any true rejoicing:

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. ^{2Cor.7:10}

Even Christians are expected to repent:

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favour: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate... Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. ^{Rev.2:4-6;14-17}

How is repentance linked with remission (forgiveness) of sins? (Lk.24:47)

This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. ^{Lk.24:46-49}

Repentance is the basis of our salvation:

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength (but you would have none of it). ^{Is.30:15}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! Ezek.18:30-32

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, **but everyone to come to repentance**. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.*^{2Pet.3:9-12}

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.' Lk.3:4-6

God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts.5:31-32

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals. For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. Heb.9:22-24

Is there a difference between penance and penitence?

Penance is paying for sins or making retribution to assuage the guilt

Punishment inflicted on oneself as an outward expression of repentance for wrongdoing. A sacrament in which a member of the Church confesses sins to a priest and is given absolution. In the Roman Catholic Church often called sacrament of reconciliation.

Penance is any act or a set of actions done out of repentance for sins committed, as well as an alternate name for the Catholic, Lutheran, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. It also plays a part in confession among Anglicans and Methodists, in which it is a rite, as well as among other Protestants. The word penance derives from Old French and Latin *paenitentia*, both of which derive from the same root meaning repentance, the desire to be forgiven (in English see contrition). Penance and repentance, similar in their derivation and original sense, have come to symbolize conflicting views of the essence of repentance, arising from the controversy as to the respective merits of "faith" and "good works". Word derivations occur in many languages.

According to dictionary definitions, the primary meaning of penance is the deeds done out of penitence, which also focuses more on the external actions than does repentance which refers to the true, interior sorrow for one's hurtful words or actions. Only repentance implies a purpose of amendment which means the resolve to avoid such hurtful behaviour in the future. The words "true" and "firm" might be added to all but penance, to specify the depth of change in one's hurtful attitude. Contrition is the state of feeling remorseful, and can describe both the show of regret to the deepest and firmest sorrow for one's wrongdoings.

The Lutheran sacraments are "*sacred acts of divine institution*". Lutherans believe that, whenever they are properly administered by the use of the physical component commanded by God along with the divine words of institution, God is, in a way specific to each sacrament, present with the Word and physical component. They teach that God earnestly offers to all who receive the sacrament forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. They teach that God also works in the recipients to get them to accept these blessings and to increase the assurance of their possession.

Penitence is remorse for sins the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong; repentance.

Forms of Penitence — Confession (CofE)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done those things that we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

There is an eternal difference that one or two letters make! The scholarly Philip Melanchthon sought is burly friend Martin Luther and pointed out to him that the Greek word that had always been translated **penance** really meant **repentance**, a change of heart. Judas performed **penance** when he went out and hanged himself; Peter exhibited **penitence** when he went out and wept bitterly. F.W.Boreham, *The Late Lark Singing*

What does this mean: *there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God.*^{Lk.15:9-10?}

God and all of heaven is very happy when a person repents

Heaven is a very happy place

Angels interact with God

Is God's forgiveness conditional or unconditional?

God's forgiveness is unconditional. We didn't deserve God's forgiveness, but He forgave us anyway—because that is His character!

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.^{Ps.86:15}

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.^{1Jn.4:9-10}

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.^{Rom.5:8-10}

But God's forgiveness is time limited:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'^{Matt.25:31-46}

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.^{Rev.22:18-21}

We should not take God for granted or abuse His kindness:

Do you have contempt for God, who is very kind to you, puts up with you, and deals patiently with you? Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to him and change the way you think and act? [God is kind, but he's not soft.TM] Since you are stubborn and don't want to change the way you think and act, you are adding to the anger that God will have against you on that day when God vents his anger. At that time God will reveal that his decisions are fair. He will pay all people back for what they have done. He will give everlasting life to those who search for glory, honour, and immortality by persisting in doing what is good. But he will bring anger and fury on those who, in selfish pride, refuse to believe the truth and who follow what is wrong.^{Rom.2:4-8}

Restoration is conditional upon repentance:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'"^{†Matt. 3:7-9}

Should the State forgive people unconditionally?

No! The punishment should fit the crime (*Pirates of Penzance*)

All of you must be willing to obey completely those who rule over you. There are no authorities except the ones God has chosen. Those who now rule have been chosen by God. So when you oppose the authorities, you are opposing those whom God has appointed. Those who do that will be judged. If you do what is right, you won't need to be afraid of your rulers. But watch out if you do what is wrong! You don't want to be afraid of those in authority, do you? Then do what is right. The one in authority will praise you. He serves God and will do you good. But if you do wrong, watch out! The ruler doesn't carry a sword for no reason at all. He serves God. And God is carrying out his anger through him. The ruler punishes anyone who does wrong. You must obey the authorities. Then you will not be punished. You must also obey them because you know it is right. That's also why you pay taxes. The authorities serve God. Ruling takes up all their time. Give to everyone what you owe. Do you owe taxes? Then pay them. Do you owe anything else to the government? Then pay it. Do you owe respect? Then give it. Do you owe honour? Then show it.^{Rom. 13:1-7}

Should we forgive people unconditionally?

Yes

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.^{Matt. 6:14-15}

but forgiveness is not the same as restoring fellowship

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.^{Tit. 3:10-11}

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."^{Matt. 18:21-22}

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."^{Lk. 17:1-6}

25/05/2022

Feasting. *Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.*^{Lk.14:15}

Psalm 32:1-7

The 8 Greatest True Stories in The Bible, Video Bible Study, Part 5- The Prophets Who Heard From God

Questions

Is it unspiritual or wrong to socialise and enjoy physical food?

What is spiritual food?

How can we feast on spiritual food?

What sort of banquet do you think we will have in heaven?

What does perseverance mean?

How can we ensure that we truly respect God and not show contempt for Him?

What can we do to ensure that we do persevere?

Comments

Is it unspiritual or wrong to socialise and enjoy physical food?

Asceticism is a lifestyle characterized by abstinence from sensual pleasures, often for the purpose of pursuing spiritual goals. The practitioners of this philosophy abandon sensual pleasures and lead an abstinent lifestyle, in the pursuit of redemption, salvation or spirituality. Many ascetics believe the action of purifying the body helps to purify the soul, and thus obtain a greater connection with the Divine or find inner peace.

Asceticism gauges holiness by what is denied or given up but everything God created is good and a gift for our enjoyment—albeit, within His rules! The Dead Sea Scrolls revealed ascetic practices of the ancient Jewish sect of Essenes who took vows of abstinence to prepare for a holy war.

*Give us today our daily bread.*Matt.6:11

*You might say to yourselves, "Our power and our strong hands have made us rich." But remember the LORD your God. He gives you the ability to produce wealth. That shows he stands by the terms of his covenant. He promised it with an oath to your people long ago. And he's still faithful to his covenant today.*Deut.8:17-18

*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.*1Tim.4:1-9

A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.^{Ecd.2:24-26}

So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.^{Ecd.8:15}

Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.

*Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labour under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*Ecd.9:7-10

Righteousness comes through faith in Jesus

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Rom.1:17

Righteousness is now our nature. Righteousness is not an action but our new God-given nature. We can never be more righteous than we are right now.

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Rom.5:17-19

We can never be more holy in God's sight than we already are—Jesus has become our righteousness and has dressed us in His righteousness.

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1Cor.1:30

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor.5:21

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, Is.61:10

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) Rev.19:7-8

Although righteousness is now our nature, maturity is a process.

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. Heb.10:14-18

What is spiritual food?

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matt.4:3-4

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Jn.4:34

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." Jn.6:28-29

How can we feast on spiritual food?

Enjoy God. Read, study and meditate God's Word—and then put it into practice

Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Josh.1:7-8

"As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever," says the LORD. Is.59:21

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Ps.119:97-104

What sort of banquet do you think we will have in heaven?

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." Lk.14:15

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Matt.26:27-29

And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*Lk.22:29-30

*"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*Rev.19:6-9

*On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.*Is.25:6-8

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."[Isa 25:8] 1Cor.15:41-54

What does perseverance mean?

Never give up

*To him who overcomes, I will give...*Rev.2-3

*This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*1Jn.5:2-5

*Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."*Gen.32:28

How can we ensure that we truly respect God and not show contempt for Him?

*"But you ask, 'How have we ever shown contempt for your name?' "You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar... But my name is honoured by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honour of my name. For my name is great among the nations," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "But you dishonour my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it's all right to defile the Lord's table. You say, 'It's too hard to serve the LORD,' and you turn up your noses at my commands," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.*Mal.1:6-13

*Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things [greed, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful, fidelity, no love, no mercy] is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*Rom.2:2-4

What can we do to ensure that we do persevere?

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess**, for he who promised is faithful. And **let us consider how we may spur one another on** toward love and good deeds. **Let us not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but **let us encourage one another**—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*Heb.19:19-25

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Heb.10:35-36

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Jas. 5:7-11

18/05/2022

Psalm 31:14-24

The 8 Greatest True Stories in The Bible, Video Bible Study, Part 5- The Prophets Who Heard From God

The Heathen and the Unknown God by Greg Koukl (www.str.org)

Questions

Please find Bible references to support your comments

- ✓ **What are your thoughts on Greg Koukl's statement:** *I don't believe he will be saved without the gospel of Jesus Christ.*
- ✓ **What are your thoughts on C.S.Lewis' statement:** *If their intentions were as good as I suppose them to have been...I hope and believe that the skill and mercy of God will remedy the evils which their ignorance, left to itself, would naturally produce. (C.S. Lewis, God in the Dock)*
- ✓ **What are your thoughts on Weiss' statement:** *all human beings, as long as they are decent, as long as they uphold the fundamental commandments...are promised a place in the world to come.*
- ✓ **Has God revealed that mere sincerity is adequate?**
- ✓ **Is forgiveness available to everyone?**
- ✓ **What are your thoughts on Greg K's statement that the most important issue is:** *What will each of us do with the message we've heard?*

Comments

1 What are your thoughts on Greg Koukl's statement: *I don't believe he will be saved without the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Or **Is faith in Jesus Christ essential for salvation?**

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father also. From now on, you do know him. And you have seen him." Jn.14:6-7
For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. 1Tim.2:5-6

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. Jn.3:18

2 What are your thoughts on C.S.Lewis' statement: *If their intentions were as good as I suppose them to have been...I hope and believe that the skill and mercy of God will remedy the evils which their ignorance, left to itself, would naturally produce. (C.S. Lewis, God in the Dock)*

Or **God is love and so will He forgive everyone even if they don't know any better!**

The road to hell is paved with good intentions!

The Gospel is inclusive and exclusive—it includes everyone who believes but excludes everyone who doesn't believe.

Without faith it isn't possible to please God. Those who come to God must believe that he exists. And they must believe that he rewards those who look to him. Heb.11:6

God will judge on the revelation we have—not on the revelation we don't have but no-one has an excuse not to believe in the Creator when He is plainly evident through His creation:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Rom.1:18-20

I saw the dead, great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened. Then another book was opened. It was the Book of Life. The dead were judged by what they had done. The things they had done were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it. And Death and Hell gave up their dead. Each of the dead was judged by what he had done. Then Death and Hell were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

death. *Anyone whose name was not written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.* Rev.20:12-15

3 What are your thoughts on Weiss' statement: *all human beings, as long as they are decent, as long as they uphold the fundamental commandments...are promised a place in the world to come.*

Or Is everyone who is kind and caring guaranteed a place in heaven!

This view is especially promoted at funerals!

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Rom.3:10-12

Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins. Eccl.3:20

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." Jn.3:5

All law requires perfection. Note James:

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. Jas.2:10-11

4 Has God revealed that mere sincerity is adequate?

In his sermon on Mars Hill, ^{Acts.17:22-31} Paul acknowledged that the Athenians were "very religious in all aspects." Indeed, they had even erected an idol "to an unknown God." Worshiping in ignorance, however—even with Lewis's "good intentions"—was not adequate, Paul instructed them.

The Jews had zeal.

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Rom.10:1-4

It was the same zeal that compelled Paul to vigorously pursue Christians from city to city, punishing them, imprisoning them, and even overseeing their executions. ^{Acts.26:9-11} It was this misdirected zeal—this errant sincerity—that qualified Paul not as a righteous religious man but as the foremost of sinners. ^{1Tim.1:13-15} Sincere zeal must be aligned with truth.

Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 2Tim.1:4

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Col.3:22-24

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. 2Cor.1:12

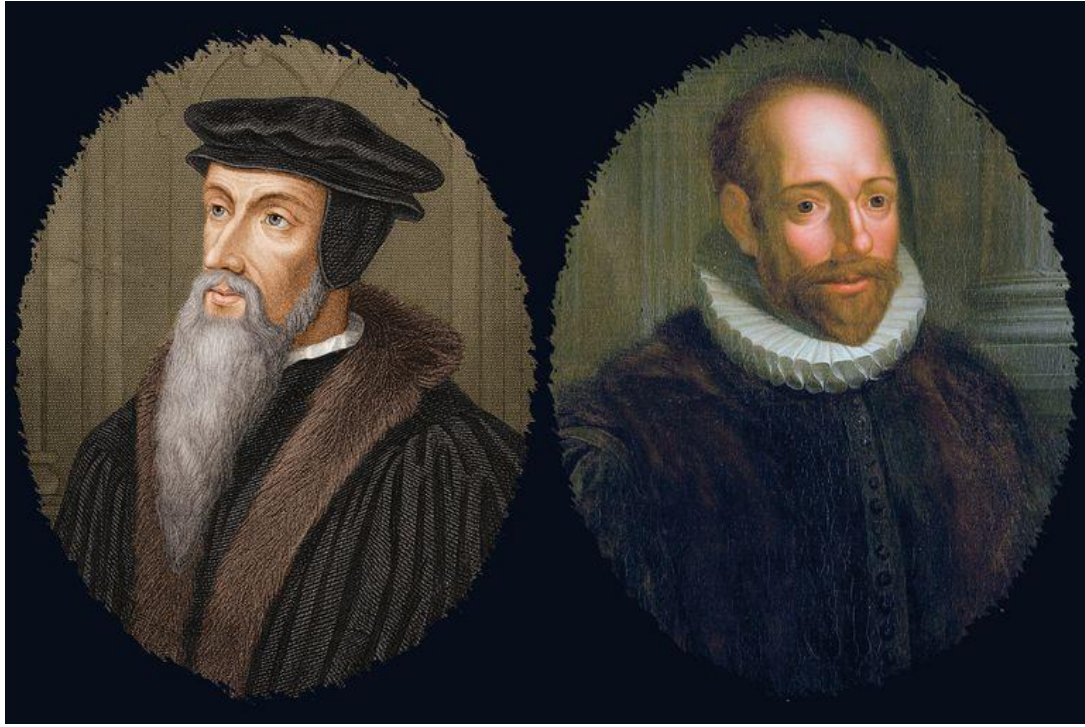
Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Rom.10:1-4

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. Rom.9:30-32

5 Is forgiveness available to everyone?

The difference between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility has been discussed and argued since before the Church began, but both are clearly stated in Scripture. Extreme Calvinism holds that that God alone chooses to save and extreme Arminianism puts all the emphasis on man

Calvinism and Arminianism



John Calvin 1509-1564 (French/Swiss) — Jacobus Arminius 1560-1609 (Dutch)

The **TULIP** of Calvinism—the five points of Calvinism (from the Synod of Dort 1618–19).”
Total depravity, **U**nconditional election, **L**imited atonement, **I**rresistible grace, and **P**erseverance of the saints.

Calvinism & Arminianism	
<u>Arminianism</u>	<u>Calvinism</u>
1. Sinner, can do good & respond to God	• Man unable of self to respond to God
2. God elects on basis of foreseen faith	• God elects according to His good pleasure
3. Christ died for all	• Christ died for Elect
4. Man can resist God	• Irresistible election
5. Believer may lose salvation	• Elect can never lose salvation

The distinction of the two views can actually be summed up into five points. These are views on how we face depravity, how we are chosen, how we are atoned, how we are rebirth, and how we should persevere.

God's Sovereignty

The sovereignty of God is the belief that God is in complete control over everything that happens in the universe. His rule is supreme, and his will is the final cause of all things.

Calvinism: In Calvinist thinking, God's sovereignty is unconditional, unlimited, and absolute. All things are predetermined by the good pleasure of God's will. God foreknew because of his own planning.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Arminianism: To the Arminian, God is sovereign, but has limited his control in correspondence with man's freedom and response. God's decrees are associated with his foreknowledge of man's response.

Man's Depravity

Calvinists believe in the total depravity of man while Arminians hold to an idea dubbed "partial depravity."

Calvinism: Because of the Fall, man is totally depraved and dead in his sin. Man is unable to save himself and, therefore, God must initiate salvation.

Arminianism: Because of the Fall, man has inherited a corrupted, depraved nature. Through "prevenient grace," God removed the guilt of Adam's sin. Prevenient grace is defined as the preparatory work of the Holy Spirit, given to all, enabling a person to respond to God's call to salvation.

Election

Election refers to the concept of how people are chosen for salvation. Calvinists believe election is unconditional, while Arminians believe election is conditional.

Calvinism: Before the foundation of the world, God unconditionally chose (or "elected") some to be saved. Election has nothing to do with man's future response. The elect are chosen by God.

Arminianism: Election is based on God's foreknowledge of those who would believe in him through faith. In other words, God elected those who would choose him of their own free will. Conditional election is based on man's response to God's offer of salvation.

Christ's Atonement

Atonement is the most controversial aspect of the Calvinism vs. Arminianism debate. It refers to Christ's sacrifice for sinners. To the Calvinist, Christ's atonement is limited to the elect. In Arminian thinking, atonement is unlimited. Jesus died for all people.

Calvinism: Jesus Christ died to save only those who were given to him (elected) by the Father in eternity past. Since Christ did not die for everyone, but only for the elect, his atonement is wholly successful.

Arminianism: Christ died for everyone. The Savior's atoning death provided the means of salvation for the entire human race. Christ's atonement, however, is effective only for those who believe.

Grace

God's grace has to do with his call to salvation. Calvinism says God's grace is irresistible, while Arminianism argues that it can be resisted.

Calvinism: While God extends his common grace to all humankind, it is not sufficient to save anyone. Only God's irresistible grace can draw the elect to salvation and make a person willing to respond. This grace cannot be obstructed or resisted.

Arminianism: Through the preparatory (prevenient) grace given to all by the Holy Spirit, man is able to cooperate with God and respond in faith to salvation. Through prevenient grace, God removed the effects of Adam's sin. Because of "free will" men are also able to resist God's grace.

Man's Will

The free will of man versus God's sovereign will is linked to many points in the Calvinism vs. Arminianism debate.

Calvinism: All men are totally depraved, and this depravity extends to the entire person, including the will. Except for God's irresistible grace, men are entirely incapable of responding to God on their own.

Arminianism: Because prevenient grace is given to all men by the Holy Spirit, and this grace extends to the entire person, all people have free will.

Perseverance

Perseverance of the saints is tied to the "once saved, always saved" debate and the question of eternal

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

security. The Calvinist says the elect will persevere in faith and will not permanently deny Christ or turn away from Him. The Arminian may insist that a person can fall away and lose his or her salvation. However, some Arminians embrace eternal security.

Calvinism: Believers will persevere in salvation because God will see to it that none will be lost. Believers are secure in the faith because God will finish the work he began.

Arminianism: By the exercise of free will, believers can turn away or fall away from grace and lose their salvation.

Different denominations disagree over which points are correct, rejecting all or some of either system of theology, leaving most believers with a mixed perspective.

Because both Calvinism and Arminianism deal with concepts that go far beyond human comprehension, the debate is certain to continue as finite beings try to explain an infinitely mysterious God.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1Jn.2:1-2

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. Jn.3:16-18

6 What are your thoughts on Greg K's statement that the most important issue is: *What will each of us do with the message we've heard?*

Rabbi Weiss voiced the concern at the heart of the problem of Christian exclusivism: *I would have to state very squarely...we don't accept that [people are lost without Christ] at all. We believe that the Almighty would have to be a very cruel, very unfeeling God that would make it necessary for so many millions of his children who are not in contact and who never have been in contact with anybody to spread the good news, to be damned eternally.* The rabbi, though, was making a mistake virtually everyone makes who balks at the demands of the gospel. It is a false assumption, a critical error made even by many Christians, a fundamental misunderstanding regarding those who have never heard the gospel. **No one goes to Hell for lack of belief in Christ**, whether they've heard of him or not. **Rather, they are punished for breaking God's law**—something everyone is guilty of. When the books are finally opened at the final reckoning, men will be judged by their deeds, not by their lack of belief, and everyone so judged perishes because each is guilty: **No one is lost for rejecting a Jesus he's never heard of. God will judge each person by the light given him and the life he has lived.** Point out, though, that this is not good news. God's fingerprints are evident everywhere, and we all know we consistently fail to live as we ought, so none of us has an excuse. We are all guilty. Men are held accountable for their own moral crimes against God, such as they are, and for rejecting the Father whose voice is heard everywhere. Further, God does not owe any person a pardon. God can reach any person in any circumstance. He is not limited by geography, technology, language, or culture. Anyone seeking the true God on God's terms will find him. The God they find, though, will not be the false gods of competing religions, but Jesus himself. Ultimately, we are responsible for our own destiny, not other peoples and *vice versa* other people are responsible for their destiny, not ours.

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Jn.3:3-5

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. Jn.1:12-13

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*him, and he with me.*Rev.3:20

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."Rom.10:11-13

11/05/2022

Psalm 31:7-16

Video 8 Greatest Stories part 4 12:30

Working without getting weary. *Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.* Lk. 13:24

Questions

What was Adam's work before the Fall?

How did the Fall affect Adam's life?

In what way has Jesus changed the way we live?

What work does God require from us?

What is the difference between working out our salvation and working for our salvation?

How can we ensure that our spiritual work is a blessing and not a burden?

Comments

What was Adam's work before the Fall?

Work and Worship

How did the Fall affect Adam's life?

After Adam sinned his work became a drudgery of sweat and toil for the rest of his life

So I am putting a curse on the ground because of what you did. All the days of your life you will have to work hard to get food from the ground. You will eat the plants of the field, even though the ground produces thorns and thistles. You will have to work hard and sweat a lot to produce the food you eat. You were made out of the ground. And you will return to it. You are dust. So you will return to it. Gen. 3:17-19

Adam was aware of good and evil—right and wrong—and was banned from the Garden so he wouldn't have to stay isolated from God:

The LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife to wear. The LORD God said, "The man has become like one of us. He can now tell the difference between good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and pick fruit from the tree of life and eat it. If he does, he will live forever." So the LORD God drove the man out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground he had been made out of. The LORD God drove him out and then placed cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden. He also placed a flaming sword there. It flashed back and forth. The cherubim and the sword guarded the way to the tree of life. Gen. 3:21-24

In what way has Jesus changed the way we live?

Jesus has restored the joy of serving God

For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 1Thess. 3:8-9

Jesus redeemed us from this curse:

Christ set us free from the curse of the law. He did it by becoming a curse for us. It is written, "Everyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse." Christ Jesus set us free so that the blessing given to Abraham would come to us through Christ. He did it so that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by believing in Christ. Gal. 3:13-14

What the OT saints had in part, Jesus has given us in full:

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Ps. 110:4

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. Heb. 8:6

Jesus has given us the opportunity to eat of the Tree of Life and live in fellowship with God

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Rev. 2:7

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Rev.21:12-20

What work does God require from us?

Our primary work is to believe in Jesus whom God has sent.

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” Jn.6:26-29

This belief consists of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength—and behaving like God too.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it? He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” Lk.10:25-28

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1Jn.4:19-21

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Eph.4:22-24

What is the difference between working out our salvation and working for our salvation?

We work out our salvation with fear and trembling:

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. Phil.2:12-16

In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. I am glad I can have complete confidence in you. 2Cor.7:13-16

And we work out our salvation by putting God’s Word into practice—that is, living by the principles of God’s kingdom and doing what He says:

Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it. Lk.11:28

But we don’t work for our salvation. If we try to work for our salvation we have to completely keep the entire law

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. Jas.2:10

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Gal.3:10-14

How can we ensure that our spiritual work is a blessing and not a burden?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people.

Jesus is joyful and it is joyful to be with Him:

But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." Heb.1:8-9

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Lk.4:18-21

We are to follow Jesus (and Jesus' followers)

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1Cor.11:1

Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1Cor.4:16-17

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Phil.2:5

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom.15:5-6

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1Pet.2:21

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Matt.16:24

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.' Jer.6:16

Relationship with Jesus is an enjoyment not an endurance—it is religion that is a burden

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt.11:28-30

To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings. We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell. Acts.15:23-29

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1Jn.5:1-5

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Heb.13:15-17

04/05/2022

Zoom

What are you wearing? *Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.* ^{Lk.12:35}

Questions

What was the significance of the clothes that Adam and Eve made?

What was the significance of the clothes that God gave to Adam and Eve?

What was the significance of the various parts of the OT priests' uniform?

How do the OT priests' clothes relate to us under the New Covenant?

What spiritual clothes has God given to us?

Comments

What was the significance of the clothes that Adam and Eve made?

There clothes were made from fig leaves which in typology represent religion—man's attempt to get right with God. Jesus cursed the fig tree at the same time as He drove out the money changers and sellers of the animals required for sacrifices under the OT as an illustration that religion would never produce spiritual fruit.

Jesus' actions are intentionally symbolic.

Like prophets of old, he makes a dramatic gesture acting out God's rejection of the temple cult and its coming destruction. He assaults the foundation of the temple's operation: the contributions and sacrifices. If money cannot exchange into the holy currency, then monetary support for the temple sacrifices and the priesthood must end. If sacrificial animals cannot sell, then sacrifice must end. And if no vessel can go through the temple, then all cultic activity must cease. He makes his point. The chief priests will take up his challenge and ask him by what authority he does these things (11:28). Jesus also attacks the temple operations that tended to encourage the merchandising of religion. Any church or ministry that tries to take advantage of the presence of God to make a profit, to hawk religious benefits like the peddlers in the bazaar, or to build a financial empire stands under his judgment.

He ... would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. *Mk.11:16*

This translation is misleading. It is perhaps based on Josephus's report that no one was allowed to carry vessels into the sanctuary and a passage from the Mishnah that forbids using the temple as a shortcut. The text, however, says that Jesus prevents them from carrying a "*vessel through the temple*". "*Vessel*" is used in the LXX for the sacred temple vessels for the bread of the Presence, lamp oil, and incense censers (see Is.52:11: "*the vessels of the LORD*").

The people involved are probably stunned by the power of Jesus' moral indignation. It is a modest clash since it does not spark the intervention of the Roman soldiers, who monitor the crowd from their post above the temple court in the Antonia Fortress. Jesus' actions in the temple market, therefore, do not seem to be some attempt to reform the temple practice. Overturning and driving out evoke images of judgment rather than reform. Those involved will soon set right their tables and pick up the scattered money. There is little comparison to what Jesus did and the purification of the temple by Josiah (2Kings 23) or Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc. 4:36–59).

He is not clearing commercial space for prayer. There is no evidence that the outer court was thought of positively as the place where Gentiles could worship. On the contrary, it was thought of as an area beyond which Gentiles could not go. The balustrade surrounding the sanctuary had warning signs cautioning any Gentile against proceeding any further, threatening death to violators (see Acts 21:27–30). There was plenty of room for Gentiles to pray in the outer court, and clearing a place for them to pray does not remove the barrier that kept them from the sacred place.

What was the significance of the clothes that God gave to Adam and Eve?

God exchanged Adam's clothes for skins, at least hinting that they came through the death of an innocent animal. The correct dress-code for God's people is what He provides

What was the significance of the various parts of the OT priests' uniform?

White linen represents holiness

The people (including priests) weren't permitted to wear clothes from a mixture of materials
Keep my decrees. Do not mate different kinds of animals. Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material. Lev.19:19.

This was to remind people of that they were holy and pure.

*Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him **dignity and honour**. Tell all the skilled workers to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest. These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests. Have them use gold, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.* Ex.28:2-5

*'Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he **will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD**. Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD. Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, with an opening for the head in its center. There shall be a woven edge like a collar* around this opening, so that it will not tear. Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die. Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban. It will be on Aaron's forehead, and he will bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be. It will be on Aaron's forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the LORD. Weave the tunic of fine linen and make the turban of fine linen. The sash is to be the work of an embroiderer. Make tunics, sashes and caps for Aaron's sons to give them dignity and honour. After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. Make linen undergarments as a covering for the body, reaching from the waist to the thigh. Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the tent of meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they will not incur guilt and die. 'This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants. Ex.28:29-44*

How do the OT priests' clothes relate to us under the New Covenant?

We should have dignity and honour—we are sons of God!

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Rev.1:17-18

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.' Acts.18:9-10

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted. Ps.138:2-3

The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. Prov.28:1

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Josh.1:9

This is especially important when we come to God

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb.4:16

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.* Eph.3:12

What spiritual clothes has God given to us?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)^{Rev. 19:7-8} These clothes are spiritual clothes—clothes of righteousness and praise: *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor... to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair... I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest.*^{Is. 61:1-10} May your priests be clothed with your righteousness; may your faithful people sing for joy.^{Ps. 132:9} The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”^{Zech. 3:4}

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”^{Rev. 3:14-22}

27/04/2022

Psalm 31:1-7

Video 8 Greatest Stories part 4

Questions

What does it mean to “truly love God”?

Explain what it means to love God with all your heart.

Explain what it means to love God with all your soul.

Explain what it means to love God with all your mind.

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him?

What did Jesus mean by “feed my sheep”?

If salvation is free^{Rom.6:23} why do we have to work out our salvation^{Phil.2:12}?

Comments

What does it mean to “truly love God”?

And so, to love God means to respect God, to communicate with God (through prayer and praise), to honour God and to share your life with Him—as prescribed by God’s Word—and of course, we do this joyfully, cheerfully and willingly. **And so we are to love God passionately, personally and purposefully—that is, we are to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind.**

Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her. He did it to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her with water and the word. He did it to bring her to himself as a brightly shining church. He wants a church that has no stain or wrinkle or any other flaw. He wants a church that is holy and without blame... "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.^{Eph.5:25-32}

Explain what it means to love God with all your heart.

Our love for God will be passionate if we realise that we have been forgiven much. Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, cancelling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the larger debt." "That's right,"^{Lk.7: 41-43} One of the main words for “praise” is “Hallelujah” and it literally means to be so in love with God that we are not ashamed to use our voices to express our love for Him (as in a marriage). This love can be emotional but it comes from a deeper place that our emotions—it comes from our heart. Our biological heart is the part of us that pumps blood around our body and we could call it the source of our life—when it stops, we are dead! Our metaphorical heart is the source of our life—our real life—our heart is our spirit. Our love for God has to come from our spirit because our spirit is the God-conscious part of us. It is our spirit that distinguishes us from the rest of Creation: *Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.*^{Gen.2:7} Since Adam sinned, mankind has been separated spiritually from God and until we are born again of the Spirit we can’t understand God: *The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.*^{1Cor.2:14} It takes the new-birth to enter God’s Kingdom: *Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*^{Jn.3:5-8} This spirit-life is not a half-hearted, take-it-or-leave-it life but a gushing life: *Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*^{Jn.7:38-39} Yes! God wants us to be totally absorbed with Him and His will and love Him from our heart

Explain what it means to love God with all your soul.

Our new spiritual life involves living as part of God's family—the greatest and most wonderful loving family there is—and leads to a life that is rich and satisfying: *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly [My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life].*^{Jn.10:10} But this rich and satisfying life does not come from any self-help manual or through any personal effort—it is a gift from God: *For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*^{Rom.5:17} And although this spiritual life is a free gift, the way we live that life is our choice—we can decide to live God's way or our way. Living God's way is called “maturity” and comes from recognising the difference between right and wrong: *For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong. So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding.*^{Heb.5:13-6:1} Maturity is the development of our soul—our personality. Our spirit is a gift from God and is complete from our new birth—and imperishable (incorruptible) but our soul is not mature and is capable of being impure! *You have purified your souls by obeying the truth in order to show sincere mutual love. So love one another earnestly from a pure heart. You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.*^{1Pet.1:22-23} Loving God involves choosing to love Him by obeying His commands and by respecting Him. Although we love God as “Our Father, who is in heaven,” we should always respect Him as “Almighty God”. *Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.*^{Ps.34:9} Some versions of the Bible translate “fear” as “respect”: *You people of God, have respect for the LORD. Those who respect him have everything they need.*

Explain what it means to love God with all your mind.

Loving God not only involves our heart and our soul, it also involves our mind—we should think through our commitment to God and change our thinking by renewing our minds: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*^{Rom.12:1-2} That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*^{Eph.4:20-24} Our mind is very complex and can store information both consciously and unconsciously. That information can be recalled at will (or not, if we forget) and used to assist us. There are some practical helps in retaining information, such as writing it down, reading it aloud, putting the words to music, associating the information with ideas or pictures, etc. Moses explained this to the Israelites thousands of years ago: *Israel, listen to me. The LORD is our God. The LORD is the one and only God. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength. The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up. Write them down and tie them on your hands as a reminder. Also tie them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses. Also write them on your gates.*^{Deut.6:4-9} We took that advice seriously in May 2006 by having a monthly memory verse—starting with: *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”*^{1Th.13:5-6} But we should, remember that the Scriptures are more than just words—they contain life that feeds our spirit and will enable us to be strong in our faith: *The Scriptures say: People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*^{Matt.4:4} *The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*^{Jn.6:63} If we don't work at our salvation, we are short-sighted and forget the reality of God forgiving our sins: *In*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are short-sighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.^{2Pet.1:5-11}

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.^{Phil.2:12-16}

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him?

Probably because he denied Jesus 3 times.

Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.^{Lk.22:60-62}

"Holy" seems to be the most precious word used to describe God. It is the only word emphasized three times to describe God (Isaiah 6). The Hebrews used this literary device to emphasize. If a word was used twice, such as *"Truly, truly..."*, what was about to be said was very true. If a word was used three times it was absolute and ultimate. God is described not as being *"holy, holy"* but as *"holy, holy, holy"*. *And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*^{Rev.4:8}

The word *"holy"* means *"different"*. But it's more than just obscure, it means *different* in the sense of **"not common"**, **"very, very, special"**. As it pertains to God, the word *holy* carries a sense of beauty, magnificence, awesome. While God is ***holy, holy, holy***, what is directly associated with Him is ***holy***. Thus, God calls His redeemed people, ***holy***. **To be a Christian is to be made holy.** Without being made holy, a person cannot see God let alone enter Heaven after this life - *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*^{1Heb.12:14}

What did Jesus mean by **"feed my sheep"**?

To feed is to act as a Shepherd—to look after, care, protect and provide for God's people.

Of course, Jesus is our model

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.^{Jn.10:11-14}

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.^{Heb.13:20-21}

Pastors are one of the named gifts to the Church

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.^{Eph.4:11-13}

But actually it is the Holy Spirit who is given to the Church and He manifests Himself as He chooses

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.^{1Cor.12:7-11}

And so each of us are to care for others—to look out for and assist in their welfare. This is

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

primarily others spiritual health but will also involve their mental and physical health as well.

For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!

Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Acts.20:27-31

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1Pet.5:2-4

Jude contrasts good shepherds with bad shepherds

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. Jude.11-13

If salvation is free^{Rom.6:23} why do we have to work out our salvation^{Phil.2:12}?

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom.6:23

God works our salvation

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.^{Ps.98:1-2}

It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them. Ps.44:3

He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; Is.59:16-17

For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. Is.63:4-5

but we work out our salvation

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. Phil.2:12-16

We work out our salvation by putting God's Word into practice

He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” Lk.11:28

20/04/2022

Psalm 30

Video Wesley Story And Hymns 57

Resurrection Day *It is true! The Lord has risen.* Lk.24:34

Questions.

Find some Bible verses that describe what Jesus was like before His resurrection (*i.e. in His mortal body*).

Find some Bible verses that describe what Jesus was like after His resurrection (*i.e. in His immortal body*).

What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

How does Jesus' resurrection affect your life?

How do you imagine the final resurrection will be like for you?

How are you preparing for that final resurrection?

Comments

Find some Bible verses that describe what Jesus was like before His resurrection (*i.e. in His mortal body*).

You will find a Babe **wrapped in swaddling cloths**, lying in a manger."Lk.2:12

And when eight days were completed for the **circumcision** of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was **conceived** in the womb.Lk.2:21

And the child **grew** and **became strong**; he was filled with **wisdom**, and the grace of God was on him.Lk.2:40

After three days they found him in the temple courts, **sitting** among the teachers, **listening** to them and **asking** them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his **understanding** and his answers... Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was **obedient** to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus **grew in wisdom and stature**, and in **favour** with God and man.Lk.2:46-52

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, **tired** as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you **give me a drink?**" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)Jn.4:6-8

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**"Jn.19:28

After fasting forty days and forty nights, **he was hungry**. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'Matt.4:2-4

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and **put his own clothes** on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.Matt.27:31

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent **cries and tears** to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he sufferedHeb.5:7-8

Jesus **wept**. Jn.11:35

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be **tempted** by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was **hungry**.Matt.4:1-2

Find some Bible verses that describe what Jesus was like after His resurrection (*i.e. in His immortal body*).

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, **clasped his feet** and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will **see me**."Matt.28:9-10

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have **flesh and bones, as you see I have**." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and **ate** it in their presence. Lk.24:37-42

When he was at the table with them, **he took bread, gave thanks, broke it** and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he **disappeared** from their sight. Lk.24:30-31

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was **taken up into heaven**. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. Lk.24:50-52

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the **doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them** and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see **my hands**. Reach out your hand and **put it into my side**. Stop doubting and believe." Jn.20:26-27

He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who **ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead**. Acts.10:41

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, **dressed** in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The **hair** on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his **eyes** were like blazing fire. His **feet** were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his **voice** was like the sound of rushing waters. In his **right hand** he held seven stars, and coming out of his **mouth** was a sharp, double-edged sword. His **face** was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his **feet** as though dead. Then he placed his **right hand** on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Rev.1:12-18

What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the first-fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1Cor.15:13-25

How does Jesus' resurrection affect your life?

Assurance; Confidence

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Rom.8:11

How do you imagine the final resurrection will be like for you?

How are you preparing for that final resurrection?

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. 1Thess.5:2-11

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1Cor.1:15-9

13/04/2022

Psalm 29

Video The 8 greatest Stories

Peace in troubled times

Questions

Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem?

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

Why did Jesus clean the Temple?

Is it wrong to be angry?

Why did God implement the Old Covenant if it didn't bring peace?

How does the New Covenant bring peace?

Comments

Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem?

To fulfil prophecy

This took place to fulfil the prophecy that said Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt.'^{Matt.21:4-5}

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken.*Zech.9:9-10

As a statement that He was a descendant of Judah and the Messiah

*nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes.*Gen.49:10-11

As a symbol of peace

*"You who ride on white donkeys, sitting on your saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road, consider the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the righteous acts of the LORD, the righteous acts of his warriors in Israel.*Jdg.5:10-11

And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. So he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it.

The prophet said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me," and they did so. Then he went out and found the body lying on the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had neither eaten the body nor mauled the donkey. So the prophet picked up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they mourned over him and said, "Alas, my brother!" 1Kg.13:12-30

[By riding on a donkey, Jesus was stating that He was coming in peace. But there is another prophecy (yet to be fulfilled) when Jesus will come in judgement—this is portrayed by Jesus coming on a horse:

I saw heaven standing open. There was a white horse, and its rider is named Faithful and True. With integrity he judges and wages war. His eyes are flames of fire. On his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him, but only he knows what it is. He wears clothes dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven, wearing pure, white linen, follow him on white horses. A sharp sword comes out of his mouth to defeat the nations. He will rule them with an iron sceptre and tread the winepress of the fierce anger of God Almighty. On his clothes and his thigh he has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.^{Rev.19:11-16}

When Jesus entered Jerusalem in peace, the crowds responded by shouting their praise and

declaring “peace in heaven”:

Then the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God for all the miracles they had seen. They shouted joyfully, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.”^{Lk.19:37-38}

But most of them did not recognise what would bring them peace:

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.”^{Lk.19:41-42}

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

To explain that religion (man’s attempt to cover himself before God) would never work

Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it... When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”^{Mk.11:13-21}

Fig leaves can be taken as representing religion—man’s attempt to cover up his guilt before a holy God, as illustrated by Adam and Eve:

Then their eyes were opened, and they both realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves.^{Gen.3:7}

The New Covenant makes us right with God and is illustrated by God’s clothes for Adam and Eve:

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.^{Gen.3:21}

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.^{Is.61:10}

However, you were taught to have a new attitude. You were also taught to become a new person created to be like God, truly righteous and holy.^{Eph.4:23-24}

Why did Jesus clean the Temple?

To explain that the Old Covenant with its rituals and ceremonies was finished

So when Jesus cleared the Temple of the animals that were being sold for the Old Covenant sacrifices, He was declaring that the Old Covenant (the Mosaic Law) was about to become obsolete—and they killed Him for it.

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.^{Heb.8:10-13}

Is it wrong to be angry?

God is described as angry about sin

Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled.^{Nu.11:10}

Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite officials. But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.^{Nu.22:21-22}

The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command.^{1Kg.11:9-10}

There is a righteous anger but we should not let it last more than a day

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.^{Eph.4:25-27}

Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. Tremble

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.*Ps.4:3-4

*“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.*Matt.5:21-22

Anger should be righteous not just a human emotion

*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*Jas.1:19-21

Why did God implement the Old Covenant if it didn't bring peace?

To show the seriousness of sin and God's remedy for sin

*What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ... So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.*Rom.7:7-12

*The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.*Heb.9:8-10

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

*Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins.*Heb.10:1-3

How does the New Covenant bring peace?

Jesus is the only human who is sinless and so only He could break the power of death caused by sin.

*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*Heb.2:14-18

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*Eph.2:13-18

*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*Rom.3:25-26

*In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.*Heb.10:16-18

*In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*Heb.10:22-

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*He bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*Is.53:4-5

*For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you, “says the LORD your Redeemer. To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, “says the LORD, who has compassion on you.*Is.54:7-10

*My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.*Ezek.37:24-28

06/04/2022

Psalm 28

Video 8 Greatest Stories 2 from 5

Questions: The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.^{Lk. 12:12}

What are the main differences between humans and the rest of God's created beings?

Is there a difference between anxiety, worry and concern?

What did Jesus mean when He said: *My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.*^{Jn. 14:23} ?

How can we keep our minds focused on spiritual matters?

How does God speak to us?

What is the difference between the Holy Spirit prompting us and our own spirit prompting us?

Comments

What are the main differences between humans and the rest of God's created beings?

Humans are made in God's image

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Gen. 1:26-27

The "image of God" means we have a spirit and which is eternal—but we are not all knowing or all powerful like God

I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Eccl. 3:10-11

Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? Job. 11:7-8

Humans alone can relate to God in a personal way and worship Him.

Only humans have a conscience and a moral code. Only humans are accountable to God (and to society) for their actions. Only humans can anticipate the future or the unknown.

When we anthropomorphise animals, we elevate them beyond their God-given status. Whilst this may appear to be harmless fun, this sentimental attachment can lead to anti-Christian values that are spiritually destructive and dangerous to our faith.

God commanded us to care for creation and so it is morally right as well as spiritually right to care for animals:

The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense. Prov. 12:10-11

Animals have a soul (personality) but ultimately, animals just live and then die—with no life after death because they have no spirit (god-consciousness)

But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. 2Pet. 2:12

Animals act by instinct whereas we humans are made in God's image and so have the ability to behave like God

Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them. Jude. 10

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. "They know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler." Ps. 82:3-7

Christians are more than mere humans—they are children of Almighty God. Although we

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Believers have the Holy Spirit, we are still capable of behaving like mere humans

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men? 1 Cor. 3:1-4

Is there a difference between anxiety, worry and concern?

Yes! When concern dominates us, it becomes worry and anxiety which then disrupts our God-given peace.

Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigour are meaningless. Eccl. 11:9-10

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. Ps. 94:19

If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the LORD your God—... There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!”—because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see. Deut. 28:58-67

You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Matt. 6:24-25

The way to regain our peace (spiritual and mental tranquillity) is to commit our concerns to God in prayer

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:4-7

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Ps. 55:22

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Pet. 5:6-7

What did Jesus mean when He said: *My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.* Jn. 14:23 ?

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them. “Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world? “Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Jn 14:16-23;

God is a unit

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Deut. 6:4

The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name. Zech. 14:9

We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 1 Cor. 8:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*Eph.4:4-6

Although it is the Holy Spirit who actually indwells a Believer, God cannot be divided and so it is the whole Trinity who is with us

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?*2Cor.13:5

*You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*Rom.8:9-10

Gal.2:20

Eph.3:17

Col.1:27

Rev.3:20

How can we keep our minds focused on spiritual matters?

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

We do this through prayer and pandering God's Word—letting it settle on us

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*Col.3:1-11

How does God speak to us?

God can speak to us in any way He chooses and He does speak to us—through circumstances, thoughts, dreams (reflecting on the past), visions (pondering about the future), other people's comments and conversations (Christian and non-Christian) and even animals (see Balaam). God also speaks in through the Church (Eph. 3:15). BUT when God speaks, He always speaks in line with NT doctrine because He speaks through His Son Jesus Christ.

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.*Heb.1:1-2

*"When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.*Nu.12:6-8

I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds. "Am I only a God nearby, "declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD. "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? "Therefore," declares the LORD, "I am

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. Yes," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.' Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," declares the LORD. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the LORD. Jer.23:21-32

For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword. Or someone may be chastened on a bed of pain with constant distress in their bones, so that their body finds food repulsive and their soul loathes the choicest meal. Their flesh wastes away to nothing, and their bones, once hidden, now stick out. They draw near to the pit, and their life to the messengers of death. Yet if there is an angel at their side, a messenger, one out of a thousand, sent to tell them how to be upright, Job.33:14-23

What is the difference between the Holy Spirit prompting us and our own spirit prompting us?

Sometimes there is no discernible difference because the Holy Spirit leads us with an inner witness.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Rom.8:14-16

Sometimes God clearly speaks

O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Is.30:19-21

But mostly God speaks whilst we are actually doing what God has called us to do—a prompting or nudging

The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Acts.8:29

One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. Acts.11:28

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. Acts.13:2-4

And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. Only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts.20:22-24

Finding the disciples there, we stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. Acts.21:4-5

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment. 1Cor.2:10-15
I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Eph.1:17

The Holy Spirit still speaks today through Scripture

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, Heb.3:7-8

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. 1Jn.4:4-6

30/03/2022

Psalm 27:9-14

Video 8 Greatest Stories2

The signs of the times: *But the only sign I will give them is the sign of Jonah Lk.11:29*

Questions

What is a Miracle?

What role do miracles have within Christianity?

How did the sign of Jonah validate Jesus?

What is the “gift of discernment” (or *distinguishing between spirits*)?

How can we be sure that our faith is real?

Comments

What is a Miracle?

A miracle is when God over-rules the natural laws He put into place at creation

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.^{Ps.77:14}

*“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”*Jn.3:2-3

*What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*Jn.2:11

*Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*Jn.10:36-38

*Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*Jn.14:10-12

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. Acts.2:22

*how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*Acts.10:38

What role do miracles have within Christianity?

Christianity is a miracle religion—God became human when Jesus was conceived in Mary who was a virgin; Jesus’ resurrection was a miracle—when He was changed from mortal to immortal; Jesus’ ascension was a miracle; new-birth is a miracle because God changes our heart (spirit) and He, a holy God, makes His home in us

*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*Mk.16:17-18

*I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.*2Cor.12:12

How did the sign of Jonah validate Jesus?

As Jonah died and returned to life after 3 days, so Jesus returned to life after 3 days. However, like all types and shadows, this doesn’t precisely represent reality of Jesus. Jonah was resuscitated whereas Jesus was resurrected; Jonah remained mortal whereas Jesus was immortal.

*Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*Jon.1:17

But Jesus replied: Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent. ^{Matt.12:39-41}

“We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.” Mk.10:33-34

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1Cor.15:3-4

The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Lk.24:20-23

What is the “gift of discernment” (or distinguishing between spirits)?

There is a definite spiritual manifestation of discernment or distinguishing between spirits:

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. ^{1Cor.12:8-11}

The word “distinguish” means to decide, judge., discerning clearly

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Heb.5:13-14

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. [Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.] Rom.14:1

However, the so called “gifts” in 1Cor.12 and Rom.12 are not actually gifts but manifestation of the Holy Spirit

Now about spiritual [gifts], brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 1Cor.12:1;7-8

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit is about maturity—about displaying the personality and character of the Holy Spirit

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

[Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?] 1Cor.12:1-3

As Believers who are indwelt, empowered, guided and led by the Holy Spirit, we should be able to discern what is of God and what is not. If we remain in the God, we will bear His fruit

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. Jn.15:4-5

Real common-sense is Godly-sense which come from abiding in Him:

I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech. Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. [Good counsel and common sense are my characteristics; I am both Insight and the Virtue to live it out.] Prov.8:12-14

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

If we stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people we will know when something is not right because we have the inner witness of the Holy Spirit

*Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear once again. Instead you received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child. By the Spirit's power we call God "Abba." Abba means Father. The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they give witness that we are God's children.*Rom.8:14-16

The indwelling Holy Spirit leads us into truth

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*Jn.16:13

This gives us discernment

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*1Jn.4:1-3

*Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.*Jer.29:8-9

*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*2Thess.2:1-4

*Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.*Mk.13:5-10

How can we be sure that our faith is real?

There is no physical proof of our faith (like passing an exam because faith is a spirit (spiritual))

*It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*2Cor.4:13-14

*To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit.*1Cor.12:8-9

But we can examine ourselves and see whether we are in the faith:

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.*2Cor.13:5-7

*That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.*2Tim.2:12

Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come? Why should the living complain when punished for their sins? Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, and say: and you have not forgiven. You have covered yourself with anger and pursued us; you have slain without pity. You have covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through. You have made us scum and refuse among

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

the nations. Lam. 3:37-45

Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. 1Tim. 6:20-21

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 2Pet. 1:12-16

23/03/2022

Psalm 27:1-8

Video 8 Greatest Series

The Disciples' Prayer: *When you pray, say...* ^{Lk.11:2}

Questions

Are written prayers more effective or less effective than extemporaneous prayers?

Can anyone address God as “Our Father”?

How do we honour God's Name?

What is God's Kingdom?

Will God's Kingdom actually come to earth?

Why should we ask God for daily bread?

Is forgiveness of sins unconditional or conditional on forgiving others?

How can we be kept from sinning?

How can we be delivered from the evil one?

Comments

Are written prayers more effective or less effective than extemporaneous prayers?

Most of Wesley's hymns were written as “holy poems” as an aid for contemplation. Written prayers can be very helpful as a focal point or a launching pad to encourage extemporaneous prayers, but they should not replace a personal interaction with God as our Father.—a skeleton not a straight-jacket. Written prayers are very helpful in formal settings such as funerals, public events, etc.

Can anyone address God as “Our Father”?

Only God's children can legitimately call God their Father. All of humanity is descended from Adam (who is called God's son):

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli... the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. ^{Lk.3:23-38}

But since Adam died spiritually (was separated from God), all his descendants are also separated from God and so it is only those who are born-again who can really claim to be God's children.

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” ^{Jn.3:5-6}

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. ^{1Jn.3:1-2}

Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ^{Jn.20:16-17}

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ^{Phile.3}

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. ^{2Thess.2:16-17}

It is an honour to be part of God's family—to have God as our Father and Jesus as our Elder Brother.

The One who makes people holy and the people he makes holy belong to the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. ^{Heb.2:11}

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ^{Heb.12:7-8}

How do we honour God's Name?

Reverencing God and His Name

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

exalted above all things your name and your word. Ps.138:2

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. Ps.119:91

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty," who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Rev.4:8-1

What is God's Kingdom?

God's kingdom is not a political kingdom:

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Jn.18:36-37

God's kingdom is a real kingdom—it is the domain of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Rev.19:11-16

Will God's Kingdom actually come to earth?

Our desire is for God's kingdom to come now, not just in the future. We want to see justice, equity and rightness now:

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Matt.3:1-3

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matt.4:17

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." Matt.10:5-8

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matt.12:28
Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1Cor.15:24-26

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." Rev.11:15

"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." Rev.12:10-11

Why should we ask God for daily bread?

To show our dependence on God

He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. Deut.8:16-18

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Is forgiveness of sins unconditional or conditional on forgiving others?

Forgiveness of sins is unconditional because God forgave our sins before we were even born.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1Jn.1:8-2:2

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. Eph.1:7-8

and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col.1:12-14

But the blessing of forgiveness of sins is conditional

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matt.6:14-15

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." Matt.18:32-35

However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Rom.4:5-9

How can we be kept from sinning?

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Ps.119:11

Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. Ps.19:13

How can we be delivered from the evil one?

Jesus has defeated satan

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. 1Jn.3:8-10

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Heb.2:14-15

But we must resist satan—which we do by drawing near to God. We draw near to God by pondering His Word; by reflecting on His plan; by rethinking His objectives; by remembering Christ's defeat of satan; by contemplating the Holy Spirit's power in our lives.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Jas.4:7-8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1Pet.5:8-9

16/03/2022

What must I do to inherit eternal life?^{Lk. 10:25}

Questions:

What is “eternal life”?

What does it mean to love God?

What does it mean to love our neighbour?

In the Good Samaritan story, who was the neighbour?

How can we imitate the neighbour’s example?

Comments

What is “eternal life”?

Eternal life is quite literally life that is eternal—it never ends.

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.” Mk. 10:29-30

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” Jn. 4:13-14

Eternal life is sometimes used to describe life with God after our mortal bodies die (in contrast to eternal death, which is life without God after our mortal bodies die).

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. Matt. 25:46

God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. Rom. 2:6-8

But actually eternal life begins at conversion:

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Jn. 5:24

For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. Jn. 6:40

Eternal life is a gift:

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. Jn. 10:28

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. Jn. 17:1-3

Eternal life is a spiritual life:

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Jn. 3:16-17

What does it mean to love God?

To love means to esteem (indicating a direction of the will and finding joy in something or someone). **Thus to love God means to honour, obey and respect God—with joy. It is a total commitment.**

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”^{Matt. 22:36-40}

Loving God also means loving people (because they are made in His image).

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1Jn.4:19-21

What does it mean to love our neighbour?

Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly. Do not go about spreading slander among your people. “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbour's life. I am the LORD. Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbour frankly so you will not share in their guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the LORD. Lev.19:15-18

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. Jas.2:8-9

You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matt.5:43-48

In the Good Samaritan story, who was the neighbour?

The Neighbour that we are to love in order to inherit eternal life is Jesus

It was Jesus who found us dying on “the Jericho road”, and helped us, healed us, ransomed us and will return for us.

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Lk.10:36-37

But of course we are to love other people as well.

How can we imitate the neighbour's example?

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. 1Jn.2:7-11*

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. Jn.13:13-17

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1Tim.1:15-17

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1Pet.2:20-23

09/03/2022

Psalm 26

Video Heb. 13

Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. Lk. 10:20

Questions

What does “rejoice” mean?

How can we rejoice continually?

How do we qualify for heaven?

What will we be judged for?

How do we become a Christian?

How do we mature in our Christian faith?

Comments

What does “rejoice” mean?

The Greek word that is translated “rejoice” means “to cheer, gladden, to rejoice, make merry”. In another passage this same word is translated “fared sumptuously”: *There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously [rejoiced] every day.* ^{Lk. 16:19} Other translations have: *living in mirth and splendour; lived in luxury; joyously living in splendour!*

How can we rejoice continually?

Our rejoicing is in the Lord not in our circumstances:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ^{Phil. 4:4-7}

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; Hab. 3:17-19

Our rejoicing begins with our spirit

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, Lk. 1:46-47

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, Is. 61:10

How do we qualify for heaven?

God qualifies us

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:9-14

We inherit eternal life—we can’t earn it

What must I do to inherit eternal life? Lk. 10:

As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” Rom. 3:10-12

What will we be judged for?

It is for the way we live our lives that we will be judged on the day of Judgement:

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.^{Rev.20:11-15}

*For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”*Matt.12:34-37

How do we become a Christian?

Be born again

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit... Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. Jn.3:3-17

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.^{Rom.10:9-10}

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”^{Rom.1:16} For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him. I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”^{Jn.5:21-27}

How do we mature in our Christian faith?

Maturity is standing firm in our faith and bouncing back if knocked down

We do this by taking our place in the Body of Christ—the Church (the assembled Believers not an organisation)

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*Eph.4:11-16

Remain humble yet be determined to finish the race of life as a winner (victorious)

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.*Phil.3:12-16

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1Jn.5:2-5

Study the Word of God and put it into practice

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. Ps.119:10-13

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ^{1Pet.2:2-3}

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. ^{Heb.5:13-14}

Make sure we have a good root and a good shoot

then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. Col.2:6-8

Make sure the cares of this world don't choke us

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Lk.8:14-15

Facing trials with joy and then persevering

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

02/03/2022

Psalm 25:11-22

Video

Heb.12-13

Who is Jesus? *Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"*^{Lk.9:20}

Questions

What is good about religion?

What can be bad about religion?

How is Christianity different from any other religion?

What point of reference do Christians have for their belief about God?

Find a Bible reference for each of these essential tenets

1. **God's unity** (there is one God);
2. **Jesus' deity** (Jesus is God);
3. **Jesus' humanity** (Jesus is man);
4. **Jesus' atoning death** (Jesus died for my sins);
5. **Jesus' bodily resurrection** (Jesus rose from the dead);
6. **Human depravity** (I am a sinner);
7. **The necessity of grace** (I am saved by grace);
8. **The necessity of faith** (I must believe/trust God).

Comments

What is good about religion?

The dictionary defines "*religion*" as "*the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.*" However, Christians do not believe in a superhuman controlling power but a spiritual Person who created us and is worthy of our worship! The actual word "*religion*" is linked to the word "*rely*" and comes from the Latin "*religare*" meaning "*to bind or tie fast*". And religion can certainly bind people to superstition as well as all sorts of other nonsense.

Religion should keep us true (hold fast) to God's revelation and also make it practical

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 1Tim.5:4

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. Jas.1:26-27

What can be bad about religion?

Karl Marx: "*Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.*" This quote summarised his argument that religion was constructed by people to calm uncertainty over their role in the universe and in society.

Religion can keep people in superstition and deceit

"The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee. And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities. Acts.26:4-11

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!" If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Jer. 7:2-8

How is Christianity different from any other religion?

God became human

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the one and only Son. He came from the Father. And he was full of grace and truth. Jn. 1:1-3; 14

God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; God the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; and God the Holy Spirit. These three distinct Persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, together make up the one God.

What point of reference do Christians have for their belief about God?

Our point of reference is the Scripture. The Scripture, also called the Bible, is God's written Word and His final revelation. The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (see last week's sermon) states:

The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Although the Believers who lived before Jesus was born didn't know everything God would reveal to us about Jesus and our salvation through Him, they were saved in the same way we are now—which is by grace through faith.

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Gen. 15:6

Even though he may not have been aware of the finer workings of the Trinity or Christ's priestly intercession, Abraham was saved by grace through faith—and so was Abel, Noah, David, Isaiah, and all the other OT believers:

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings... By faith Noah... became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith... Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb. 11:4-40

Today we have God's final revelation

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, [2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. Heb. 1:1-2

And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Jn. 5:37-40

and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2Tim. 3:15-17

Find a Bible reference for each of these essential tenets

God's unity (there is one God);

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.^{Deut.6:4-5}

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."^{Matt.3:16-17}

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.^{Jn.10:28-30}

Jesus' deity (Jesus is God);

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me."^{Jn.8:54}

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."^{Mk.10:17-18}

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."^{Mk.14:61-62}

Jesus' humanity (Jesus is man);

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").^{Matt.1:20-23}

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.^{Lk.2:6-7}

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.^{1Jn.5:6-8}

Jesus' atoning death (Jesus died for my sins);

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.^{1Jn.2:1-2}

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.^{1Jn.4:10}

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.^{Rom.3:25}

Jesus' bodily resurrection (Jesus rose from the dead);

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,^{2Tim.2:8}

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father^{1Cor.15:20-24}

Human depravity (I am a sinner);

For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."^{Rom.3:9-12}

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,^{Rom.3:22-23}

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—^{Rom.5:12}

The necessity of grace (I am saved by grace);

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved... For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*Eph.2:4-9

*He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*2Tim.1:9-10

The necessity of faith (I must believe/trust God).

*The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”*Acts.16:29-31

*Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.*Jn.3:14-15

*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*Mk.16:16

23/02/2022

Psalm 25:1-11

Video: Hebrews 11

How much is enough? “You give them something to eat.” They answered, “We have only...” Lk.9:1

Questions

How can we glorify God and enjoy Him?

Can we enjoy life without involving God?

What does it mean to be blessed?

Is the “valley of the shadow of death” a place of blessing?

Explain: *the LORD your God is the one who makes you wealthy.* ^{Dent.8:17-18}

Explain: *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.* ^{1Cor.4:2}

Do you agree with: “if we have a need, we should sow a seed”?

Comments

How can we glorify God and enjoy Him?

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy him for ever. [b]

[a].

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. Ps.86:9;
Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendour. Is.60:21;

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Rom.11:36;

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies. 1Cor.6:19-20;

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1Cor.10:31;

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Rev.4:11

[b].

LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Ps.16:5-11;

Blessed is the people of whom this is true; blessed is the people whose God is the LORD. Ps.144:15;

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.” Is.12:2;

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Lk.2:10;

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Phil.4:4;

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Rev.21:3-4

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, [a] is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. [b]

[a].

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?Matt.19:4-5/Gen.2:24; 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? ... Lk.24:27, He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written... Lk.24:44-46;

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.1Cor.2:13;

If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored.1Cor.14:37-38;

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.2Pet.1:20-21;

I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.1Pet.3:2,

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.1Pet.3:15-16

[b].

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.Deut.4:2;

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.Ps.19:7-11;

Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Is.8:20;

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.Jn.15:11;

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.Jn.20:30-31;

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.Acts.17:11-12

and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.2Tim.3:15-17;

We write this to make our joy complete.1Jn.1:4

Can we enjoy life without involving God?

Yes and No! There are pleasure of the world that excite and ignite emotions. Some of these are purely carnal and wrong but many are still “carnal” (of the flesh) but they are not wrong, bad or sinful. They could include food, sport, hobbies, etc. They are only wrong when they dominate or control us—when they take God’s place—in which case they don’t involve God! We must involve God in every area of our life—which then rejects the morally wrong choices

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.Ps.16:11

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.*Lk.8:14

*At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,*Tit.3:3

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*Jas.4:3-4

What does it mean to be blessed?

Firstly, sins forgiven

*"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."*Rom.4:7-8 Ps.32:1

Can the "valley of the shadow of death" be a place of blessing?

Only when God is with us!

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*Ps.23:4

Explain: the LORD your God is the one who makes you wealthy.*Deut.8:17-18*

Everything we have belongs to God—even our ability comes from God

"My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deut.8:17-18

O LORD our God, even this material we have gathered to build a Temple to honour your holy name comes from you! It all belongs to you! I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.^{1Chrom.29:16-17}

We need to ensure that we have a rich relationship with God:

And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God [but is not rich in his relationship with God].^{Lk.12:19-21}

Explain: Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.^{1Cor.4:2}

A trust has responsibilities and so God will hold us to account.

There are 2 judgements for people

The first judgement is for salvation and whether **our name in the Book of Life**

The second judgement is **what we have done with our life**—on how we have lived,. Both the righteous and unrighteous will be judged and given degrees of reward or punishment

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*Jn.5:24-30

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Rev.20:11-15

The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matt.25:20-21

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Matt.25:44-46

Do you agree with: "if we have a need, we should sow a seed"?

Yes but with sensible interpretation

Remember this: The farmer who plants a few seeds will have a very small harvest. But the farmer who plants because he has received God's blessings will receive a harvest of God's blessings in return. Each of you should give whatever you have decided. You shouldn't be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver. Besides, God will give you his constantly overflowing kindness. Then, when you always have everything you need, you can do more and more good things. Scripture says, "The righteous person gives freely to the poor. His righteousness continues forever." God gives seed to the farmer and food to those who need to eat. God will also give you seed and multiply it. In your lives he will increase the things you do that have his approval. God will make you rich enough so that you can always be generous. Your generosity will produce thanksgiving to God because of us. ^{2Cor.9:6-11}

16/02/2022

Psalm 24

Video: Hebrews 9-10 (10 – 17:30)

What sort of Farmer are you? *The seed is the word of God... those with a noble and good heart, hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.* ^{Lk.8:11-15}

Questions

Why is Jesus called the Word of God?

What is the difference between “*exegesis*” and “*eisogesis*”?

How can we ensure we don’t “*put into*” Scripture what is not there?

Why is the Bible a closed book to so many people?

How can we make the Bible an open book?

In Jesus’ story of the Sower, explain what the different types of soil are

- paths
- rocks
- thorns
- good soil

Comments

Why is Jesus called the Word of God?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. ^{Jn.1:1-2}

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True... on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself... his name is the Word of God... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ^{Rev.19:11-16}

The term “the Word” (Gk. Logos) conveys the notion of divine self-expression or speech and has a rich OT background. God’s Word is effective: God speaks, and things come into being. But John makes it clear that the Word was not some impersonal concept of God but Jesus—God who became human

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ^{Jn.1:14}

What is the difference between “*exegesis*” and “*eisogesis*”?

Exegesis is the process of getting “*out*” (*ex*’) of the text what is truly there in the first place, whereas **eisegesis** is the process of putting “*into*” (*eis*’) the text something that wasn’t intended by the author and is almost a “*blank cheque*” to make the Bible say whatever you want it to say!

Some people have read into the Bible all sorts of fanciful meanings. Some are just religious nuts, but many are sincere Christians who have been badly taught—and their beliefs are no different from science fiction. The main reason is that they have not understood the purpose of the Bible—which is

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ^{Jn.5:39}

The other reason why people get confused is that they have lost sight of the core of Christianity—which is:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. ^{1Tim.1:15}

How can we ensure we don’t “*put into*” Scripture what is not there?

The first principle of Bible interpretation (*hermeneutics*) is **context** and we should always read the entire passage before interpreting a verse.

The second principle is consistency and we should never interpret a text so that the interpretation contradicts the overall message of Scripture (and especially New Covenant doctrine). When we do this, the Scriptures will give us true wisdom for life, starting with eternal life:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures. They have the power to give you wisdom so that you can be saved through faith in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things. ^{2Tim.3:15-17}

Why is the Bible a closed book to so many people?

But for many people, the Scriptures are a closed book—they read the pages of the Bible, and they may even theologically understand the content of the passages they read, but it makes no difference to them because they refuse to come to Jesus. Spiritual life and spiritual help only come from Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

You study the Scriptures carefully. You study them because you think they will give you eternal life. The Scriptures you study give witness about me. But you refuse to come to me and receive life.

[You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want.] ^{Jn.5:39-40}

This is because the Scriptures are a spiritual book with a spiritual content that only those with the Holy Spirit can accept:

Some people don't have the Holy Spirit. They don't accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. Things like that are foolish to them. They can't understand them. In fact, such things can't be understood without the Spirit's help. ^{1Cor.2:14}

How can we make the Bible an open book?

Pray that people's spiritual eyes are opened

Make sure we don't put any obstacle in the way to them seeing God

Maintain a credible witness

In Jesus' story of the Sower, explain what the different types of soil are

➤ paths

The paths represent hard hearts where it is easy for the devil to snatch away God's Word—just like a bird eating a seed. If we have a hard heart, the devil will put doubt into our minds—*did God really say...?* We need to keep our heart cultivated, open and receptive to God's Word and we do this staying in touch (fellowship) with God, His Word and His people.

➤ rocks

The rocks represent shallow ground where people have no root. If we have no root we will not have any decent shoot and we certainly won't be able to withstand the storms of life: *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.* ^{Col.2:6-8}

➤ thorns

The thorns represent immaturity. When we let natural cares dominate us or control us, they then choke us and prevent us from developing into mature believers.

Worry is a vote of no confidence in God!

Then Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said: I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear. There is more to life than eating. There are more important things for the body than clothes... Don't spend time thinking about what you will eat or drink. Don't worry about it. People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father knows that you need them. But put God's kingdom first. Then those other things will also be given to you. Little flock, do not be afraid. Your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ^{Lk.12:22-31}

➤ good soil

But the good soil represents a noble and good heart—people who *seize the Word and hold on no*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

matter what, sticking with it until there's a harvest.

Only mature plants produce fruit.

Our parents trained us for a little while. They did what they thought was best. But God trains us for our good. He wants us to share in his holiness. No training seems pleasant at the time. In fact, it seems painful. But later on it produces a harvest of godliness and peace. It does that for those who have been trained by it. [for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.]^{Heb.13:10-11}

09/02/2022

Psalm 23

Video: Hebrews 9-10 (12.54)

God is always right—but He's not always fair! *All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John.*^{Lk.7:29}

Questions

Find examples in the Bible where God did not appear to be fair.

Explain why God was right or just in those examples.

What foundation do we build our life on?

What are the good materials we should build our lives with?

What are the poor (combustible) materials that we shouldn't build our lives with?

What did Jesus mean when He quoted: *streams of living water will flow from within him*?

Comments

Find examples in the Bible where God did not appear to be fair?

Jesus dying on the cross; the Flood; Sodom and Gomorrah; Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu; Achan.

Explain why God was right or just in those examples

Jesus dying on the cross.

God was showing His love for us

The Flood

My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.

Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal their days will be 120 years."

I'm not going to breathe life into men and women endlessly. Eventually they're going to die; from now on they can expect a life span of 120 years.

My Spirit will not struggle with humans forever, because they are flesh and blood. They will live 120 years. Gen.6:3

Sodom and Gomorrah

Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." Gen.18:17-21

"You would never kill godly people along with those who are evil, would you? You wouldn't treat godly and evil people alike. You would never do anything like that! Won't the Judge of the whole earth do what is right?" [It would be unthinkable for you to do such a thing, to treat the innocent and the guilty alike and to kill the innocent with the guilty. That would be unthinkable! Won't the judge of the whole earth do what is fair?]" Gen.18:25

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored." Aaron remained silent. Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, "Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary." So they came and carried them, still

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

in their tunics, outside the camp, as Moses ordered. Lev.10:1-5

Achan

But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerab, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel. Josh.7:1

And Joshua said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? [9] The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?" The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it. Josh.7:7-13

What foundation do we build our life on?

Jesus Christ

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1Cor.3:11

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matt.16:16-19

The apostle's teaching about Jesus Christ

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph.2:19-22

The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Rev.21:14
For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Heb.11:10

note this should be the same as the Church's teaching but only if it hasn't deviated from the apostles' teaching c.f. Apostle's Creed

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. Heb.6:1-3

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1Tim.6:17-19

What are the good materials we should build with?

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. 1Cor.3:10-15

gold, silver, costly stones

These are strong, stable and secure materials that will withstand the pressures of life. They include the fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal.5:22-23

These qualities are not automatic but the result of difficulties and hardships

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

And they will be refined by the “fire” of trials, hardships and difficulties.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1Pet.1:4-7

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Rev.3:18-19

See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another. Is.48:10-11

The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart. Prov.17:3

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Mal.3:2-3

This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.' ”Zech.13:9

What are the poor (combustible) materials that we shouldn't build with?

wood, hay or straw

These are weak, unstable, insecure materials that will not withstand the pressures of life. They include the acts of the flesh

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal.5:19-21

These characteristics are the result of indiscipline (or no discipline) and are rebellion against God and His values. They are a sign of immaturity and sinfulness.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

What did Jesus mean when He quoted: *streams of living water will flow from within him?*

The Holy Spirit would take up permanent residence in a Believer and never leave him but always be flowing out of him

02/02/2022

Psalm 22:25-31

Video: Hebrews 7-8 (10.05)

What sort of spiritual diet do you have? *Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*^{Heb.5:13-14}

Questions

Why is the Word of God our spiritual food?

What is the difference between spiritual milk and spiritual meat?

How do we grow up (mature)?

How do we get up if we fall?

What is the food from the “tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” (Rev.2:7)?

What is the hidden manna (Rev.2:17)? from the “tree of life, which is in the paradise of God”?

Comments

Why is the Word of God our spiritual food?

Because the Word of God feeds and nourishes us.

*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*Jn.6:63
*Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.*Dent.32:46-47

*He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.*Ps.107:20

*My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.*Prov.4:20-22

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Dent.8:2-3

*The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”*Lk.4:3-4

What is the difference between spiritual milk and spiritual meat?

Milk is fed to us; meat we have to eat ourselves

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1Pet.2:1-3

How do we grow up (mature)?

To grow up we must first grow down—root and then shoot

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*Col.2:6-8

By doing our part

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*Eph.4:15-16

*Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*Jas.1:4

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Hebrews 5:11-6:2

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. Col.1:28

That you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Col.4:12

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. Lk.8:14

How do we get up if we fall?

Repent but God will not let us fall beyond help (although we can still walk away)

If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand. [The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.] Ps.37:23-24

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. Ps.119:165

Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. 1Jn.2:10-11

Draw near to God

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. Jas.4:4-10

[So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who can't make up your minds. 7-8NIrV]

What is the food from the "tree of life, which is in the paradise of God" (Rev.2:7)?

The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Gen.2:9;15-17

In Eden the Tree of Life represented just that—life.

She earns more than gold does. She is worth more than rubies. Nothing you want can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are pleasant ways. All her paths lead to peace. She is a tree of life to those who hold her close. Those who hold on to her will be blessed. Prov.3:14-18

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives. Prov.11:30

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. Prov.13:12

God prevented Adam and Eve from eating the fruit to prevent them from living their sinful state.

The LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife to wear. The LORD God said, "The man has become like one of us. He can now tell the difference between good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and pick fruit from the tree of life and eat it. If he does, he will live forever." So the LORD God drove the man out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground he had been made out of. The LORD God drove him out and then placed cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden. He also placed a flaming sword there. It flashed back and forth. The cherubim and the sword guarded the way to the tree of life. Gen.3:21-24

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Now we are redeemed, we may eat of the tree of life (it represents our New Life in Jesus)

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Rev.2:7

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Rev.22:1-5

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side... Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." Ezek.47:1-2;6-12*

What is the hidden manna (Rev.2:17)?

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. Rev.2:17

Manna means "what is it?" They did not know what it was and so the name stuck.

When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. Ex.16:15

Manna came until they entered the Promised Land

He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deut.8:16-18

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan. Josh.5:10-12

The food that kept the Israelites in the wilderness was symbolic of the spiritual food that Jesus gives

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

*I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."*Jn.6:28-40

*Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*Jn.6:47-51

When the LORD heard them, he was furious; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel, for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance. Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.Ps.78:21-25

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD." Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.' " While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' " That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.' " The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed. Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning." However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.' " So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."Exodus.16

26/01/2022

Psalm 21:1-7

Video: Hebrews 7-8 (from beginning Leviticus 9)

Don't give up! *Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will...* ^{Lk.5:5}

Questions

Why do we go through hard times?

Why is it important to do what God has told us to do?

Is it more important to say the right things or to do the right things?

How can we work with other Churches to build the Kingdom?

Is it ever right to distance yourself from other Churches?

How can we stay encouraged when all around us discouraging?

What does "perseverance" mean?

Comments

Why do we go through hard times?

Hardships are a natural consequence Adam's sin

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Gen.3:16-19

Hardships often come because of people's opposition to God and His values

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matt.5:11-12

"Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations." Is.51:7-8

But hardships can develop character

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Heb.12:10-11

We are to endure hardships

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Heb.12:7-8

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Jas.1:12

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2Tim.4:5

know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Rev.2:2-3

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. 2Tim.2:11-13

Why is it important to do what God has told us to do?

It is called “obedience”!

who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:1Pet.1:2

Obedience is an ingredient of love

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.2Jn.6

Obedience is a choice

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.2Cor.10:4-6

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.2Cor.9:1
Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours.Ps.128:1-2

Even Jesus had to choose to obey God

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.Heb.5:7-9

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.’”Heb.10:5-7

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.Phil.2:5-11

Is it more important to say the right things or to do the right things?

We should do both!

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.Matt.21:28-32

But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.1Sam.15:22-23

To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.Prov.21:3

How can we work with other Churches to build the Kingdom?

Trust is built through relationships—by working together with a common goal. Sadly many Churches seem to have an agenda to build their own kingdom instead of building God’s kingdom. When Churches have very different understanding of the basic doctrines (such as the Apostle’s Creed) then it is difficult to work closely together. But there are some things we can do together

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

(which is why I used to put a lot of effort into the Songs of Praise).

This is from a leaflet for those training to be Local Preachers.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

A Local Preacher, must know his Bible. This means knowing what is in it. But it also means **understanding** what is in it. And this is impossible without some clear ideas of **what the Bible is**.

THE BIBLE IS NOT INFALLIBLE

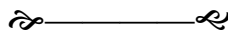
Many people in other ages (and a few in our age, sometimes called ‘fundamentalists’) thought that it was. They believed that every single word was literally, and infallibly, true. But a thorough examination of the Bible exposes this view as false.

For example, Moses is credited with the authorship of Deuteronomy, a book that recounts his death. Again, there are two quite different accounts of the way in which Saul first met David. (1Sam.16.14ff. and 17.55ff.). There are many other examples.

Again, a knowledge of how people in those days communicated truth shows it to be a quite inadequate way of looking at the Bible.

For example, the story of the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden shows the consequences of men and women insisting on doing what they want rather than doing what God tells them. But the supposition that the human race began literally with two people in a beautiful garden bristles with difficulties.

So we do not regard the Bible as a book that has dropped down from heaven, written by the finger of God. (*The Local Preachers’ Department of the Methodist Church. 1967*)



The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Is it ever right to distance yourself from other Churches?

Yes! Our difficulty is deciding who is a real brother in Christ and who is a false brother—who is a true Christian and who is a fake christian.

I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ^{1Cor.11:18-19}

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work. ^{2Jn.7-11}

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. ^{Tit.3:9-11}

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. ^{Rom.16:17-20}

How can we stay encouraged when all around us discouraging?

If we are going to stay encouraged and not lose heart we must build ourselves up in the faith

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 20-25

Abraham was strengthened in his faith

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. Rom.4:20-21

We need people to help us to find strength in God so we can do it for ourselves. David was able to take find strength in God by himself after Jonathan encouraged him to:

And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horeb and helped him find strength in God. 1Sam.23:16

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God. 1Sam.30:6

(For the director of music.) Of David the servant of the LORD. He sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. Ps.18:1-3

The and the best way to stay encouraged is read the Bible and see how God helped others:

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Rom.15:4

But just reading the Bible stories and feeling encouraged isn't enough—we must share our encouragement with others:

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom.15:5-6

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2Cor.1:3-4

When we share what we believe about God, others are blessed and God is glorified (honoured):

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. 2Cor.4:13-15

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2Thess.2:15-17

What does "perseverance" mean?

Perseverance: doing something despite difficulty. Keep on going even when it is hard (because there is a reward at the end of it!)

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2Tim.4:6-8

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15

*Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; Romans 5:3
Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 2Thessalonians 1:4*

because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:3-4

19/01/2022

Psalm 20

Video: Hebrews 5-6 (from 13.00)

Three Scriptures that saved Jesus from satan's snare

Questions

Why did Jesus become a human being?

What can the "Sword of the Spirit" do?

How do we use the "Sword of the Spirit"?

Is there a difference between quoting Scripture and confessing Scripture?

How is Scripture our spiritual food?

Is it possible to try to worship God but not serve Him?

Why shouldn't we put God to the test?

Comments

Why did Jesus become a human being?

The deity and humanity of Jesus are fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith.

As much God as if He were not Man and as much Man as if He were not God. K.Kuhlman

A creed is a brief statement of faith used to list important truths, to clarify doctrinal points and to distinguish truth from error. The word creed comes from the Latin word credo, meaning, "I believe."

The Bible contains a number of creed-like passages. The Jews still recite a creed known as the Shema

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deut.6:4-9

Paul included several creed-like statements in his epistles,

He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. 1Tim.3:16

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 1Cor.8:6;

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 2Tim.2:8

The Apostles' Creed, (called the Apostles' Creed because it accurately reflects the apostles' teaching not because its authors were the original apostles). When the Apostles' Creed was drawn up, the chief enemy was **Gnosticism**, which **denied that Jesus was truly Man**; and the emphases of the Apostles' Creed reflect a concern with repudiating this error.

Gnostics believed that the world was divided into the physical and spiritual realms (Dualism). The created, material world (matter) is evil, and therefore in opposition to the world of the spirit, and that only the spirit is good. Adherents of Gnosticism often constructed an evil, lesser god and beings of the Old Testament to explain the creation of the world (matter) and considered Jesus Christ a wholly spiritual God.

Gnostics were divided on their beliefs about Jesus Christ. One view held that he only appeared to have human form but that he was actually spirit only. The other view contended that his divine spirit came upon his human body at baptism and departed before the crucifixion. Christianity, on the other hand, holds that Jesus was fully man and fully God and that his human and divine natures were both present and necessary to provide a suitable sacrifice for humanity's sin.

Apostles' Creed (C5th)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed (A.D.325)

When the Nicene Creed was drawn up, the chief enemy was **Arianism**, which **denied that Jesus was fully God**. Arius was a presbyter (elder) in Alexandria in Egypt, in the early 300's. He taught that the Father, in the beginning, created (or begot) the Son, and that the Son, in conjunction with the Father, then proceeded to create the world. The result of this was to make the Son a created being, and hence not God in any meaningful sense. It was also suspiciously like the theories of those Gnostics and pagans who held that God was too perfect to create something like a material world, and so introduced one or more intermediate beings between God and the world.

Arius described the Son as a second, or inferior God, standing midway between the First Cause and creatures; as Himself made out of nothing, yet as making all things else; as existing before the worlds or the ages; and as arrayed in all divine perfections except the one which was their stay and foundation. God alone was without beginning, unoriginate; the Son was originated, and once had not existed. Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria, sent for Arius and questioned him. Arius stuck to his position and was finally excommunicated by a council of Egyptian bishops. He went to Nicomedia in Asia, where he wrote letters defending his position to various bishops. Finally, the Emperor Constantine summoned a council of Bishops in Nicea (across the straits from modern Istanbul), and there in A.D.325 the Bishops of the Church, by a decided majority, repudiated Arius and produced the first draft of what is now called the **Nicene Creed**. A chief spokesman for the full deity of Christ was Athanasius, deacon of Alexandria, assistant (and later successor) to the aging Alexander. The Arian position has been revived in our own day by the Watchtower Society (the JW's), who explicitly hail Arius as a great witness to the truth.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn.1:14

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Gal.4:4-5

The reason Jesus became human was to save us human beings:

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. ^{Heb.2:14-15}

And in becoming human, Jesus was subject to the same troubles and testing that we are—yet never sinned. And because of His submission to His Father, Jesus refused to let any trouble dominate Him and so He overcame every temptation.

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. ^{Heb.4:15-16}

When Jesus did the groundwork for us to build upon, He guaranteed our future.

And so, when we are exposed to temptations, we can prove that, in Christ's love, we can face the world, the flesh and the devil—and overcome them; then by faith, we can live victorious lives!

Dear friends, don't be surprised by the painful suffering you are going through. Don't feel as if something strange were happening to you. Be joyful that you are taking part in Christ's sufferings. Then you will be filled with joy when Christ returns in glory. ^{1Pet.4:12-13}

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ^{Jn.13:15-17}

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ^{1Pet.2:20-23}

What can the "Sword of the Spirit" do?

The Word of God is able to divide between our thoughts and God's thoughts, our desires and God's desires:

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. ^{Heb.4:12-13}

The Word of God is described as a "sword":

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ^{Eph.5:17-18}

And this "sword" of God's Word is very sharp:

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw... someone like a son of man... his voice was like the sound of rushing waters... and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." ^{Rev.1:12-18}

Jesus defeated satan's temptation by using the spiritual sword of the Word of God:

The devil said... Jesus answered him, "Scripture says..." ^{Lk.4:3-4}

How do we use the "Sword of the Spirit"?

Believing and acting on what God has said

*We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; **in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*** ^{2Cor.6:3-10}

Is there a difference between quoting Scripture and confessing Scripture?

Yes. Although we believe the Bible to be the Word of God (that it is the written record of what God has spoken to us), we must still believe it (have faith), for it to be of any spiritual value to us.

The Father who sent me has himself given witness about me. You have never heard his voice. You have never seen what he really looks like. And his word does not live in you. This is because you do not believe the One he sent. You study

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

the Scriptures carefully. You study them because you think they will give you eternal life. The Scriptures you study give witness about me. But you refuse to come to me and receive life.^{Jn.5:37-40}

How is Scripture our spiritual food?

Gives us spiritual nourishment

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'^{Lk.4:3-4}

Give us each day our daily bread.^{Lk.11:3}

Is it possible to try to worship God but not serve Him?

Yes and no! People can go through the rituals of worship and yet not believe God. People can attend Christian services, and follow Christian rituals (baptism, communion, "prayer" etc.) but if they do not believe God and have never asked Him to forgive their sins, they are still strangers and foreigners to God. But because Christianity is a heart religion, if people are genuinely trying to worship, they are desiring to honour God—which is in essence worship.

Why shouldn't we put God to the test?

The Bible says we shouldn't. Actually there is only one reference in the Bible where we are told to put God to the test

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.^{Mal.3:8-12}

Although this is an instruction to the Jews under the Old Covenant, the principle doesn't change in the New Covenant. However, in the New Covenant the blessings are first and foremost spiritual blessings—but there is always a ripple effect from the spiritual to the material

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.^{Ps.133}

12/01/2022

Psalm 19:7-14

Video: Hebrews 3-4 from 8.00

Questions:

What you think Jesus meant by this: *Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.* Matt.21:21-22

What is true religion?

Is there a place for Old Covenant rituals in true religion?

Is there a place for any rituals in true religion? (i.e. clerical garments, incense, crucifixes and crosses, etc.)

What sort of obstacles do you think you can remove by speaking to them?

Should we remove obstacles or rituals in other ways that speaking to them?

Are names important? (i.e. "priest" or "pastor"; "altar" or "table"; "sacraments" or "ordinances")

Comments

What you think Jesus meant by this: *Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.* Matt.21:21-22

Fig tree represents religion

When Adam, became aware of his nakedness before God, he tried to cover himself with fig leaves: *Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called out to the man. "Where are you?" he asked. "I heard you in the garden," the man answered. "I was afraid. I was naked, so I hid."* Gen.3:7-10

Fig leaves represent man's attempt to cover himself before God. But the only covering that will remove the fear of being in the presence of a holy God is the covering that God Himself provides: *The LORD God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife and dressed them.* Gen.3:21

Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered up

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, The next day, when they left Bethany, Jesus became hungry. In the distance he saw a fig tree with leaves. He went to see if he could find any figs on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves because it wasn't the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "No one will ever eat fruit from you again!" His disciples heard this. Mk.11:12-14

"Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mk.11:20-25

No more attempt by man to cover themselves because Jesus has become our covering.

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, Is.61:10

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you." Zech.3:3-4

'Arise, LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests be clothed with your righteousness; may your faithful people sing for joy.' Ps.132:8-9

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)Rev.19:5-8

I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.Phil.3:8-9

Mountains can represent obstacles to God because they are to be levelled:

He told people about a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As the prophet Isaiah wrote in his book, “A voice cries out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord! Make his paths straight! Every valley will be filled. Every mountain and hill will be levelled. The crooked ways will be made straight. The rough roads will be made smooth. All people will see the salvation that God gives.’ ”Lk.3:

But if “mountains” don’t disappear , we can leap up them like a deer

The LORD and King gives me strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me walk on the highest places.Hab.3:19

For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall.Ps.18:28-29

What is true religion?

Relation or religion? We need both and religion is not a dirty word.

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.Jas.1:26-27

Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.1Tim.5:3-4

However, religion without a relationship with God (through Jesus Christ) is not only hurtful to God but it is also harmful to the person—*That makes me very angry. But am I the one they are hurting? Aren't they only harming themselves? They should be ashamed of it.Jer.7:19*

Religion (even Christian religion) can be a false hope. Ritual without relationship is anathema to God
A message came to me from the LORD. He said: Stand at the gate of my house. Announce my message to the people there. Say, “Listen to the LORD's message, all of you people of Judah. You always come through these gates to worship the LORD. The God of Israel is speaking to you. He is the LORD who rules over all. He says, ‘Change the way you live and act. Then I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in lies. Do not say, ‘This is the temple of the LORD! This is the temple of the LORD! This is the temple of the LORD!’ You must really change the way you live and act. Treat each other fairly. Do not treat outsiders or widows badly in this place. Do not take advantage of children whose fathers have died. Do not kill those who are not guilty of doing anything wrong. Do not worship other gods. That will only bring harm to you. But look! You are trusting in worthless lies. “You continue to steal and commit murder. You commit adultery and tell lies. You burn incense to Baal. You worship other gods you have not known anything about before. Then you come and stand in front of me. You keep coming to this house where I have put my Name. You say, ‘We are safe.’ You think you are safe when you do so many things I hate. My Name is in this house. But you have made it a den for robbers! I have been watching you!” announces the LORD... Jeremiah, do not pray for those people. Do not make any appeal or request for them. Do not beg me. I will not listen to you. Don't you see what they are doing? They are worshiping other gods in the towns of Judah. They are offering sacrifices to them in the streets of Jerusalem. The children go out and gather wood. The fathers light the fire. The women mix the dough. They make flat cakes of bread for the goddess who is called the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods. That makes me very angry. But am I the one they are hurting? Aren't they only harming themselves? They should be ashamed of it.Jer.7:1-19

Is there a place for Old Covenant rituals in true religion?

No!

My new covenant will be different because they didn't remain faithful to my old covenant. So I turned away from them, says the Lord. This is the covenant I will make with Israel after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

minds. I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God. And they will be my people. A man will not teach his neighbour anymore. And he will not teach his friend anymore. He will not say, 'Know the Lord.' Everyone will know me. From the least important of them to the most important, all of them will know me. I will forgive their evil ways. I will not remember their sins anymore." (Je 31:31-34) God called that covenant "new." So he has made the first one out of date. And what is out of date and getting older will soon disappear. Heb.8:9-13

The Holy Spirit and the new Covenant are likened to new wine in a new wineskins but sadly, people often prefer the old to the new—even though it doesn't work!

Then Jesus gave them an example. He said, 'People don't tear a patch from new clothes and sew it on old clothes. If they do, they will tear the new clothes. Also, the patch from the new clothes will not match the old clothes. People don't pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the new wine will burst the skins. The wine will run out, and the wineskins will be destroyed. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. After people drink old wine, they don't want the new. They say, 'The old wine is better.'" Lk.5:36-39

God will leave the leaves if there is fruit:

The next day, when they left Bethany, Jesus became hungry. In the distance he saw a fig tree with leaves. He went to see if he could find any figs on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves because it wasn't the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "No one will ever eat fruit from you again!" His disciples heard this. Mk.11:12-14

Is there a place for any rituals in true religion? (i.e. clerical garments, incense, crucifixes and crosses, etc.)

When State and Church are linked, then their values overlap and the pomp and ceremonies of State creep into the Church. That's what happened when Constantine made Christianity the state religion in C4th. A lot of the clerical clothes can be traced back to those Roman times.

Visual aids complement and reinforce the spoken message so rituals can be helpful in emphasising truth but only if those rituals are true to the New Covenant. Liturgies can also be really helpful but repetition doesn't make perfect—repetition makes permanent!

We need a structure to keep life orderly but the structure should be like a skeleton that is flexible so we can build on it—not a straight-jacket to restrict us.

One of the issues faced in the Reformation was how the Bible is interpreted. Can you only do what the Bible says you can do—or can you do anything if the Bible doesn't prohibit it. This was especially pertinent to Church structure and worship—should we sing, etc.

Part of the difference between Luther and Calvin stemmed from their response to the Mass. "Picture in your mind a huge kettle filled to the brim with Roman doctrine and worship practice. Luther reached in to remove whatever was unbiblical and kept the rest; Calvin dumped out the contents and started over again, placing in the pot only what the Scripture warranted. This was the beginning of the regulative principle of worship."¹

Whereas Luther believed that, in worship, God's people should sing hymns, and Zwingli thought they should not sing at all, Calvin took the middle ground: they should sing—but they should only sing directly from God's Word. Calvin saw "hymns of human composure" as unfit for the sacred assembly. What words then should be used in public praise and prayer? Why, the Psalms, of course. Thus began the practice of metrical psalmody that ruled the church for the next hundred years, and continues to this day. Perhaps the answer is

"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything. 1Cor.6:12

"Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. 1Cor.10:23-24

What sort of obstacles do you think you can remove by speaking to them?

Most people's obstacles are in their mind: fear, unbelief, doubt, bitterness,

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone

¹ Lawrence Roff, Let Us Sing

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. Matt.5:21-26

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal.5:19-21

Should we remove obstacles or rituals in other ways that speaking to them?

Sometimes we need to take practical steps to remove obstacles such as remove people from the Church or remove ourselves from people.

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? 1Cor.5:1-2

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. Tit.3:9-11

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. Matt.5:27-30

Ultimately, it is God who takes away the blindness, who reveals spiritual truths to us by the Holy Spirit. But we still have to agree with Him—that is faith.

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1Cor.2:14

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. Jn.14:16-17

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Eph.1:18-19

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2Cor.4:6*

Are names important? (i.e. "priest" or "pastor"; "altar" or "table"; "sacraments" or "ordinances")

Names are important because of what they represent.

The New Testament know nothing of the office of "priest" but there is the gifting of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher, etc.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph.4:11-13

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts. 1Cor.12:27-31

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts,

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Rom.12:5-8

We are all priests, but we are not priests in the sense that we mediate between people and God and neither do we offer sacrifices. The Lord's Table is not an altar where Jesus is sacrificed; the bread and wine is not a sacrament that imputes any spiritual grace but an ordinance where the emblems that we partake of remind us of Jesus' sacrificial death, resurrection and return.

you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1Pet.2:5

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1Pet.2:9

05/01/2022

Psalm 19:1-8

Video: Hebrews Intro

Faith—Forsaking All I Trust Him.

Questions

Define “*faith*”

Find some examples of faith in the Bible

What is the difference between a doubt and unbelief?

Can we have doubts and still be a Believer?

How do we get faith?

How do we build our faith?

Comments

Define “*faith*”

Faith: Faith is obeying God. It's irrelevant what you believe if God hasn't said it! Faith is trusting God's Word. Presumption is telling God what to do and then expecting that He will fall in line with what you say (c.f. Nu.14). Faith is when you are sick and everything seems to be going wrong—and yet you are trusting God, enjoying Him and still in fellowship with Him. Faith is not speaking positive (or even Scripture verses) over negative circumstances, expecting God to change. Faith doesn't make things easy—it makes them possible

Faith is the deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time. *Oswald Chambers*

Faith is when you stop believing what you see and start seeing what you believe. *Kathryn Kuhlman*

Faith is voice activated

Debating evil has little to do with faith except to knock it flat. We are ministers not philosophers. Our calling is compassion, prayer, faith and the Word. *G Canty*

Faith has legs! Action is needed. *Wigglesworth*

Faith demands a sweet fellowship with God, an abandonment to His Word, a recognition of His Lordship and a walk in love. When faith dies, philosophy flourishes. A living Christ and a living Father God perfectly satisfies and we need no philosophy, we need no metaphysics. It is when we lose Christ out of our daily life that we turn to metaphysics and philosophical theories that have no place in the life of faith. **E.W.Kenyon** *Righteousness (An unpublished manuscript)*

Find some examples of faith in the Bible

Heb.11

When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.... I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Lk.7:37-50

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.” Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment. Matt.9:20-22

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. Lk.7:9-10

What is the difference between a doubt and unbelief?

Doubt is uncertainty (which everyone has sometimes);

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. Jude.21-23

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. Jas.1:4-8

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Rom.14:22-23

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matt.14:29-31

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." Lk.24:37-39

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jn.20:27-29

Unbelief a refusal to believe and a rejection of what God has said

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. Mk.16:14

Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Heb.3:16-19

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. Rom.4:20-21

But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mk.9:22-24

Can we have doubts and still be a Believer?

Believers believe—but there are many times we will be uncertain about something.

"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts.1:7-8

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Jas.4:14-16

My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; Ps.131:1-2

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? Ps.139:1-7

But there some things we need to know with a certainty

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2022

not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. [22] Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1Jn.2:20-23

Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. 2Tim.1:12

We need to know what God has actually said

The devil asked Eve: *Did God really say?* Gen.3:1

We do this through studying the Scriptures

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. [Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, dividing the word of truth aright.] 2Tim.2:15

And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Jn.5:37-40

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. Ezra.7:10

I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. Eccl.1:13

How do we get faith?

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Rom.10:17

Faith comes from a Jesus centred life

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col.3:16-17

How do we build our faith?

Pray

Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Let the Holy Spirit guide and help you when you pray. Jude.21

Continue to live our lives in Christ

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. Col.2:6-8