

QUESTIONS AND GOD'S ANSWERS

By Keith Greer

Many times when studying with people about their need to obey the gospel, questions will arise. Today I'd like to examine a few questions asked and God's answers to those questions.

What about the thief on the cross? Whenever the subject of baptism comes up, this example will be mentioned as a reason why baptism is not necessary. The thief lived under the Law of Moses. Christ nailed that law to the cross, when He died. Hebrews 9:16,17; 10:9,10; Colossians 2:14. Christ also had the power to forgive sins on earth. Matthew 9:6 Do any of those circumstances exist today? If not, man cannot be saved in the same way.

What about the good people who have never heard the gospel, like in Africa, Asia, or some remote part of the world? This question is asked by one trying to find a "loophole" out of his responsibility.

Read John 21:20-23. What Peter was told here also applies to the one who would pose this question. Whatever a righteous and just God makes of these "good people" has no bearing on the one asking the question. Are they in this situation? We are talking about their salvation, not what may happen to another. Always remember that the person also has the ability to seek the truth for themselves. Matthew 7:7,8.

I believe "faith only" will save me. Isn't that what John 3:16 teaches? The only time that "faith only" is mentioned in the Bible, it says the exact opposite. James 2: 14-26. Did faith alone save Saul of Taurus? Read Acts 9:4- 18. Did faith alone save the Philippian jailer? Read Acts 16:29-33. Why do all these conversions in the book of Acts have teaching prior to baptism? Remember the brazen serpent in Moses's day. By "faith" they had to look upon that serpent. So their faith alone did not heal them. We must read ALL that the Bible says on any given subject.

Do you have hypocrites in the church? If so, why should I need to become a member? This person is looking for justification why he is all right in the condition he finds himself in at that time. Will God take care of the hypocrite? Read Matthew 13:41,42; 24:51; Romans 14: 12. Does each one give an account for themselves? Read 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 22:12. Do you quit buying food at the grocery store because they have hypocrites? Would you like to spend a little time with them now, or eternity with them later?

Do you believe that only members of the Church of Christ will be saved? Folks that posed this question may have family members outside the body of Christ.

First of all, it makes no difference what I think about the matter. If what I teach is in agreement with God's word, that is all that really matters. Ask some question ...

Can one outside of Christ receive "spiritual blessings"? Read Ephesians 1:3. Can one glorify God outside of His body? Read Ephesians 3:21. Can one be subject to Christ outside the church? Read Ephesians 5:24. Can one be reconciled to God outside His body? Read Ephesians 2:13. Does God have more than "one faith"? Read Ephesians 4:4.

Really, all people have the right to ask questions concerning spiritual matters. One's soul is very important and they should make absolutely sure that what they are doing spiritually is pleasing to God. Personally speaking, I always encouraged men to ask questions to clarify any spiritual matter. We invite men to do so. God's word does not contradict itself. Read Acts 17: 11. Please ask. God's word will always supply an answer. ***