

# The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 46

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## SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.  
Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.  
(via Zoom Meetings)

#### ELDERS

David P. Brown  
Ken Cohn  
John West

#### DEACONS

Bret Bailey  
J. D. Gunter  
Eric Paluka

#### EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

#### SECRETARY

Sonya West

## SOME GREAT BIBLE QUESTIONS

*J.A. McNutt*

One of the most effective methods that the Lord used to impress sacred truths on the minds of His hearers was by asking questions. God's questions to man stand out boldly on the pages of the Bible, from the time that Jehovah called unto Adam, the shamefaced sinner, and said unto him, "**Where art thou?**" down to the great judgment day pictured by John in the Revelation letter, when men shall cry out in consternation, "**For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**" There are questions in God's book that raise eternal issues and search the very hearts of men.

By questions the enemies of Christ tried to obtain an answer contrary to the law of God, or else in violation of the laws of Rome. They sought in vain for a real charge to lodge against Him either before men or God. His answers were faultless, and to their despair they found that Christ could ask questions as well as answer them. Evil and hypocritical men were always thrown on the defensive by the questions of Jesus, and finally they were afraid to ask Him any more questions.

Now, let us turn to our Bibles and consider a few of the hundreds of questions that God has asked of men, and some questions that have fallen from the lips of men after they had come to understand the will of God. Many of the questions that we will consider are the questions of sincere and earnest souls seeking a fuller knowledge of the will of God.

### "WHAT DOTH THE LORD REQUIRE OF THEE?"

This first question is taken from the writings of Micah, and in order to get the connection we shall read (Mic. 6:6-8):

**Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**

In these verses the prophet of God fires a regular barrage of queries at the people. Micah conducts a regular cross-examination of a nation which had drifted into the observance of mere religious formalities. God demands strict and unyielding observance of His will,

but it must not degenerate into empty formality. Thus we hear the prophet saying, **“What doth the Lord require of thee?”** and then giving the scriptural answer to his most vital of all inquiries.

1. **“To do justly.”** One of the first requirements that Jehovah ever made of man was to do justly. The blood of righteous Abel cried out from the ground against the injustice and brutality of Cain, the world’s first murderer, and God held Cain accountable and inflicted punishment upon him. Man’s inhumanity toward his fellows has caused countless thousands to mourn. We are taught to be fair and honest with man and God. Paul speaks of **“providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men”** (2 Cor.8:21).

Again we hear the psalmist saying: **“Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy”** (Psa. 82:3). And Jeremiah pronounces a woe upon the man **“that buildeth his house by unrighteousness”** (Jer. 22:13).

2. **“To love mercy.”** All of us have heard and read stories of cruelty, during the last few years, that made our blood run cold—horrible and unmerciful examples of human perversity, where not even the innocent and helpless were spared from torture and suffering. It was Christ who said in the greatest sermon of all time: **“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy”** (Mat. 5:7). The mercy of Jehovah is boundless: **“For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds”** (Ps. 108:4). Let us, then, be merciful, as our Father is merciful, showing kindness and compassion to all men.

3. **“To walk humbly with thy God.”** It is a great blessing to walk with friends here on earth and enjoy the fellowship of kindred souls, but think of Enoch, who walked with God and enjoyed the companionship of the Most High. What joys must have been his! What consolation and comfort, even before the Lord called him to his heavenly reward! We should walk, not in our way, not in the way that seemeth right, but in the Lord’s way, which is right and cannot be wrong.

Gospel preaching never leaves a sinner with a feeling of false security, but disturbs his

heart and challenges, the error of his way. The word of God, when it is faithfully proclaimed, is like a sword thrust into the thoughts and intents of the heart of man. Such preaching as the apostles did always cut men to the heart and aroused them to action. Someone has said that when Paul preached in a city he either had a revival or a riot. This may be an extreme statement, but we know that gospel preaching never leaves a sinful audience complacent and indifferent. Festus and Agrippa were disturbed, and Felix trembled as Paul reasoned concerning **“righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come”**; so it is not surprising that under the influence of gospel preaching men should cry out, asking:

**“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”**

This question is a natural query of lost and dying men when they realize their guilt and condemnation in the sight of God. This question is found three times in the New Testament in slightly different wording, and each time it receives a different answer. You may ask: “How can the answer to one and the same question be different, unless the Bible contradicts itself?” Well, here is the answer, and there is no contradiction whatever: In all three cases the person, or persons., were told what they must do in view of what they had already done when they asked the question.

The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** and as an unbeliever he was told to **“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”** (Acts 16:31). He was not told to repent, although a failure to repent would cause him to perish (Luke 13:3). He was not told to be baptized, although Jesus had promised salvation to the believer who is baptized (Mark 16:16). The fact is: he was told the *first* step to take in the light of his condition before God. Only a believer in Christ would have any inclination to forsake his sins through repentance. Only a believer in our Lord could scripturally be baptized; so they commanded him to believe, then **“spake unto him the word of the Lord,”** which produces faith (Rom. 10:17). Now let us sum up the results: The jailer **“washed the stripes”** of his former prisoners, indicating his repentance, and was baptized the same hour

of the night (Acts 16:33). Therefore, the command to believe was merely the beginning of this example of conversion. False and fatal is the reasoning of the preacher who contends that this is a case of salvation by faith only. His eyesight must be very faulty indeed if he overlooks the divine record of the gospel being preached, the evidence of the jailer's repentance, his baptism, and how he rejoiced, having believed in God. Get your Bibles, friends, and read it over. All of these things happened the *same hour* of the night, and yet to hear some sermons on Acts 16 you would get the impression that the jailer was never baptized at all.

Now for the other two examples of this question being asked and the scriptural answer that was given. When Peter preached the gospel of Christ on Pentecost, men were pricked in their hearts and cried out: **“What shall we do?”** Peter's answer was, **“Repent, and be baptized”** because his auditors had already believed (Acts 2:36-38.) When Saul of Tarsus propounded the question, **“What shall I do, Lord?”** the answer given by the Spirit through Ananias was, **“Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,”** because Saul had already, believed and repented. Thus all three inspired examples agree perfectly, and even a “Simple Simon” should be able to see that in all three cases they did exactly the same thing they believed, they repented, and they were baptized.

#### **“WHAT DOT HINDER ME TO BE BAPTIZED?”**

This query was voiced by the eunuch in Acts 8 after Philip, the inspired evangelist, had **“preached Jesus”** unto him. Philip must have been different from the modern “run-of-the-mill” evangelists, for one might hear some of them a lifetime and never become concerned about being baptized. Have you ever wondered why this is true? If **“preaching Jesus”** did not include the Lord's command to be baptized, how can we account for the eunuch's question: **“What doth hinder me to be baptized?”**

#### **VARIOUS HINDRANCES TODAY**

Some would answer this question by saying the only thing needed is to get the

consent of the church, and then “thou mayest” be baptized. Philip was an inspired evangelist, and he said that there was but one thing necessary: **“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”** The record tells us that when this sincere and honest man said, **“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,”** they stopped the chariot and went down into the water, and Philip baptized him without any further questions.

The only thing that would really hinder anyone today is a lack of faith. Without faith it is impossible for us to please God, and only the believing, penitent person who earnestly desires to obey his Lord may rightfully go down into the waters of baptism and claim the remission of his past sins. What the world needs first of all is faith in God.

#### **“HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?”**

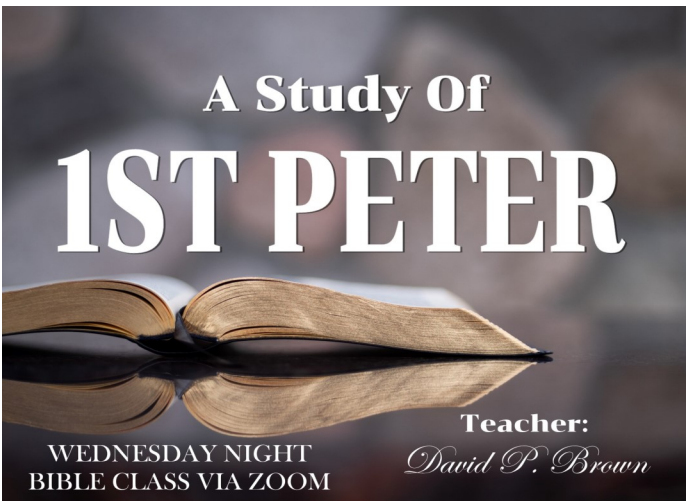
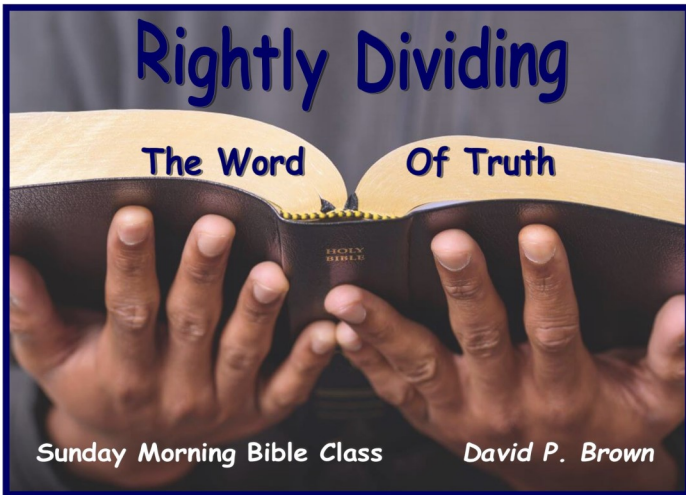
This final question is found in Hebrews 2:3, and has to do with the inescapable penalty of neglecting the **“great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord.”** To this question there is no answer, except to say that there is no escape. Paul points out in the Roman letter that the wicked have no hope of escaping the judgment of God (Rom. 2:3).

Neglect is man's most deadly enemy. We do not have to raise our arms in rebellion to the will of God in order to be lost. We can quietly fold our hands in neglect and shrug our shoulders with indifference and suffer the same fate as the most wicked and violent sinners.

Our greatest need is to hear Christ and obey Him.

**See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven** (Heb. 12:25).~

*Deceased*



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[www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com)

- . Live broadcast
- . Debates
- . Sermon videos
- . Bible Study Course
- . Articles
- . Bible Reading Schedule
- . Lectureship videos
- . Links to Faithful works

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- **Saturday, November 23rd:** Chili Cook-off at Burroughs Park. Sign-up sheets in kitchen.
- **Sunday, December 8th:** Youth Holiday Party after afternoon services.
- **Friday, December 13th:** Ladies' Holiday Party at the home of Jenny Gunter.
- **Saturday, December 14th:** Holiday Hayride at the home of Ken & Nancy Cohn.

**THOSE TO SERVE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024**

Announcements	John West
Scripture Reading	J.D. Gunter <i>Genesis 2:8-17</i>
Song Leader	Gary Blasingame
Prayer	Gary Blasingame/Eric Paluka (AM) Bret Bailey/Ken Cohn (PM)
Speaker	David Brown
<b>Lord's Table (AM)</b> (John 19:31-37)	
Gary Blasingame	Joshua West
Jonathan West	Stephen Cohn
<b>Lord's Table (PM)</b>	
Eric Paluka	J.D. Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Jonathan West
Camera/Door Monitor	Bret Bailey
<b>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024</b> (via Zoom Meeting)	
Announcements	Ken Cohn
Speaker	J.D. Gunter
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown
<b>FOR NOVEMBER</b>	
Prepare Communion	Humphrey
Lock Buildings	West
Prepare Bulletin Board	West

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Devon & Juliana Paluka, Emma Gomez, Injured HFD Firefighter and Family of Fallen Firefighter, April McCain, Gayle Barnett, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Tania Turcios, Robbie Kirby, Edith Young, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlanda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

**TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

What does "Rabboni" mean?

**Answer to last week's question:**  
 Cyprus (Acts 13:4-13); Rhodes (Acts 21:1); Crete (Acts 27:7,8; Tit. 1:5); Melita (Acts 28:1); Patmos (Rev. 1:9)