

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

By Growing Christians

Study #17

This series of Bible studies in *Christian Mentoring from A to Z* is specifically designed to teach you the basics of the Christian life.

As with most things in life, we never stop learning, and you will most certainly find yourself asking

questions like, “*What does the Bible say about . . . ?*” or “*How may I . . . ?*”



Lesson Overview

- I. Things To Keep In Mind When Asking Questions About The Bible
- II. Questions Often Asked
 - A. What Happens To Infants and Little Children That Die Young?
 - B. What is The “Age of Accountability”?
 - C. Is Abortion Right or Wrong?
 - D. Is Homosexuality A Trait of Birth or A Sinful Perversion?
 - E. Is hell A Real Place?
 - F. What Did Jesus Look Like?
 - G. Is It Possible for Me to Reach A Stage of “Sinless Perfection”?
 - H. Should Christians Observe Christmas?
 - I. Should Christians Observe Easter?
 - J. What Should I Do About My Worries?
 - K. How Should I Prioritize My Life?

Answers to many questions will be found in the studies you have already done – or will be doing. We strongly recommend that you

review your previous lessons from time to time and especially anytime you have a question.

In this current study, you will find Bible answers to a number of commonly asked questions. This is one study that will no doubt expand as new questions arise. Your questions are important, so don't hesitate to ask your discipler, pastors, or other mature Christians.

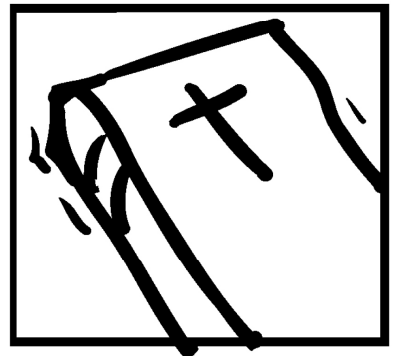
I. THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

A. *The Bible is God's COMPLETE revelation of Himself to man.*

1. According to 2 Peter 1:3, how many things has God given us “*that pertain unto life and godliness?*” _ _ _ (We don't lack needed answers.)
2. According to 2 Timothy 3:15-16, the Scriptures are able to “*make [us] W_ _ _ _ unto salvation,*” and they are “*profitable for D_ _ _ _ _ , for reproof, for correction, and for I_ _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ in righteousness.*”

B. *The Bible has the answer!*

1. God's answers are right and truthful – always. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea who crucified Christ, rhetorically asked the question, “*What is truth?*” Jesus gave an answer to this question in John 17:17,



“Thy Word _____ is truth.”

2. Occasionally Biblical answers require diligent searching to find them, not because God wants to make things difficult, but because we are limited in understanding and abilities.

Read: Hebrews 5:11-14

God says some people are: “*D _____ of hearing*” (v.11), others are “*U _____ in the word of righteousness*” (v.13), but we are to learn the Scriptures so our “*senses [are] exercised to D _____ both good and evil*” (v.14).

C. There are some things we may never really understand...

especially when it comes to His workings in our life and those around us. Many believers have a “list” of things they want to ask God when they get to Heaven, but they know He already has the answer, and it’s the right one. See Deuteronomy 29:29.

D. It is detrimental to get “sidetracked” by insignificant questions.

We are to avoid “*F _____ and U _____ questions,*” (2 Timothy 2:23) along with “*P _____ and old wives’ F _____*” (1 Timothy 4:7).

This means our questions should pertain to faith, personal growth, godliness, and helpful Bible study.

E. Lastly, put into practice the answers you discover in the Bible.

Some answers you won’t like, but practice them anyway. Read: James 1:22, “*But be ye*

*D_____ of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves.”*

Now To Some Questions . . .

This lesson answers eleven questions. All the questions are rooted in doctrine and all doctrine has practical implications. Learn the Scriptures for the purpose of having them transform you into the likeness of Christ.

II. QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

A. *What happens to infants and little children that die young?*

1. Read: Acts 13:22 and 2 Samuel 23:1,2
Was King David saved? _____
2. Read: Psalm 23:6
Where did David go when he died?

3. Read: 2 Samuel 12:23
When the infant child of David and
Bathsheba died at just one week old, David
said, “*I shall G__ T__ him.*”

David could not bring his deceased son back from the dead to the land of the living, but he joined his son in heaven when he departed this earth. Little ones are safe in the protection of God’s care and will go to Heaven should they die in childhood.

B. *What is the “age of accountability?”*

This is a non-Biblical term used to express the Bible teaching that a child is *safe* in Jesus until he reaches an age of understanding and moral responsibility. It is the time of life when a child comes to understand right and wrong and is able to make deliberate

choices in actions. At this point, a child can and needs to be saved – and a child can understand how to be saved. See Nehemiah 8:2.

There is no set age for this “age of accountability,” but the Bible indicates there is such an age for each child.

1. Read: Deuteronomy 1:39
Children are “innocent” who have no
K_____ between
G_____ and E_____ .
2. Read: Ezekiel 12:2
People are accountable for their actions
when they have E_____ to S_____ and
see N_____. See also: Nehemiah 8:2
3. Read: Genesis 8:21
The imagination of a man’s heart is evil
from his Y_____. See Psalm 51:5.
4. Read: 2 Chronicles 36:9
The eight-year-old king Jehoiachin did
E_____ in the sight of the Lord.
5. Read: Matthew 19:16-20
The rich young man was able to understand
and keep the Ten Commandments from his
Y_____ .

Note: Don’t pressure your children into making a profession of faith in Christ. Rather, pray for their salvation, guide them to spiritual truth, and consistently model the Christian life. Be ready to lead them to the Savior.

- According to 2 Timothy 3:15, children can learn the Scriptures which will lead them to salvation.

- According to 1 Samuel 3:1-7, children can faithfully serve the Lord. This is great training for when they are saved.
- According to Mark 10:13-15, Jesus welcomes little children and taught the necessity of “child-like faith.”

C. *Is abortion right or wrong?*

The act of terminating unwanted pregnancies is in an epidemic stage throughout the world. The basic issue in this debate regards the inception of life; does it begin before birth (if so then *when?*) or at birth?



Pro-abortionists argue that a pre-born baby is just a mass of cells and tissue – simply a part of the mother’s body. To them, abortion is tantamount to removing a tumor.

1. When does life begin?
 - a. Read: Psalm 139:13-16
When did God take a vital interest in David? _____
 - b. Read: Psalm 51:5
When did David receive his sin nature? _____
 - c. Read: Jeremiah 1:5
When did the Lord first know Jeremiah? _____
 - d. Read: Luke 1:44
When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, her baby expressed the emotion of ___ ___ ___ within her womb.
 - e. Read: Genesis 25:22,23

Here we read of twins squabbling before birth, and the Lord God giving promises concerning unborn children.

- f. Moses reasoned that life taken should be paid for by life given if an infant in the womb died from an injury inflicted by someone harming the infant's mother (Exodus 21:22-23).

Abortion is a major business in the United States. It generates in excess of ½ billion dollars from the operation itself and from the sale of tissue.

The penalty of “life for life” could be imposed only if the unborn child was a person.

2. The conclusion of Scripture is that life begins at conception. Medical science supports this fact – an embryo has a separate heartbeat, brainwaves, and makes its own red and white cells. Therefore:

Abortion is murder! Abortion is wrong!

D. Is homosexuality a trait of birth or a sinful perversion?

“Alternate lifestyles” are being openly promoted in today’s society. As nations increasingly forget God and turn their ears from the Truth, we observe their flaunted behavior – behavior that was at one time not tolerated. Homosexuals and lesbians are

demanding total acceptance by, and integration into, the community, claiming they were born that way and as such are normal, though different! What does God say?

1. Read: 1 Kings 14:24; 15:12; 22:46; and 2 Kings 23:7
What does the Bible call these so-called “Gays?” S_____
2. Read: Genesis 18:20
This Bible designation of the homosexual comes from the name of the city of S_____
3. Read: Genesis 19:24
What was God’s judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah _____
4. Read: Genesis 19:4,5
The crowd which gathered outside Lot’s home consisted of both O___ and Y_____ and people from every Q_____.
5. Read: Leviticus 18:22
What does God call homosexuality? An A_____.
6. Read: Leviticus 20:13
What punishment does God decree for homosexuality? _____
7. Read: Leviticus 18:22-24
What is the effect upon a nation when sodomites are tolerated? _____
8. Read: 1 Timothy 1:9,10
This passage is the basis for using the Mosaic code as the foundation for righteous government of any society.
9. Read: Romans 1:26,27,32
 - a. God calls this *behavior* “*against*

N_____” (verse 26) – that is, *unnatural* and therefore *not* a trait of birth or heredity.

- b. God calls this *practice* “V_____ *affections*” (verse 26) and burning “L_____” (verse 27).
- c. God says those who practice this “unseemly” behavior will receive “*in T_____ that recompense of their error which was meet [fitting]*” (verse 27).
What are some examples of sodomites receiving God’s compensation for their behavior?
- d. God says those who commit such acts are worthy of D_____ (verse 32).

10. Read: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- a. Verse 9 refers to sodomites as “E_____” and “A_____ of themselves with mankind.”
- b. Verse 11 says: “*And such W_____ some of you . . .*” (i.e. members of the church at Corinth.) This clearly teaches that sodomites can be saved. Notice the *past* tense, however.
- c. How is a homosexual saved? The same way you were saved – through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!
- d. Verse 11 goes on to say: “. . . *but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the*

Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

Clearly, homosexuality is a perverted sexual practice and one that God strongly condemns. It is destructive to any nation which tolerates it (let alone promotes it) – Proverbs 14:34 – and eternally damning to anyone who practices it.

E. Is hell a real place?

The doctrine of hell and everlasting punishment is an unpopular subject today; most “cultured churches” (and cults) reject it.



1. Read: Luke 16:19-31.
Was the rich man conscious in hell? _____.
Could the rich man ever leave hell? _____
2. Read: Matthew 25:41
 - a. Who was hell prepared for? _____

 - b. Some say hell means *annihilation*.
Matthew 25:46 calls it “E_____ -
_____ (unending)
punishment.”
3. Read: Revelation 20:11-15
 - a. The eternal region of the lost is called the “L_____ of F_____.”
 - b. Who are to be cast into this awful place? _____

4. Read: Matthew 5:22; 10:28; 13:40-42,49,50; 23:33; Mark 9:43-49
Who spoke these words? _____

Do you REALLY believe in hell?

QUESTION #1: Most Christians will emphatically answer “Yes!” But do they really? Do you? Do you believe in an eternal separation from God in a place of torment, burning, pain, anguish, and utter hopelessness and despair? Jesus did!

QUESTION #2: Do you warn lost people about it? If you happened upon a burning house late at night, would you wake and warn the sleeping occupants? Or, would you sit outside to “watch the show?” The reality of the devastation would move you to action. Likewise, your belief in the reality of the devastation of hell will move you to action. “Sitting outside” and watching people die without Christ must make you doubt whether you really believe in hell.

F. What did Jesus look like?

Nobody knows! Centuries after the New Testament era artists portrayed Him as a pale-faced, longhaired, effeminate, hippie-looking Caucasian. This is erroneous – wrong race, wrong skin color, wrong subculture and definitely not effeminate!

1. Read: Isaiah 53:2. This prophecy of Christ says He had “*no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no B_____ that we should desire him.*” There was nothing physically attractive about Him.



2. Read: Matthew 26:48. He did not stand out from the crowd. In Matthew 26:48 Judas had to identify Jesus from the disciples.
3. Read: 1 Corinthians 11:14. Did Jesus have long hair? _____
4. It is certain that Jesus looked like an average Jew. Olive complexion, dark short hair, and a beard (Isaiah 50:6) are more probable descriptions.

The fact that no Biblical description is given of our Savior is no doubt meant to prevent idolatrous worship of images and pictures. See: Romans 1:23 and 1 John 5:21.

G. *Is it possible for me to reach a stage of “sinless perfection?”*

1. According to Galatians 5:17, each believer experiences an inward battle between the S_____ and the F_____.



2. According to 1 John 1:8–2:1, anyone who says they no longer sin has _____
3. One of the most victorious Christians of all time, the Apostle Paul, said that within his

flesh “dwelleth N__ G__ __ T__ __”
(Romans 7:15-21).

4. A Christian will not be perfect until he is delivered from the B__ __ (Romans 7:24).
 5. Nevertheless, according to Titus 2:12 and 1 John 3:3, what kind of life should a Christian strive to lead by God’s grace?
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H. Should Christians observe Christmas?



The Christmas season has become a time of revelry and fleshly indulgence, and no Christian ought to join in such things. See Galatians 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 5:11.

Christmas is also a time given over to many religious customs and ideas that have absolutely *nothing* to do with the Word of God. With these two cautions in mind consider the following:

1. Use this season for evangelism. According to John 3:16 the central message of the birth of Jesus Christ is *God seeking the salvation of mankind*. There are two things we strongly suggest:
 - a. When visiting family and friends, share with them the greatest of all Gifts – the Christ-child became the Savior. At least place a Gospel tract with every gift or card given.

- b. Give sacrificially to God at this time. A *financial* gift or *time* gift will be an added blessing to others. Our church usually takes a special Christmas offering.
2. Keep the meaning and facts of Christmas undiluted with fiction.
 - Jesus was not necessarily born on December 25th.

“It wasn’t until the sixth century A.D. that an attempt was made to develop a standard calendar for the western church. January 1, 1 A.D. was regarded as the new year of the new era and the December 25th immediately preceding it was designated as the date of Christ’s birth.

To discuss the date of Christ’s birth historically rather than traditionally, we need to integrate many pieces of data. That includes both the infallible historical facts of Scripture and historical information found only in reliable secular sources (e.g., the death of Herod the Great, the census under Quirinus). Upon comparing and contrasting major milestones in the life of Christ with credible historical sources, the range for the year of Christ’s birth falls within 6 to 4 BC. By the same process, the time of year that is most credible is midwinter. Consequently, ‘although the exact date of Christ’s birth cannot be known, either December, 5 BC or January, 4 BC, is most reasonable.’”

Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ, Zondervan

- There were not necessarily *three* wise men. There was a company of Magi who brought three kinds of gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

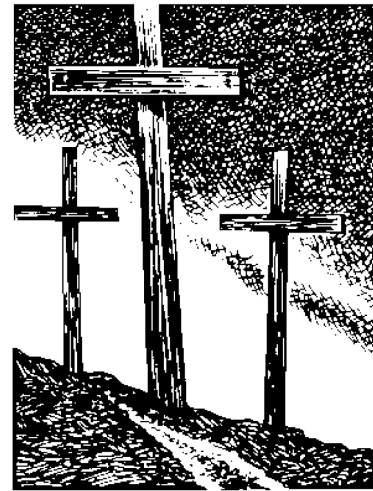


- The wise men did not meet with the shepherds in the stable. Matthew 2:11 says they came to a H__ __ __ and saw Jesus as a Y__ __ __ C__ __ __ . Matthew 2:16 indicates the young child was almost __ __ __ years old at this time.

- 3. Teaching our children the myth of Santa Claus is not wise. We are in fact telling them a lie.

I. Should Christians observe Easter?

Easter is the most solemn religious observance in Christendom. “*Easter*” as found in the Authorized Version (KJV) is translated from the Greek term *pascha* which means Passover. However, the term *Easter* was actually derived from the Anglo-Saxon “Eostre,” the name of the goddess of Spring. By the 8th century the term came to be applied to the anniversary of Christ’s resurrection and was the word used for Passover in Acts 12:4.



1. The question is, does the Lord want us to set aside *one* time each year to remember His death and resurrection?
 - a. According to John 20:1, Jesus rose from the dead on the F__ __ __ __ day of the week.
 - b. According to Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:2, churches began meeting on the __ __ __ __ day of the week.

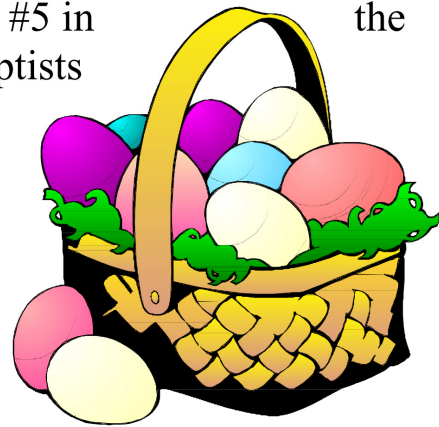
Thus we remember our Lord's resurrection every Sunday! We remember the events of the Lord's death and resurrection when we meet to observe the _____'s _____ (1 Corinthians 11:24-26).

We remember these events when we witness Scriptural B_____ (Romans 6:4).

2. Do we celebrate the season with Easter eggs, chocolate bunnies, bonnets, and so on?

Review Distinctive #5 in _____ the

Kinship lesson. Baptists have distinctively held to Individual Soul Liberty, that is, each individual has the right to



worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. Eating chocolate, wearing hats, or coloring eggs is not a doctrinal issue; it is not false doctrine; it does not violate a command or principle of Scripture; it is not condemned in Scripture. So...

- a. Does your conscience allow you to do this? Don't violate your conscience.
- b. Don't allow these customs to overshadow and detract from the meaning of Easter. Use Easter to celebrate the greatest Person (Christ), the greatest event

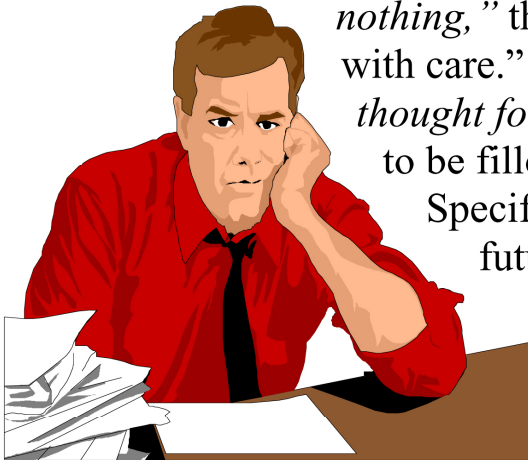
(resurrection), and the greatest gift (eternal life) ever given to mankind!

J. *What should I do about my worries?*

Worry can give you ulcers, sap your strength, and put you in the grave, but it doesn't eliminate problems. What is worry? What does God say about it? What can you do about it?

1. What is worry?

The words in the Bible for worry are *care* and *taking thought*. According to Philippians 4:6, we are to be “C_____ for nothing,” that is, we are not to be “filled with care.” Matthew 6:25 says, “Take no thought for your L_____ ;” we are not to be filled with anxious thoughts.



Specifically, worry is concern over the future; it is being filled with care or troubled with thoughts over things we can do nothing about and over things that we can't even be sure about. It is concern over the unknown and uncontrollable future.

2. What does God say about worry?

- a. According to Psalm 127:2, worry is V_____.
- b. Jesus made it clear that worry is a wrong focus on life. Read Matthew 6:25-34. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
- c. Worry doesn't accomplish anything (Matthew 6:27). It doesn't settle the

problems of the future for the future
is not here.

3. What can you do about worry?
According to Romans 8:28, God works
A___ T___ together for our
good; and in 1 Peter 5:7 we are instructed to
cast all our C___ upon Him.

Here is what you can do –

- Trust God working in your life.
- Redirect your concern. Pour your concern, efforts, and energy into others.
- Take one day at a time.

With pen and paper in hand follow this simple procedure.

Write out and answer these questions:

1. What is my problem?
2. What does God want me to do about it?
3. When, where, and how should I begin?

Defining the problem often leads to a solution. Create an action list and begin working on those items. Don't be satisfied with just defining the problem or with just creating the list. Be a Christian of **ACTION!** Those actions must conform to the Scriptures. Seek godly counsel if necessary.

Even if you can't change a thing outside of yourself, by the power of God your attitudes toward problems can be changed. *You* can change if nothing else will. When you submit to and accept God's movement in your life, you receive the P___ of God that passes all U___ (Philippians 4:7).

K. *How should I prioritize my life?*

Review the M lesson. It discusses biblical stewardship (of time, talents, and treasures).

No one can teach you how to have more *time*, you have all there is.

The Bible instructs us to “redeem the time” we do this through managing ourselves. Be a good steward of (1) your **walk**

with God, and your **relationship** with (2) your mate, (3) your children, (4) your church family, (5) your world.

Benjamin Franklin

said, “Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.”

A poet wrote “Time goes,” you say; “Ah, no. Time stays; we go.”

1. Prepare a list of what you value most (your highest priorities of life).

God

Faith

Family

Work

Church

Character

Bible

Friends

Health

2. Write each valued priority as an action statement. For example...

Daily walk with God

Love my wife as Christ loved the Church

Give my best at church

3. Prioritize this action list. These are principles to live by.

4. Bring your performance in line with your principles. (Lesson M will help you with this.)
5. Set goals. Four areas for goal setting are:
 - a. Personal/Spiritual
 - b. Family
 - c. Church
 - d. Work

To Set Goals...

1. Write down *specific* goals.
2. Determine how you will benefit as a result of achieving your goal.
3. Make a deadline.
4. Identify the obstacles that have to be overcome in order to achieve your goal.
5. Make a detailed plan.
6. Ask, “Am I willing to pay the price?”
7. Resolve NEVER to give up (Proverbs 24:16)!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT

- Read your R Lesson (**R**eaching the World) and answer all the questions. Look up the lesson’s Bible references in God’s Word.
- Continue reading through the New Testament *at your own pace*.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week.
- Give out copies of *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week’s session?
- Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, **R** Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on
_____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You