

Six Searching Questions

Some questions are _____ important than others. Today we're going to look at six of the _____ important questions that we'll ever ask! We do _____ the Scriptures diligently, contextually, and humbly. We want to be sure that what we believe and what we teach are _____. We know God will hold us accountable for the things that we _____. God will also hold us accountable for what we _____. We want to make sure what we believe follows the Scriptures, because we can _____ on God's holy word to be true.

Questions are important; and that's how we _____. Asking good questions and finding the _____ answers are essential to life. Some people never ask or search for the answers, and they remain without the knowledge that they so desperately _____. Some ask and hear the _____ answers, and are deceived about many things. Some find the right answers but _____ them because they don't like what they hear. Some diligently search for the truth and find the _____ answers. Though the truth is sometimes _____ to hear, they rejoice in the truth of God! God's truth tells it like it is, and this gives us _____ for the present and for eternal life.

I hope and pray that you have a curious _____ that is willing to search out the truth. There's so many _____ saying so many things that it's easy to be deceived. The noble Bereans searched the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was _____ (Acts 17:11). God will count _____ as noble if you too search the Scriptures to determine what is true. Don't be content to _____ the passages you like or those that you agree with, or that you think they say what you want them to say. Rather search diligently _____ that God has to say on the subject. You might find that what you thought differs from what God says.

Our reading comes from Proverbs 2:1-6.

Today we're exploring the six most important questions of life. Thankfully, the Scriptures give us the answers, so that we may _____ what really matters. Each question gives us _____ into ourselves, our purpose, our accountability, and our destiny.

First, we ask, "What are we as humans?" We're certainly more than an advanced _____. Though we have physical characteristics similar to mammals, we have _____ differences. The Scriptures make clear that only man is made in the _____ of God (Genesis 1:26-28). Like God, we can reason, communicate, and make decisions. Like God we're endowed with an innate _____ of morality; we instinctively _____ there is right and wrong. We also realize we are responsible for our _____. Romans 14:12 says, "So then each one of us will give an _____ of himself to God."

This moral sense _____ all through life. The Bible is a marvelous moral _____. We can read, we can learn, and can evaluate ourselves and _____ that we are not like animals. Consciences are always at work but must be _____. Conscience by _____ doesn't give us all that we need to know about right or wrong. Our consciences can become dull or hardened if we _____ them or if we allow them to be affected by the world. Paul said, "I have lived my life with a perfectly _____

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633

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conscience before God up to this day” (Acts 23:1); but he committed some of the terrible sins and called himself the “chief of sinners” in 1 Timothy 1:15. Paul sinned in ignorance, and God _____ him as an example for us all of His grace.

This leads to our second question: “Where did we come from?” Much has been said about the _____ of the species. There is just _____ satisfactory explanation. We came from _____. Genesis 2:7 says, “Then the LORD God _____ man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being,” that is a living soul. Paul said in Acts 17:28, “In him [God] we live and move and have our being.” We are _____ in His image and in His likeness.

Only an all knowing, all powerful God could create and _____ this marvelous world and us. We’re extremely complex, physical beings with trillions of cells, each of which possesses purpose and amazing abilities. The incredible design of our bodies _____ an intelligent, powerful Designer. He made us not only physically but _____ emotionally, spiritually, and morally.

This leads us to our third question, “Why are our lives on earth temporary?” Our bodies were not made to live forever, yet we’re _____ than a body. Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:7, “then the dust will return to the _____ as it was, and the spirit will return to _____ who gave it.” God made our bodies from the _____ of the ground. The body goes _____ to the dust of the ground. God breathed into our bodies the breath of _____. At death the _____ returns to God who gave it. Death is the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26).

Death is the end of the body, but there’s more in our _____ than dying. We have an appointment at the judgment _____ of Christ. This is a serious, solemn thought: “it is appointed for men to die once and _____ this comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27.) “For we shall all appear before the judgment seat of God” (Romans 14:10). Second Corinthians 5:10 tells why, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his _____ in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” God judges our earthly lives to see where we will _____ eternity.

So, we ask a fourth question, “What is our responsibility?” We must listen to God and live such lives that _____ and glorify Him. God declared from heaven on the mountain where Jesus was transfigured, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; _____ to Him!” (Matthew 17:5). There was a time when folks were to hear Moses and the prophets, but now God _____ to us by his Son. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has _____ to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” To believe we must listen to Christ, if we’re going to believe the _____ things. Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the _____ of Christ.”

Our responsibility is to believe the _____. We believe Jesus died for our _____, that He was buried, and that He arose from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures. The Lord Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be _____; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16). We must do _____ than hear or listen, we must believe what we’ve heard, believe the truth, and whenever we’ve heard it to embrace it, to take it into our hearts. Hearing is not only listening; it’s _____ responding to what we are told. Our duty is to _____ the gospel. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, “Although He [Jesus] was a Son, He _____ obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who _____ Him the source of eternal salvation.”

We cannot earn salvation through meritorious works, but the _____ of God does not save those who fail to obey. John 3:36 in the New American Standard says, “He who believes in the Son has eternal

life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” Because of His grace we love the Lord. We show that love by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). Revelation 22:14 says, “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.” God washes us when we’re baptized into Christ (Acts 22:16). That’s when we’re _____ again and that’s when we have newness of life, according to Romans 6:4.

We then ask our fifth question, “What are our dangers?” There are _____ great dangers confronting us. One is that we will _____ our salvation. Hebrews 2:1-3 says, “For this reason we must pay much _____ attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we _____ if we neglect so great a salvation?” How shall we escape if we neglect? There is no escape if we continue to live _____ the will of God.

Thankfully, God is _____ with us. Second Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slow about His _____, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for _____ to come to repentance.” If we perish eternally, it won’t be because God _____ it. He wants all people to be saved and to _____ to the knowledge of the truth. God, however, will not save us against our stubborn _____. Repentance is necessary for salvation. This is true for the person who is becoming a Christian by _____ the gospel, and it’s true for the Christian who walks, and maybe he decides to walk in sin, he needs to _____ of it. Romans 8:6-8 says to the Christian, “For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it doesn’t subject itself to the law of God, for it’s not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot _____ God.”

Make no mistake: if we set our minds on serving sin, we’re in _____ of losing our souls. The devil would have us believe that we’re in no great danger, but the devil is a _____. The Lord Jesus said, “For whoever wishes to save his life [that is, his soul] will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My _____ will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his _____? Or what will a man give in _____ for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then _____ every man according to his deeds” (Matthew 16:25-27). Jesus wouldn’t talk about _____ our soul if we were not in very great danger of doing that very thing.

This leads us to our last question, “What is our destiny?” There are only _____ destinies before us. One is _____, where we will live eternally in love, and peace with God. We’ll enjoy His blessing and kindness forever. Those who are righteous and cleansed by the _____ of Jesus will enter heaven. First Peter 1:3-4 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great _____ has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” Oh, I want heaven for my eternal home. I want to be with the Lord who loves me and has blessed me all my life.

The other destiny is _____, where there is punishment, weeping, and gnashing of teeth. Those who are unbelieving, unrighteous and rebellious will be taken there and eternally _____ from God. The Lord Jesus who _____ us mentioned hell more often than any other person in Scripture. He spoke of hell to _____ us and to keep us from going there. Those who love you will warn you of dangers.

Jesus Christ did everything He could to _____ anyone from going to hell. He suffered on the cross to keep us from having to _____ for our sins. But do not imagine that He extends His grace to those who _____ against Him or to those who will not believe what He says. The Lord Jesus said, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to _____ both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

Each of us is _____ one of these destinies, either one or the other. Which will it be? Will you spend eternity in all the _____ of heaven, or will you lose your opportunity by rejecting the Lord? Remember Hebrews 9:27 says, “It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.” You must make your decision _____ in this life, while you have opportunity. Because after death, there will be no more opportunities.

We are indeed moral creatures made in the image of God and accountable for our _____ and our _____. We need to appreciate that God created us and gave us life. We must seriously and solemnly face the _____ that we have perishing bodies and we’ll go back to the earth, but our spirits will return to God. Let’s set our _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ who has loved us so greatly that He would die for us. Let’s rejoice that He arose from the dead, assuring us that we _____ would have life after this life is over. May we hear, believe, and obey the truth in response to His love and promise, so that we may be _____ from our old sins. Let’s keep on hearing, believing, and obeying. By continuing in our faith and hope, we won’t _____ the great salvation.

Our lives are _____ with warnings and predictions of disasters. Everyone seems to tell us the sky is falling, and we’re living in _____. We’re warned to _____ for all kinds of political, economic, and health devastations. We hear _____ about everything. Whether these things will happen, I don’t know; but I do know one thing! The Lord Jesus is _____ again. He promised, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the _____ will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the _____ deeds to a resurrection of life, and those who committed the _____ deeds to a resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29).

If you aren’t prepared for His coming, then you can’t _____ His promises. If you aren’t under the _____ of God in this life, you can’t expect to have God’s blessing in the life to come. God created you so that you could _____ eternally with Him. He gave you a conscience so that you would _____ evil and learn to do what is right. He gave us His _____ so that we might know the truth and be saved. The Father sent His Son into the world to _____ us, to die on the cross for our sins, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

To be prepared, love the Lord Jesus, believe in Him, obey His commandments, and trust in His promises. Turn from sin and live for the Lord in righteousness. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and make Him your Lord. Be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, immersed in water in His name. When you’re baptized into Christ, God washes away your sins (Acts 22:16) and He counts you as His child (Galatians 3:26-27). There’s no better day than today to prepare your soul for eternal life!

Focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. There’s probably a church of Christ near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll gladly help you find one.