

## Submitted Questions at Snack Shop Box (thank you Sarah for providing)

As Christians, we believe that the Bible stands over us. It is our authority. We come to the Bible open handed with our opinions and change our worldview and beliefs to align with scripture. We don't simply use bible verses to defend what we have already decided we believe.

### Why are only Jesus' words in red?

- They have not always been that way. Lous Klopsch, editor of Christian Herald magazine (late 1800's/early 1900's), began printing bibles with Jesus' words in red in 1901. Also noted with red stars were the O.T. passages which specifically prophesied about Jesus. His purpose was to make it easy to identify Jesus' words and hoped that people would build their theology based on Jesus' teaching first and work out from there.
- Concern: We have to be careful not to elevate certain verses over others. All scripture is God-breathed. **2 Tim. 3:16** - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

### Are we born fools? If so, how do we gain wisdom if only wise people ask for it?

- The value of wisdom: **Prov. 3:13-23**
- Get wisdom. You have a choice: **Prov. 4:3-7**
- What/who is the source of wisdom?
  - **Prov. 2:6-7a**
  - **Col. 2:1-3**
- How do I gain wisdom? Where do I start?
  - **Prov. 1:1-7**
  - **James 1:5** – Ask the Lord for it. Pursue it.
    - Committing your life to Christ is the first wisest thing you can do.

### If there is no sin in heaven, how did satan sin?

- How did satan become evil? How did the first sin come about (satan's)? When the story of the bible zooms into a day in the life of Adam and Eve, deceitful-God-opposing-evil is already present.
- Some argue that satan had freewill (ultimate self-determination) in heaven. How could a creature created good, with a good heart, in a place without sin, standing in God's glory manifest an evil inclination? But, the notion that someone could sin in heaven because of free will leads to scary thoughts for us about heaven. Could it happen again? Are we ever safe?
- I don't know where sin originated or what prompted satan to first sin. Even the passages concerning satan's origin are unclear at best. We do have some clues which I won't dig into tonight. **But this question has a built in distraction.** Not because it can't be

answered easily, but because what's actually important is easily answered. For us, how sin entered the heavenly and physical realms isn't important. Without compromising His character, God governs and ordained all of that according to His will for His glory. What is important is our future in heaven, and that is clearly detailed.

- **One** thing we know, evil is not an eternal reality. We're not dualists. Evil with death came to be within God's creation, and it will cease to be upon His final judgement.

#### **Rev.20:10-15**

- **Two**, we know is that Christians have a promise from omnipotent, omniscient, sovereign God for the future. Evil will be finally done away with. In heaven, you and I, will be sin free for eternity. We can rest in that.
  - What causes us to sin? **Eph. 2:1-3** – the world, the devil, our own flesh.
  - **Rev. 21:4,8,27** – We are separated from the moral and natural evil of the world.
  - **Rev. 20:10** – The tempter will be dealt with.
  - **Rom. 8:30, Phil. 1:6** – Our inclination toward sin will be purged. We will be made completely new and sinless.
    - At the cross we are saved from the penalty of sin and the power of sin. In heaven, we'll be freed from the very presence of sin. We will be totally sanctified: Our fleshly desires, and even our will be glorified.

## **Do Christians who kill themselves go to heaven?**

- Every 11 minutes, someone in the US has committed suicide (2021).
- Is suicide a sin? Yes. Is it murder? Yes. Does a Christian's life belong to them? No. It belongs to God. Taking our own life defies God's lordship and purpose in our life. And it grieves God.
- The stance that a Christian will go to hell because they commit suicide is from the belief that a Christian is only forgiven for the sins they repent for. Those that hold to this stance would ask, "If someone is dead, how can they repent?"
  - Ex. If I'm in an argument with Jacqui and sin against her, then storm out the front door to be hit by a Mack truck before I could confess/repent, will I go to hell?
- This (I believe faulty) belief misses the truth of what transpired on the cross and what takes place for a believer at salvation. Questions like these are where a robust understanding of the cross makes all the difference. For those who are in Christ, our righteousness before God is no longer based on our performance, but on Christ's. Our study through Hebrews has made this point beautifully clear. **Here's a better, more helpful question:**
- What IS the deciding factor of heaven or hell?
  - **Rom 10:9-11** – The deciding factor of heaven/hell is if you put your faith in Jesus.
  - **Eph. 1:7-10** (all in past tense).
    - While you were still a sinner, He died for you? (**Rom. 5:8**)
    - **Hebrews 1:3** – also past tense
  - **Rom. 8:29-30, Rom. 8:38-39**

- Not even suicide can separate a Christian from God’s effectual love.
- If a Christian in a moment of weakness, sin, despair, helplessness, hopelessness, chronic pain, loss of a loved one, abuse, or mental disorder, grievously takes their life, their sin is still covered by the blood of Jesus.
  - Plus, we can’t know what happens between someone and God in the last seconds of life. God may lead them to repentance and crying out in faith in their last breath. Those judgements must be left to God.
- Maybe you’ve felt this way before. With that overwhelming feeling, imagine the lies the enemy might be able to convince you of.
  - Get help. Tell someone.
  - Those thoughts are from the enemy, the deceiver, who wants to destroy you.
    - Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.
  - Our hope is in Jesus Christ. In Him, there is hope over what you’re feeling.
    - If God hasn’t taken you home yet, He still has work for you to do for His kingdom and His glory.

**How to deal with severe depression, anxiety, low self-esteem?** Defer to Meco Carlos

**How do you stay on track with God when the world is trying to pull you into sinful things?**

- **Gal. 5:1,16,25** – Walk in the Spirit, not the flesh
- **Rom. 13:14** - *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*
  - **Psalm 119:9-11** – Being filled with the word of God.
  - **1 Tim. 4:7b-8** – Spiritual disciplines (Bible intake = reading, studying, memorizing, sermons; prayer, worship, evangelism, serving, fasting, silence/solitude, journaling)
  - **1 John 2:15-17** - Disconnection from the world

**Moving into eGroups** – Discuss. Ask questions. But your objective is to build into your belief system what the bible says. Scripture is authoritative over every Christian. That means it is over us. We have no right to say, “The Bible says this, but I see it this way.” So, your challenge tonight is not to give an answer or response unless you are using scripture to support it. You may use Google on your phones to find related verses. But as we push forward in tackling tough questions this summer, may we build our world view on the Bible and not build scripture on our world view.

## eGroup Questions /// Questions

### **Pray:**

Handout question sheet to be marked up and collect them back again.

To your group: "Asking good questions is key. Where we gain our answers reveals our god."

### **Key Verse: Psalm 119:98-105**

**Questions:** (Remember to ask for verses from which their answers are coming from.)

1. What took place at the cross? What happens when someone is saved?
2. What is the first step in growing in wisdom?
3. What are some more things we know about heaven?
4. What is the Bible? Why is God's word important?
5. Tell me about the fear of the Lord? What is it? How is it seen?

**Ask for prayer requests:** Pray