

said do not go into another man's closet to prayerfully confess. He said to go into your own closet and in the secret of your own solitude make your prayer of confession not to a man but to the Father who is in heaven.

You may be surrounded by thousands in a public place, by hundreds in a church building, or by no one, but you must enter into a place of private confession with God alone. There you must once and for all, finally and forever, receive as your personal Savior the One Who died and rose again, the one Mediator, the one perfect sacrifice for sins. You must confess to God your personal and total faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Who alone, with no help from you or your religion, can and will grant you everlasting life (Hebrews 7:24-28).

### QUESTION # 7

One religious question remains, and this one is for you to consider. What are you going to do with Jesus Christ?

Will you receive by faith God's salvation, trusting wholly and completely in the Savior that God has provided? Will you, right this moment, say to Him, *"I am a sinner, and I am asking You to be my Savior. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, and I will trust no other and look to no other for my salvation."*

Can you honestly and sincerely make that confession to God from your heart? The Bible says, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved* (Romans 10:13). *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed* (2 Peter 1:19). *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them* (Isaiah 8:20).

Do not die in darkness and spend eternity in outer darkness. Come to the Light of the World—the Lord Jesus Christ—and trust Him today as your personal Savior.

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If you have any other questions regarding spiritual matters, please contact us at:

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# RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

by James W. Knox

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In this pamphlet we are going to address some of the most common religious questions asked by religious people about religion.

According to Romans 1 and Psalm 19, every man has a God-consciousness. This understanding leads him to become religious; to adopt some sort of religious thought, philosophy, or activity in order to satisfy the conscience within him that continually testifies of his accountability to the God he knows exists.

This was first manifest in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to make a covering for themselves and hide their sins from God.

Now Satan knows that man is incurably religious, and his greatest success over the last 6,000 years has been in helping lost and unsaved men develop systems of religion that amount to nothing more than fig-leaf coverings for their sins, thereby damning them to share his fate in an eternal hell.

Since heaven and hell are the only two destinations, and since all of us will go to one or the other when we die, it is vitally important that we determine whether or not those religious practices and teachings which are very common in the world are the things which are set forth in the Holy Bible as being the will of God for man.

Our purpose is not to argue about who is right and who is wrong or to debate which particular set of religious beliefs is the best. Rather we will take the Holy Bible and answer these religious questions because we want to know what God says. After all, it is before Him that we will stand on the day of judgment.

### QUESTION # 1

Is there more than one authority by which I am to guide my life and upon which I am to base

my faith and trust?

While many say that the Bible is the only thing that man is to go by there are other serious religious people who believe that God has also spoken at other times and in other ways through other religious men.

In 2 Peter 1, Peter recalls a time when he beheld the Son of God in His kingdom glory and heard the Father speak from heaven (vv. 16-18), and he writes, *We have also a more sure word of prophecy...Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost* (vv. 19-21).

What is more sure than being an eyewitness of Jesus' majesty or hearing God's voice from heaven? It is the scriptures that holy men recorded under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

There are many religions in the world today that were founded by men who said that God spoke to them from heaven. Others have added dogmas or doctrines or decrees to the Bible, claiming that they were given by God to one of their leaders.

But we have something against more sure than any audible voice from heaven against which we may check their claims—the written scriptures. Isaiah 8:20 says, *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.* This is very important.

### QUESTION #2

Is salvation found in a particular church or denomination? And if so, which one? And can anyone ever have salvation outside of that church

Now to answer this question let us turn to the more sure word of prophecy God has given to light our way.

In Acts 4, the Apostle Peter was called before the religious leaders of his day and was questioned concerning his healing of a particular man just outside the gate of the temple. Speaking of Jesus Christ, he said in verse 12, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

According to the written scriptures, the name

that brings salvation is not Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Jehovah's Witness, Church of Christ, or any other denomination. It is the name of a Man Who was crucified and rose from the dead. No church died or rose from the dead for your sins. But Jesus Christ did. And if you are to obtain salvation, you must get it from Him.

In John 14:6 Jesus said, *I am THE way, THE truth, and THE life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* So we do not find salvation in a church, a denomination, an organization, or in a society. We find it in a person—the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### QUESTION # 3

Is it right for me to use titles like father, master, rabbi, or reverend for a religious leader out of respect for his position and place of authority?

In Matthew 23:8, Jesus told His followers, *But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.*

Jesus said that none of His followers were to be called Rabbi or Master because He is THE Master and all his disciples merely brethren. Jesus said that none of His followers were to be called Father (in a religious or spiritual context) because there is only one Father, and He is in heaven. God has forbidden use of these titles that rightly belong to Him alone.

Another title desired by and conferred upon religious leaders is reverend. The only time this word is used in the Bible is in Psalm 111:9. which reads, *He sent redemption unto his people.* That could only be true of the Lord. *He hath commanded his covenant for ever.* That could only be true of the Lord. *Holy and reverend is his name.* Likewise, this could only be true of the Lord.

You would not think of calling your minister, priest, or pastor the Almighty, the Redeemer, or the Alpha and Omega because those are all names that belong to God. But according to God's word, the term reverend describes only His high and holy name.

Some would argue that such titles are simply

terms of respect. I would agree that those who labor in the word and doctrine are worthy of double honor (1 Timothy 5:17), and most good ministers receive far too little respect from those they serve. But there are ways to honor men without dishonoring the written word of God. Let us find and use them.

## QUESTION # 4

When I pray, can I talk directly to God? And if I need someone to help get my prayers to God, who is this person?

In the world's oldest book, a man named Job faced this dilemma head-on. Job 9:30-33 says, *If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.* Job knew he could not make himself righteous enough to enter into the presence of God and actually speak to his Maker face to face. *For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.*

Job saw the need. There was no one who was both God and man and could thus stand between the two, bringing them together. The question is does such a one exist today?

All statues, images, and idols, or anything like a cross, amulet, or icon must be ruled out. They cannot serve the purpose because they are neither God nor man.

What about one of the saints? Well, they can lay their hands on man because they were men, but obviously they cannot lay their hands upon God, for as good as they might have been, they fall far short of God's glory.

But the Bible says that one day a babe was born to a virgin named Mary, and His name was called Immanuel – God with us (Matthew 1:23). And the scripture says in 1 Timothy 2:5-6, *For there is ONE God, and ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.*

Man need never again cry or lament for the lack of a daysman to bring him and God together. Jesus Christ can touch God because He is God, and He can touch man because He is man. And He

gave His life on the cross so He could reconcile the two together (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

You can pray directly to God because Jesus Christ has made a way (Hebrews 10:19-22). He alone can get your prayers to God, for He is the one and only mediator (Romans 8:34).

## QUESTION # 5

Realizing that I am a sinner and that Jesus Christ is the only Savior, what am I to do? How do I receive Jesus Christ as my Savior?

Here is where Satan steps in and turns people aside from the path that leads to salvation. He gives them something to receive and presents it as Jesus Christ when in fact it is but a false substitute. Let me show you what I mean.

Friend, your problem is that you have sinned, and *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23). The saving good news preached by the apostles of the Lord was *how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

You must come to Jesus Christ for salvation because He not only has the power of an endless life but the authority and the desire to impart that life to you.

Now, I am going to say this in all sincerity. God knows my heart. I am not being critical of any man's religion. I am trying to help you from the scriptures, so please pay very careful attention.

When you decide to seek Jesus Christ for your salvation knowing that He is the only Savior, and you go to church and are given a wafer and are told that you are eating Jesus Christ, do you ever question that statement? When you sip something from a cup and are told that you are drinking the blood of Jesus Christ, do you ever question that statement? If in a religious service you partake of the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, then He becomes entombed within your body. And when does He rise again?

Remember, if Jesus Christ did not rise again we have no hope of victory in the day of our death. Therefore, the only Lord Jesus Christ that you can receive in order to be saved must be a risen, resurrected Christ Who is alive forevermore.

Read carefully what the Bible says in

Hebrews 10:1-9. *For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt-offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

What Jesus took away when He visited this earth was an offering that was brought again and again because it could not satisfy the conscience of the religious man who was trying to find peace with God. In taking away that continual system of sacrifice, Jesus instituted a new sacrifice. This was not an offering of a bull or a goat or a lamb – but the offering of His own body.

Now, was the body of Jesus Christ offered in the same continual manner as the Old Testament sacrifices, which could never clear the conscience, or is there something different about this second offering? Hebrews 10:10 answers, *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL.*

The Bible declares that Jesus Christ came to this earth in a human body and that body was offered as a sacrifice for your sins ONCE on Calvary's cross, and never, in any way, shape, or form, or under any circumstance would that death need to be repeated again.

Hebrews 10:11 states, *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.* God says that any priest who stands and

offers a repetitious sacrifice is participating in a religious exercise that *can never take away sins.*

So the Christ that someone would have you receive on a continual basis is not the Jesus Christ of salvation, according to the *more sure word of prophecy.* You know this is true because no matter how many times a man partakes of that sacrifice it does not satisfy his conscience. If it had taken away his sins and given him eternal life he would never have to come and receive it again.

There is an eternal salvation available to you, dear friend. Hebrews 10:12-14 says, *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

According to the Bible, the only way to be saved is to receive by faith the finished, completed, once-for-all, forever, eternal sacrifice of the risen Lord Jesus as the only full and perfect payment for your sins. Those who do so have God's promise of everlasting life.

## QUESTION # 6

Knowing what Jesus Christ has done for me and realizing that I am a sinner who must receive Him for salvation, where do I go? To whom do I make my confession?

In Matthew 6:6 Jesus instructs, *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which is in secret shall reward thee openly.*

Friend, you have sinned against God, and it is God who must forgive you. It is to Him that you must go.

Your sin was not against a man, and your salvation cannot come from a man. Therefore, it would be pointless to make your confession to a man.

If you were to go to a man, he would most likely tell you to repeat prayers. But in the following verse Jesus says, *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*

The heathen think that if they repeat words over and over again they will be heard. But Jesus