**Answering People on Their Terms**

Peter says in- *1 Peter 3:15 ESV  but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

Unfortunately people like the 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, those of Samaria that readily received the word- Acts 8:12, and like the Ethiopian nobleman who immediately obeyed the gospel- Acts 8:37 at the hearing of it are few and very far between.

After 2,000 years since the gospel was introduced there has been a steady decline of recognizing the authority of God and His word. People look to follow after doctrines and dogmas of men that state such thing as; “…faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and full of comfort” rather than looking for book, chapter and verse in obedience to God.

For the past 6 years several of us have been teaching at a prison in Cuero, TX. Over those years we have had many questions posed to us on religious matters. This study draws from those questions that I assure you are not just from the mind of prisoners, but from all people that have some interests in Bible matters.

You in this study have an advantage over us at the prison – we are asked these questions quite often on the spur of the moment. You will have time for study and meditation and prayer when you answer each question.

The design of the study is after each question asked, list passages and your comments that you feel will answer the question, a space will be left for you to do so. Then another space is provided to add to what you wish from the class discussion. When finished we pray that we will have a better understanding of determining God’s will on each question and a better ability to give an *“apologia”*- defense of the gospel *“with meekness and respect”.*

Note: Some of the questions asked will not have Biblical answers. You will have to do research for the answer. In situations like this we will research the answers then give Biblical principles along with the answer. This will become apparent to you as we get into the lessons.

We consider no question (no matter how far-fetched it may be) silly or bad – as long as it is not a question asked to cause strife and division- *1 Timothy 6:3-5 ASV  If any man teacheth a different doctrine, and consenteth not to sound words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;  (4)  he is puffed up, knowing nothing, but doting about questionings and disputes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,  (5)  wranglings of men corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth, supposing that godliness is a way of gain.*

**Question 1- Did God give two Laws to Moses?**

There is a teaching that exists that believers are bound to the Mosaic Law. These people recognize the impossibility to keep the majority of the Old Law, so they separate out the 10 Commandments as “Moral Law” and the most of the rest as “Ceremonial Law” which believers are not expected to keep. The exception to this are:

*Observance of the Sabbath*

*Tithing*

*Keeping of the feast days- (they do not travel to Jerusalem 3 times a year- that is “ceremonial” is as literally killing animals)*

Also it is required to use the Hebrew language in reference to God the Father- He must be called Yaweh

Jesus must be called Yahushua

One of the passages used to “prove“ their doctrine is- Genesis 17:7 ASV  And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee.

This question was asked because of the influence of the Sabbath-Keepers ministry in the prison.

***How would you answer the question?***

***Class discussion:***

**Question 2- Are we under law to God today?**

*Many have taken the certain passage and come to a conclusion that believers are no longer under law. They say law is opposed to grace and faith and what believers are under now is grace and faith, not law. Note some passages they use:*

*Romans 3:23-24 ESV  for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  (24)  and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

*Romans 3:28 ESV  For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

*2 Corinthians 3:6 ESV  who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

This question has been asked by many, especially by those who believe in the “faith-only” doctrine.

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion- Rom. 3:27**

**Question 3- Thoughts – Action and Sin**

Do our thoughts have any consequences if we don't act upon them?

May we think bad or evil about others and still be right with God?

Are bad thoughts sin if we don't act on them?

*This question was asked by a man that has good reasoning of Biblical principles. Often he asked questions that he feels others need to hear the answer to. Unfortunately he has not obeyed the gospel at this point.*

**How would you answer these questions?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 4- What is Sanctification?**

**What does it mean to be sanctified?**

**In what manner are we sanctified?**

**What are some misconceptions of sanctification?**

**How long does it take to be sanctified? When are we sanctified? How many times are we sanctified?**

*These questions were asked by a man that was struggling in understanding the overall plan of redemption. He has a childhood friend that lived a very rough life that is now a “pastor” in a denomination that teaches Calvinism.*

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 5- Is it okay to use the Dake bible?**

*This question was asked by a man that did a lot of reading. He was especially interested in any aspect of the mystical and unknown.*

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 6- What is Monergism and Synergism?**

*This question and the one following were asked by a man that we baptized in 2018. He is a voracious reader and Bible student. He is a babe in Christ. Questions like these are so welcomed from new converts because we have the opportunity to teach what the Bible says on the topic.*

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 7- Salvation, what is the process? *(Does)* Regeneration precede Conversion, Repentance and faith and then Baptism?**

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 8- If I wear a cross or have a cross hanging on my door at home to symbolize that I and my house follow the Lord Jesus Christ, do you consider that idolatry if I’m not worshipping the piece of wood but the One who died on it for me?**

*The next series of questions through Question 12 were asked by the same man. He had been “baptized” into 3 different religions. I really could not tell if he was honest in his questions or was in the class to cause doubt among the brethren. He was transferred after we began to answer this first question. Our prayer is that he was searching for the truth and will continue to do so.*

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 9- How should we handle the people in our services (churches) who go and proclaim the Lord, are involved in the praising of the Lord and are considered as spiritual leaders, but as soon as they are outside the door they cuss, lust after women in person or on TV, covet what others have, practice homosexuality, steal and lie on a regular daily basis?**

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 10- Who should I consider as my brother in Christ?**

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 11- Musical instruments used in or out of the church services to praise God, do you consider it wrong and why?**

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**

**Question 12- I believe that once I or anyone truly believes in Jesus and accepts Him as Lord he is saved forever because if he/she truly is saved they will eventually clean their lives up because of the spirit of Christ now living within them. 2 Tim. 2:19 and Eph. 1:13 says we are sealed, does it not? So if we are truly His how can we ever not be?**

**How would you answer the question?**

**Class discussion:**