

May 9, 2021

## The Greatest Question Ever Asked

by Ken Weliever

A friend once asked Isidor Isaac Rabi, a Nobel prize winner in science, how he became a scientist.

Rabi replied that every day after school his mother would talk to him about his school day. She wasn't so much interested in what he had learned that day, but she always inquired, "Did you ask a good question today?"

"Asking good questions," Rabi said, "made me become a scientist."

Asking good questions is important in life generally speaking, and even more important, spiritually speaking.

The Bible raises some very important questions worthy of our consideration.

"If a man dies, shall he live again?" Job asked

"Who do you say I am?" Jesus inquired of the disciples.

"What shall I do then with Jesus?" pondered Pilate at Jesus' trial.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" Paul rhetorically asked.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Jesus challenged.

While these are all great and important questions, the greatest, and most fundamentally important question of all was raised by a pagan jailer.

Paul and Silas had been imprisoned, following a severe beating, for preaching Christ. Yet, they maintained the joy of their faith as they were praising God in song and petitioning Him in prayer.

At midnight, God miraculously used an earthquake to loosen their shackles and

unlock the prison doors. When the guard saw what had happened and knew he would be held responsible for the prisoners' escape, he was about to take his own life.

Paul, however, immediately let the jailer know that no one had escaped and implored the jailer not to harm himself. Fearfully falling at the feet of Paul and Silas, he asked the question that we should all be asking:

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30).

Consider the import and implications of this great question.

**What. An interrogative question**

The jailer seriously sought an answer. It wasn't a speculative question. A "gotcha" question. An abstract question. Or a mere quizzical question.

**Must. An imperative question.**

This suggests obligation. Conditions. Commitment. And duty. Something that must be done, involves a necessary requirement.

**I. A person question.**

Salvation is not a group exercise. It is individual. Personal. And something that cannot be acquired for another person. Each one is accountable and responsible to ask and find the answer to this question.

**Do. A responsive question**

The answer to this question suggests that action is involved. There must be a response of the questioner. The Bible teaches that God, by His grace and mercy, has already done His part in making salvation possible. He planned it. Jesus Christ executed it. And the Holy Spirit revealed it. Now we must do something.

**Saved. A significant question**

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

## Important Dates

Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class May 11.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

This is a serious question. A momentous question. A consequential question. The Bible teaches us that we are saved from our past sins. Every spot, stain, and sin that sullies the soul can be washed away by the blood of Jesus.

**“What must I do to be saved?” The question with an answer.**

Some questions are so hypothetical and theoretical that it seems there no answer. But Paul answered this question.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Ax. 16:30)

Unfortunately, too many people stop reading at that verse. As Paul Harvey used to say on his radio broadcast “Here’s the rest of the story..”

“Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.” (Ax. 16:32)

The jailer’s salvation was not secured by a mere mental ascent, or by muttering a few rote and ritualistic words. Paul explained why he needed to believe. Who he must accept. And what he must do. And how he could be saved.

Not every conversion account in Acts records the entire sermon and specifically details the steps to salvation.

As he “spoke the word of the Lord,” he must have told the jailer of God’s love, mercy and grace that made salvation possible (Eph. 2:1-10) No doubt, Paul preached “Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). Obviously, he explained how “godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation (2 Cor. 7:10). And he undoubtedly repeated some form of the challenge that was put to Him years earlier when he was saved by the preacher Ananias.

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16).

The jailer accepted the answer to his question. Obeyed the gospel. And received salvation.

What about you?

This great question is one that begs for your attention. What will your answer be?

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** continues to struggle with debilitating back pain.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Nancy Richardson** is still dealing with breathing problems and they are continuing to experiment with her medications. Please pray that a more effective solution can be found and she can return to normal.

**Ron Stanberry** has been diagnosed with lung cancer, causing great pain. Please pray for him and Sue both.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

**Morgan O’Hair** is undergoing tests to determine the possibility of some tumors. She is also struggling with her walking as well as an immune system issue. I haven’t received any updates on the tests

**Dinah Williams** continues to be homebound due to mobility issues.

**Bobbie Gibbons** continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues. She could use encouragement.

**Tyler Hairston** is investigating options to treat his cancer.

**Don and Alene Simmons** are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

**Dorthy Steadman** is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Pam.

**Faye Estes** has been diagnosed with colon cancer.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**

**(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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