

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 1)

I. Are There Degrees of Punishment and Reward in Hell and Heaven?

- A. God is a just God (Psalm 89:14).
- B. The laws, both in the Old Testament and New Testament, demonstrate measured responses to sin.
- C. Measured punishment for sin on earth (Exodus 21:23-25; Deuteronomy 25:2-3; John 19:11; Hebrews 10:29).
- D. Measured punishment for sin after earth (Matthew 11:20-24; 2 Peter 2:20-22).
- E. Measured rewards in Heaven (Matthew 16:27).

II. Please Explain Ephesians 3:10

- A. What is the meaning of the expression “manifold wisdom of God,” and are the principalities and powers angels?
- B. The Greek word translated “manifold” means multifaceted. Think of a diamond.
- C. Yes, the “principalities and powers” are angels, and could be good and bad.
 - 1. (Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 3:22; Ephesians 2:2, etc.).
- D. Remember, the angels were interested in salvation (1 Peter 1:10-13).
- E. God’s intent was to demonstrate his multifaceted wisdom to heavenly beings through the church.

III. Does a Person Who Commits Suicide Go to Hell?

- A. Two passages come to my mind that I think would be helpful to consider.
 - 1. (Genesis 18:25).
 - 2. (John 21:20-22).
- B. Mental Condition must be considered – Chemical imbalances in the brain are as real as clogged arteries are in the heart.
- C. Intent – Walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
 - 1. Was it a momentary misstep?
 - 2. Was it a premeditated action with malice and forethought?
- D. Bottom line is that God will be the judge and he will do right.

- Conclusion:
- 1. I hope this question and answer session has been helpful.
 - 2. If it has generated more questions, you can email me at higginbotham.steve@gmail.com.
 - 3. Tonight’s lessons caused us to focus our attention on the afterlife and if you are not prepared for that transition, I hope you will prepare yourself before you leave tonight.