

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 2)

- Introduction:
1. As we ask questions about spiritual matters, we must always remember that the Bible is our only source.
 2. Furthermore, we must remember to be content with the information that is given and not go “beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

I. Is “Fearing” Right or Wrong?

- A. (1 John 4:18)
- B. (Proverbs 1:7).
- C. The term, “fear” is used in different senses.
 1. It is like the words, “tip,” “bark,” and “pop.”
 2. Fear sometimes speaks of reverence and awe, and at other times it is used of a recoiling cowardice.
- D. Understanding this distinction removes the contradiction.
- E. In fact, the proper “fear” of the Lord will dispel the “fear” of terror and cowardice.

II. Will a Christian’s Sins Be Remembered in the Day of Judgment?

- A. There again seems to be conflicting verses.
 1. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14).
 2. (Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 8:12).
- B. However, if we understand the evil works to be unforgiven sins, the contradiction disappears.
- C. God will not rehearse our shameful sins that have been forgiven.

III. Should We Forgive Someone Who Has Not Asked for Forgiveness?

- A. The desire to forgive should be second-nature to a Christian (Matthew 6:14-15).
- B. Consider how the Bible instructs us to forgive:
 1. (Luke 17:3-4).
 2. (Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 1:9).
- C. But what about Jesus’ prayer from the cross (Luke 24:34).
 1. If Jesus wanted to forgive these people from the cross, he could have (Mark 2:10).
 2. Rather, he placed it in God’s hands, pending their repentance.
- D. Furthermore, if someone has sinned against you, the Bible tells you to go to them (Matthew 18:15-17).

IV. Can We Be Happy if there is Recognition in Heaven?

- A. This is a matter in which we simply have to trust God to keep his promises (Revelation 21:4).
- B. Recognition can cause sorrow if a loved one is not present.

- C. But the lack of recognition can cause sorrow if a loved one is present and cannot be recognized.
- D. The answer to this question is rooted in the power of God.
- E. One additional thought comes from Hebrews 12:23).
 - 1. In heaven, we will be “just men made perfect.”
 - 2. Maybe our perfection is such that we will love the justice of God to the extent that we do not sorrow over those who rejected God’s love.

- Conclusion:
- 1. As I reflect on some of these questions tonight, I feel so thankful and indebted to God for the undeserved gift of salvation.
 - 2. Wouldn’t you hate to stand before our holy God on your own merits?
 - 3. But his grace and mercy gives us hope through the gospel of Jesus.