

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 10)

- 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. Christ Sent Me Not to Baptize?

- A. (1 Corinthians 1:17).
- B. This statement does not annul nor minimize the importance of baptism.
- C. It is simply a statement of emphasis.
- D. Consider some parallel statements:
 1. (John 3:17).
 2. (Matthew 6:19-20).
- E. If this is not the case, did Paul disobey the Lord, for he did baptize some (1 Corinthians 1:14-15)?

II. Is It Wrong to Raise Hands in Prayer?

- A. The quick answer is, “No,” for it is a matter of culture.
- B. There is no prescribed posture for prayer.
 1. (1 Timothy 2:8) Raising hands.
 2. (Luke 22:41) Kneeling.
 3. (Matthew 26:39) Lying prostrate.
 4. (Mark 11:25) Standing.
 5. (2 Samuel 7:18) Sitting.

III. How Can Jesus Be on Earth and in Heaven at the Same Time?

- A. (John 3:13).
- B. We should be so thankful for all the aids we have for Bible study.
 1. Chapters.
 2. Verses.
 3. Punctuation marks.
 4. Spaces between words.
 5. “Red Letters.”
- C. While these aids are mostly helpful, there are times when they have the potential to create a little confusion.
- D. Apart from the textual variant to consider, this question can be easily solved by misplaced “red letters.”
- E. Instead of Jesus saying these words, consider how it clears up if it is John, who is saying these words when he wrote the book of John, long after Jesus’ ascension back to heaven.

IV. Would it be Scriptural if an Unbeliever Performed a Baptism?

- A. Yes.
- B. The faith of the administrator cannot have a bearing on the effectiveness of a baptism and the Bible be true.
 - 1. A person could never know he is saved if the spiritual condition of the baptizer was an essential part of the baptism?
 - 2. Yet, the Bible teaches we can know we are saved (1 John 5:16).
 - 3. Therefore, the spiritual condition of the baptizer is not an essential part of baptism.

V. How Can Proverbs 26:4 be Harmonized with Proverbs 24:6

- A. People often rush to accuse the Bible of a contradiction, failing to realize that apparently opposite statements can be reconciled by considering several factors.
- B. For Example: Tom is rich. Tom is poor.
 - 1. Timing is a factor.
 - 2. Are we talking about the same "Tom?"
 - 3. Monetary wealth or spiritual wealth?
 - 4. Comparison to others.
- C. Timing is the issue here.
 - 1. Don't get drawn into foolish discussions or you will look foolish too.
 - 2. But, sometimes, fools need to be addressed to humble them.

- Conclusion:
- 1. I hope these answers have been biblical and helpful.
 - 2. Keep studying, and be content with nothing less than, "What do the Scriptures say" (Romans 4:3)?