

A preacher arrived in town for the first time preparing to preach that evening. Desiring to mail a letter, he asked a young boy for directions to the Post Office. After the boy had told him, the preacher said to him, "If you will come to the church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The young boy said, "I don't think I will be there, you don't even know your way to the Post Office."



June 26, 2011

DOES YOUR FAITH LEAD YOUR LIFE? Jim Stauffer

Is God the Creator?

Most people who call themselves Christians differ from the popular concept of evolution. They will tell you the world was created by God in heaven. The Christian will tell you that God is Jehovah of the Bible.

The hurdle presented by the world is whether God created the world as the Bible says in 6 twenty-four hour days as we have today. There are some who begin to waver at this point. They say the days may have been eons or some long time periods other than our 24 hour days. This usually prevails where one does not feel capable to answer all the questions modern science have posed. The problem with indecision here is that we are sacrificing faith in God in favor of scientists who cannot prove their theories.

In fact, once we have backed off the 6 twenty-four hour days of the Bible we are asked then to accept that God did not actually create the world and everything in it as Genesis says, but that He just started life and that small cell of life evolved over billions of years into the world we see around us.

If we struggle to believe the fundamental foundational fact that God created the world just as He tells us in the Bible, it will seriously affect our faith in Him and ultimately the way we live our lives. We cannot live life depending upon someone or something we do not believe wholeheartedly.

Did He Reveal Himself in the Bible?

Believing in God as the Creator is a direct result of our belief in the Bible as the word of God, revealed by the Holy Spirit through "holy men of God."

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 6216
913-631-6519

Send a Copy to a Friend

Evangelist:
 Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

Lenexa church of Christ

Let us be sure, the Bible clearly claims to be the word of God. (1 Cor. 2:10-13; 2 Pet. 1:19-21) It tells us of incidents in history where the wisdom and power of God were demonstrated clearly for all to see. Think of the 10 plagues God brought on Egypt to cause Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave that land. Now we must decide if we believe this really happened. It is recorded by Moses, one of those holy men of God, as an actual event. It remains one of the greatest demonstrations of the power of God man has ever seen.

But if we are for some reason hesitant to accept such stories from the Bible as factual representations of God's dealings with mankind, we will struggle to rely on faith in God. It will be difficult to plan our lives based on His Word if we have doubts about its complete credibility.

If God could and did create the world, He could certainly control all those things He created and bring about the plagues on Egypt. We must decide what we really believe about these matters.

Do We Believe the Story of Jesus?

There are some who doubt Jesus was born of a virgin as Isaiah, Luke and Matthew tell us in the Bible. They try to rationalize that while His birth was not of a virgin, He was still a great teacher who should be heard. But if His life is based on a lie from the beginning should we entertain His thoughts at all? Our faith needs to be complete in order to be faith at all.

Then we add to His miraculous birth that He was raised from the dead after three days and has ascended to heaven to sit on the right hand of God. (Eph. 1:19-23) Here we have another great demonstration of the power of God witnessed by and reported by men. (1 Cor. 15) If our faith is complete we must believe this. If not, how can our lives be led by our faith?

It is going to be extremely difficult to teach our children to grow up believing in Jesus as the Son of God, if we do not wholeheartedly accept the story of His life and death told by the men he selected as they were guided by the Spirit of God.

Do We Believe in the Judgment Day of Scripture?

The Bible tells us Jesus will sit on His throne in judgment when this world comes to an end. In that judgment we are told He will separate the "sheep from the goats." Those represented by the term sheep will "inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." We are then told the "goats" will be told, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." These statements are clear and unmistakable. Yet we find many who scoff at the idea and others who try to downplay its literal meaning with various rationalizations. But the Christian must decide if he believes it as it is written. He cannot be led by faith in Christ if he does not believe the

story of Christ.

There were scoffers in the days and year following the death of Christ. (2 Pet. 3) Because He had not returned in judgment for some 30 years they concluded it to be a hoax. Peter reminded them of the flood that destroyed all but 8 souls as an example of God's willingness to punish evil in man. He then pointed out two attributes of God that control when He sends Christ to judge the world. First, he says God is "not slack concerning His promise" and He is "longsuffering, not willing that any should perish." One cannot read this to conclude God will not punish evil but rather that He will be patient in order for man to repent but will definitely select a time and "will come as a thief in the night."

Our trust in God is evinced by our belief in Him as our creator who is revealed to us in His word, the Bible. We must then believe in His Son and His promise to come in judgment in order to live our lives based on faith in Him. Otherwise we will be unable to choose to serve Christ when the devil tries and tempts us in our everyday lives. Our lives can only be led by our faith when it is complete to the point we obey God and Christ above all other considerations. We can and should be men of faith just as Noah, Abraham and Moses were.

Tomorrow

What a familiar word! What a dangerous word. "I will do it tomorrow." The tragedy of it all is that tomorrow never comes. If we don't do the things we should today, then today's things will never be done.

Solomon said, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1). So uncertain is tomorrow that we dare not to trust our souls to it. If your soul is not right with the Lord, now is the time to do something about it. The apostle Paul said, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation I have succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

Tomorrow may find me unable to do the things I should do today. I may not be alive tomorrow. James says, "Come now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into the city and remain there a year and trade and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is a vapor, that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away. For ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this, or that" (James 4:13-15).

- by Hollis Creel