

BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

And Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.

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ISSUE 6

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From the President's Desk,

This fall marks the 25th anniversary of the first courses being taught through *Berean Bible Institute*. From the outset we were founded with the mission to train pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the gospel of the grace of God given to and through the Apostle Paul. While our mission may seem narrow to some, in reality it allows us to maintain a laser focus on fulfilling our purpose.

There are four key areas of emphasis that help us fulfill our mission. The first area is **Education**. Our courses are meant to give our students a solid understanding of the whole Bible with particular emphasis on what God is doing today in the Dispensation of Grace as revealed to and through the Apostle Paul. The second is the area of **Equipping**. Our courses and instructors teach with a goal to equip our students to apply what they have learned to the ministries that God has given them. If education is about knowledge, equipping is about the application. Third is the area of **Exposure**. By exposure we mean that it is important we prepare our students to experience, and thus be exposed to, various types of ministry. Our students are exposed to ministries in areas such as missions, pastoral, teaching, camp, evangelistic, and the like. We believe it is our job to educate, equip, and expose them to be prepared for wherever the Lord may lead. Finally, there is the area of **Encouragement**. While this is the last to be mentioned, it certainly is not the least in importance. By encouragement, we mean that our students are encouraged to be completely surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul's life is a wonderful example of what it looks

like to be completely surrendered and sold out to the service of our Lord, and we want to take every opportunity to encourage our students to say yes to the Lord's leading in their lives.

After hearing about our mission and how we approach fulfilling that mission, do you believe in our mission? And, do you believe that a ministry training institute like BBI is important? If so, I want to encourage you to support *Berean Bible Institute*. Over the past several years we have even seen growth outside of the United States as we have expanded our training to include students from several African nations and, in February, we started an extension of the BBI in Brazil. With our expanded focus, we have seen significant growth in the ministry of *Berean Bible Institute*. With the excitement of seeing more leaders being trained for the ministry of Grace, there also comes a greater need for resources to handle the growth God is giving BBI.

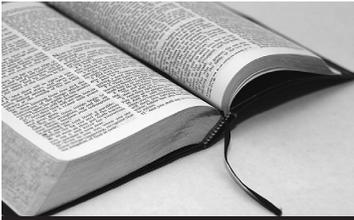
If you do believe in our mission, I want to encourage you to champion it by supporting BBI financially, by regularly and intentionally praying for BBI, and by telling others about our institute through your personal contacts, social media connections, and others who might benefit from our ministry.

We are grateful for those who already champion the mission of BBI and look forward to seeing others partner with us in this most important ministry of training leaders to minister on behalf of Christ.

Proclaiming the Gospel of Grace,

Dr. Robert E. Nix,
President, *Berean Bible Institute*

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16



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QUESTION: With everything going on in the world and in our country, I've been hearing so much about a person's worldview. Is our worldview really that important?

ANSWER: Our "worldview" is the philosophical and theological concepts through which we view the world around us. It has to do with how we perceive the realities of life that we encounter and react to. It sometimes is referred to as a "philosophy of life," a "world outlook," a "point of view," or the "ideology," that one lives by. Regardless of what we call it, our worldview will affect every area of our life as our worldview will determine the ethical principles that will guide our interpretations of life, its meaning and our behavior. This is true because, whatever a person's worldview is, it is determined by their belief system. That is, what we believe about the origin and meaning of life will influence all of our decisions, choices, attitudes, and actions. There are two basic worldviews that a person can choose from: the humanistic one or the Biblical one.

Humanism is a philosophical or religious point of view that puts mankind in the place of prominence and emphasizes his values, worth, and abilities. In other words, it focuses on man. There are many different ways of thinking that could be identified as Humanism, but all would come under one of two headings: Rational Humanism or Spiritual Humanism.

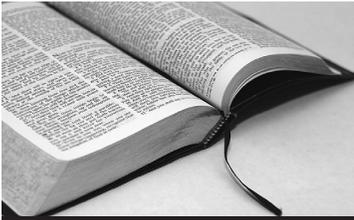
Rational Humanism denies the existence of God, the supernatural, and life in the hereafter. This would include atheistic Marxists and secular evolutionists. Spiritual Humanists, on the other hand, believe in some form of spirituality and a god (or gods) of some kind. There are many variations in the belief systems that would come under the classifications of Spiritual Humanism, but they all, along with Rational Humanism, have something in common. They move God out of the place of supreme value and authority and try to put man in His place. The result is a worldview that looks to human reasoning, ingenuity, and ability to find their way in a topsy-turvy sin cursed world, while at the same time denying that sin even actually exists (at least sin as it is revealed in Scripture). All humanistic views

embrace some form or another of Dualism (two equal forces at work; e.g., good and evil) and/or Relativism (there is no absolute truth; truth varies according to the situation and individuals).

In stark contrast, a truly Biblical worldview offers hope to men and women that comes from outside themselves. It is the belief in a personal, unchanging, sovereign, all-powerful Creator God who has an absolute standard of righteousness. A God who has revealed Himself to man through His Word, the Bible. A God who loves mankind so much that He sent His own Son to pay for our sins on the Cross so that through faith in Him we might be saved from the burning Hell that we deserve. The believer's beliefs and behavior, then, are to be governed by the unchanging truths of God's Word rather than the ever changing themes, standards, and philosophical ideas of men.

Sadly, today many professing Christians have been so deeply influenced by humanistic ideas and viewpoints that they are not able to discern Biblical truth from error. As a result, they have adopted a humanistic worldview by default and live self-centered worldly lives. They seem oblivious to the truth that in being set free from the bondage of sin the believer is called by God to be a bond-servant of Christ. "Being then made free from sin" believers are to serve "righteousness," not "worldliness" (see Rom. 6:17-18).

As believers, the only way we can effectively stand against the ever rising tide of humanistic thinking that is engulfing our nation and the world is to have our minds renewed through the proper understanding of Biblical truth (see Rom. 12:1-2; II Tim. 3:16-17). It is only to the extent that we read and study God's Word and dare to believe it and obey it that we can develop a truly Biblical worldview. A worldview built on the truths found in the Bible about God, mankind, sin, salvation, purpose in life, and the believer's eternal destiny. Political, social, and cultural activism can, at best, bring about superficial short term moral change in any society. Biblical truth changes minds and hearts of individuals forever. It brings peace to troubled souls; and a true and lasting peace that brings joy to the believer's heart and glory to God in every and all circumstances.



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The greatest need of the Church today is for believers, especially the men, young and old, to stand up and take the leadership that God has called them to. Yes, it means sacrifice and hard work to be a true minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The challenge to every believer, particularly the young men, is to prayerfully ponder over what it means to *“let this mind (thinking) be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”* (see Phil. 2:5-8). Isn't a truly Biblical worldview one that has learned to see the world through the eyes and heart of the Lord Jesus, to think like He thought and thinks? If we want to make a difference in the world, we must begin by letting God change our minds and our hearts through His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

QUESTION: What did Paul mean when he said “my gospel”?

ANSWER: At least three times the Apostle Paul referred to the message that he preached as *“my gospel.”* The questions that should come to our minds are: “Why did he use that exact term? Is it important? Was there something different about Paul's message of good news (gospel)? And, if so, exactly what was different about it?” Of course, the Scriptures themselves provide us with the answers to these questions.

From the book of Acts we learn that Paul was not one of the original twelve apostles who were followers of the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry (see Matt. 19:27-28; Lk. 22:28-30; Acts 1:20-26). Just the opposite is true. Paul was a persecutor of those who preached that the Lord Jesus was the Messiah of Israel, which was the message of the twelve.

In Galatians 1:11-12, Paul clearly and forcefully proclaims that the gospel message that he preached was given to him by direct revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Paul's God-given message is also called the “revelation of the mystery” because it had never been revealed to anyone before. No longer is there a distinction between Jew and Gentile. In Ephesians 3:1-12, Paul claims that the mystery (secret) program of the Dispensation of Grace was given particularly

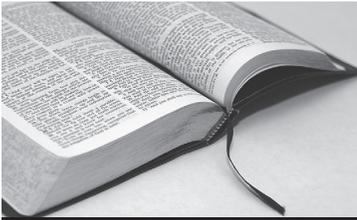
to him. While the law given to Moses was God's law in every sense, it is called the Law of Moses, even by the Lord Jesus Christ (see Lk. 2:22; 24:44; Jn. 7:23). Paul, in like manner, referred to the gospel of the grace as *“my gospel”* to identify it as the particular gospel revealed to him. We have no reason to be ashamed for referring to the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ as *“Paul's gospel.”* After all, the inspired Word of God that we call the Bible does make that distinction.

QUESTION: We hear so much about a person's “faith” today. Can you explain what faith is?

ANSWER: The basic idea behind the word faith is trust based on what one believes. To trust in something or someone means to rely or depend on that thing or person in some capacity. We all exercise faith in some way on a daily basis. Going to a certain place at a preset time to meet someone is an act of faith. You trust (put faith in) that person to be there at the place and at the time as he said he would. The farmer who plants a crop does so by faith. He believes that there will be a market for that crop at harvest time. Numerous examples could be given but the basic idea of faith is to believe or trust in something. Of course, not all that we place our faith in is reliable. People may fail to do or act as we trust or hope they will. Machinery will eventually break down. Unforeseen circumstances may take the money we hoped to use for a special purpose, etc., etc., etc. In cases such as these, it is not faith which failed, but that in which faith was placed.

Faith then, is to believe, to place confidence or trust in something or someone for a specific purpose.

Just as important as having faith is making sure what we place our trust in is beneficial and trustworthy. While people and things will fail us, there is one eternally trustworthy source in which to place our faith. This is the faith we have in God's Word which tells us that we are saved from eternity in Hell the moment we place our faith fully in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. While people refer to their “faith,” the more important question is: Does that person's faith rest in something trustworthy. If the answer is that their



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faith is in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, that is a faith that will never fail to disappoint.

QUESTION: I understand that Jesus Christ took on flesh and became human to provide redemption, but is the incarnation of Jesus Christ an eternal thing?

ANSWER: The Person of Jesus Christ has always existed as the eternal Son of God, but it was not until the time of the incarnation that He became the Son of Man (see Jn. 1:1-3; Phil. 2:5-7). In taking on the form of man, i.e., a human body of flesh, He remained the One Person He has always been, God the Son. Along with a human body, He also took on a full human nature while fully retaining His divine nature. In this unique union of two natures in One Person, there is no blending or confusion of the two natures, they work in unison in the expression of His Person. The incarnation of Jesus Christ was not simply a temporary manifestation of God to mankind. In the incarnation of the Son of God, His divine nature was for all time united with a human nature in One Person. He became a Man in order to be the Savior of mankind.

In His incarnation, Jesus Christ is in whole and in perfection, truly God, and in whole and in perfection, truly Man. His divine nature, to which all of the attributes of God belong, and His human nature were, and are, compatible in their perfection making their absolute unity possible while remaining forever unmingled. The union of the human and divine natures in the single Person of Jesus Christ is referred to as the hypostatic union. Because of this union of two natures in the oneness of His Personhood, the Son of God remains the "Man Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5) in His glorification.

When we speak of the nature of a person or thing, we are referring to the innate qualities that define its character, or the essence of its being. Man's depravity is the result of his selfish or sinful nature. Having a universal sin nature means that all of mankind is predisposed to sin. There is only one exception, the Man Christ Jesus "who gave Himself a ransom for all."

The God-Man Jesus Christ is your only hope to be forgiven of your sins and live in heaven throughout eternity. Have you trusted in Him?

Courses Starting Soon:

Bible Counseling I
Monday Evenings, 8:15-10:00 PM

Basic Bible Doctrines I
Tuesday Evenings, 8:15-10:00 PM

Pastoral Ministry I
Wednesday Evenings, 8:15-10:00 PM

Women in Ministry I
Thursday Evenings, 8:15-10:00 PM

Fall Term 2 begins on October 18, 2021

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President/Executive Editor: Robert E. Nix, Ph.D. | Managing Editor: Matthew Ritchey, M. BS
Theological Consultant/Contributing Editor: W. Edward Bedore, Th.D. | Layout/Design: Jessica Sadler

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE 204 S. 7th Ave., PO Box 735, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095
Phone: (262) 644-5504 | Fax: (262) 644-5507 | E-mail: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org