



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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ISSUE 1

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Answers by the faculty of *Berean Bible Institute* or compiled from the works of mid-Acts Grace authors

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

Over the years that I have spent in the Gospel Ministry, one thing that has particularly stood out to me is that we all have questions about the Bible. And, it seems that the more we learn about God's Word, the more questions we have. Of course, this is a good thing because one of our primary ways of learning is through questions and answers. Of course, here at **BBi** we are about teaching the Bible and Bible related subjects, so quite naturally we are always answering questions from both our students and from others who call or write. It seems only fitting then that we should expand our ministry by publishing the answers to the questions about the Bible that people are asking. What you are holding in your hand and reading is the first edition of what we have named "*Bible Answers to Bible Questions*" or *BABQ*. We plan to send it out at least four times a year in between mailings of the "*BBi Bulletin*," which will continue in its regular format.

The answers to the questions that are used in *Bible Answers to Bible Questions* will be provided by members of the regular faculty of **BBi** or taken from the works of past and present leaders in the Grace Movement. Our prayer is that this question and answer format will generate a greater interest in knowing the Bible and what it teaches among the saints in general and motivate all of us individually to embrace the

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THE GREATEST GIFT

This year many people are cutting back on their spending on Christmas gifts because of the economy. Some have lost jobs and simply don't have the money they have been able to spend in the past. Other's simply want to save whatever money they can in case they become unemployed. There really is a lot of uncertainty about the future. But regardless, there is one gift that was given long ago that has more value than all of the wealth in the whole world. It is a gift that is as fresh and new today as it was when it was first given. Of course, I am talking about God's gift to mankind in the Person of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. While the combined wealth of the world is insufficient to redeem one soul (see Mk. 8:36-37), the blood of Christ is sufficient to purchase every sinner, who comes to Him in faith, from the slave market of sin. How wonderful it is to know that having trusted in Christ we have received a free gift of great worth that cannot be diminished in value, lost, worn out, broken, or taken from us. Having received the gift of eternal life (see Rom 6:23) in Christ Jesus our Lord, we will live forever with Him. "*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift*" (II Cor. 9:15).

Dear Reader, if you have never placed your personal trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of the sins that separate you from God, you can be reconciled to God today by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead (see I Cor. 15:3-4). Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved today.

"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 Tim. 3:16



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attitude of the Bereans, and “search the Scriptures daily” to find out whether these things are so.

Along with the answers to questions we receive about the Bible, we will try to include some interesting facts about God’s Word. All of us here at **BBI** hope that you will find *Bible Answers to Bible Questions* interesting, informative, and edifying. If you know others who might be interested in receiving *BABQ*, please let them know about it. All they have to do is write, phone, fax, or e-mail us and we would be glad to send it to them (see pg. 4 for contact info).

Please remember to keep the ministry of the **Berean Bible Institute** in prayer as we move forward in the work of the Lord by training the next generation of leaders for the Grace Movement.

Dr. W. Edward Bedore,

Executive Director

Their violent actions finally led to war with Rome and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70.

It should be noted that the twelve disciples were a varied group. This is evidenced by the fact that another was the tax collector Matthew, a man who collaborated with the Romans.

QUESTION:

Acts 11:19 speaks about preaching to the Jews only by those Kingdom saints that were scattered. In verse 20 they said they preached to the ‘Grecians.’ Do you think the Grecians were dispersed Jews as in Acts 6:1 or Gentiles?

ANSWER:

In answer to your question, the “Grecians” of Acts 11:20 were indeed dispersed Jews that had been heavily influenced by the Greek culture and language. These Jews were living outside of Israel while the Grecians (literally Hellenists) of Acts 6:1 evidently stayed in Jerusalem after becoming believers somewhere during the time covered between Acts 2:1 and 6:1. As there were many Jews from all over on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:8-11), it seems very probable that this was when the Grecians of Acts 6:1 came to believe that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah) of Israel.

QUESTION:

Romans chapter eleven speaks of a wild olive tree grafted into Israel’s olive tree, and warns about being cut off. Do you think the wild olive branches are the Body of Christ? If so, what did Paul mean by being cut off?

ANSWER:

As for the olive tree of Romans chapter eleven, I believe that the tree represents the blessings of Abraham upon which God’s

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covenants of promise to Israel are built. The natural branches represent Israel; and the wild branches represent the Body of Christ, which is predominantly Gentile. The point Paul is making is that Israel was cut off from her blessings because, in unbelief, she became proud of her favored status, thinking she was better than the Gentiles because God had chosen her as His own. If the Body of Christ holds itself up in pride as being better than the unbelieving Jews, it too will be cut off from experimentally enjoying its blessings. Of course, both have as the source of their blessings the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Root of the olive tree. The book of Romans makes it clear that no son of Adam has anything within himself to commend him to God (Rom. 3:9,23). All that we have to brag about is Jesus Christ.

Israel was called out from among the Gentiles according to the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3) and made a great nation. Israel was to serve God by being a light to the Gentiles but failed because she became haughty, or high minded. She became spiritually powerless and was eventually set aside in unbelief, where she remains today. In Romans chapter eleven, Paul is warning us, the Body of Christ, not to follow Israel's example. The greatest blessing that the Body of Christ has is the privilege of sharing the Gospel of the Grace of God with a lost world. When the Church takes a prideful attitude, it ceases to shine as a light in a dark world.

I do not believe that the example of the branches being cut off is about the salvation of individuals but is in connection with fruit bearing by national Israel and the Church in general. Each member, and thus the Church as a whole, is to be *"filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God"*

(Phil. 1:11). Israel was set aside when she failed to bear fruit (see the parable of the fig tree Lk. 13:6-10); and the Church can become ineffective and set on the shelf, so to speak, when its individual members collectively do not conduct themselves as *"a vessel unto honor, sanctified (set apart), and meet (useful) for the Master's use, and prepared for every good work"* (II Tim. 2:21).

QUESTION:

My understanding is that we have a soul and a spirit. My question is from your book; *The Place and State of the Dead*, where you address the soul, but what about the spirit upon death?

"The grave is a place where the physical remains of those who have died are deposited. It can be a hole in the ground, a cave, or a specially prepared vault or other place used for interment. The soul and spirit having departed the body at death, there is no consciousness of life in the grave. It is a place of corruption that serves to point out man's need of a Savior. The soul of man lives on after physical death and will always remain in a conscious state of being. The unsaved go to Sheol Hades to await their resurrection unto condemnation while the redeemed go to heaven to await their resurrection unto life (see Jn. 5:25-29)." (Quoted from "The Place and State of the Dead" by Dr. W.E. Bedore and is available from BBI.)

ANSWER:

You are correct, we do have both a soul and a spirit (I Thess. 5:23). They make up the immaterial part of man and are intricately tied together. They can be separated from the body (the physical part of man), but they cannot be separated from each other. So wherever a person's soul is, their spirit is there also. This is why they sometimes seem to be used interchangeably in Scripture.



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QUESTION:

I know Paul was saved by grace on the Damascus Road at the beginning of the Body of Christ, but I do have one question. Why in both Acts 9 and Acts 22 does it say *“arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”*? And why did Paul not receive the Holy Ghost until Ananias put his hands on him? Was this not part of the Kingdom preaching?

ANSWER:

In baptizing Paul, Ananias was simply doing what he knew to do as a Kingdom saint (Acts 9:10-18; 22:11-16). The “filling” of the Holy Spirit that Paul experienced is not the same as the “indwelling” (Acts 9:17). All grace believers are indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit when they trust Christ as Savior (Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:12-14), yet, we are admonished “to be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:17-18).

The indwelling of the Spirit has to do with our being sealed and identified in Christ and our assurance of salvation. The filling of the Spirit has to do with empowerment to serve God. During the Acts period, this empowerment included the working of miracles (signs and wonders), which eventually passed away. Today, it has to do with demonstrating Christlikeness in our lives (Gal. 5:16,22-26).

(A full length article on Paul’s conversion and the beginning of the Body of Christ by Dr. W. Edward Bedore is available from BBI.)

* INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS *

Even though most people do not realize it, we use a lot of sayings in our day-to-day communications that come from the Bible. They are found in our conversations, the written Word, and on radio, TV, and movies. The following are a few of the more common ones:

“A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”

This saying comes from the Lord Jesus’ warning about false teachers. *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves”* (Mat. 7:15; cf. Acts 20:29). This is a reference to those who pretend to be believers, but instead of edifying the saints from the Word, they twist it to fit the false and harmful doctrines they teach.

“By the Skin of My Teeth”

This phrase comes from the lips of Job who said, *“My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth”* (Job 19:20). Job was saying that he had escaped death and was barely clinging to life. We use it to refer to escaping something by the very narrowest of margins.

“A Drop in the Bucket”

One of the most commonly used sayings comes from Isaiah who wrote, *“The nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the dust on the scales”* (Isa. 40:15). He was saying that even the mightiest of nations are insignificant in God’s sight. We use the phrase in reference to anything that we feel is of minor importance.

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