

# Q&A

## May 4, 2008

about...



### **8:30 Service**

1. My dad died February 14 and though my brothers and I didn't think he was going to die during his hospital stay--he seemed to sense it. My dad loved the Lord

very much. Does God give Christians the ability to know that their time is drawing very near? In other words, is it possible to see a glimpse of the other side while you are still here on this side?

2. My father had kidney failure and slipped into a coma. Due to his living will after 10 days we took him off life support, and he died within hours. When is a person really dead? Do you think believers need a living will?
3. My question is on cremation. What is the biblical direction for our bodies after our physical death? Burial or cremation?
4. What happens to the believer and non-believer from the time they die physically to the time of the great white throne judgment?
5. Will there be golf in heaven? Is it still true that only God can accurately hit a one iron? Will I get any better, because the devil's got my game now?
6. 1 John 5:12 is pretty clear on who has eternal life and will spend eternity with God in heaven. What does Scripture teach (if anything) about those who die without ever really hearing of the salvation found in Christ? Where will they spend eternity?
7. What happens to children after they die (are they judged after a certain age?)
8. Still being new to Bible study and a fairly new Christian, I am trying to find the answer to this question in the Bible: If a child is brought up in a Christian home and is baptized either as a baby or as an older child - then that child gets into trouble (drugs, sex, crime, you name it) and the child dies - will the child who is now in his teens or early adulthood go to live with our Father in Heaven?
9. How could there possibly be degrees of reward in heaven? It's Utopia (no sorrow, no pain, no grief). How is one level of reward greater than another? We're all sinners and none of us are there except by the blood of Jesus. So how are there degrees of reward? Is one person's salvation greater than another? Why are there different rewards in heaven?
10. Will we recognize, meet, and talk to our loved ones in heaven?
11. Will we remember our unsaved loved ones in heaven? If so, how can we truly be happy (Rev.21:4) knowing these people who lived good lives are suffering eternally in Hell?
12. Can people in heaven see and hear us?

13. God's Word in the Scriptures promises us that when we truly confess and repent of a sin that, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:11-12). So according to the Scripture this morning from Hebrews 9:27, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment," does this mean that when we face Christ (as believers) at judgment, we must again answer for those sins that were previously forgiven and forgotten by the Lord?
14. Can you explain the difference between the Book of Life and the Book of Deeds?
15. I have a cousin who just committed suicide. Here's my question: Is it possible for him to go to heaven? I should know the answer, but I have been told so many different things over the years, like suicide is an "unforgivable" sin, even though I believe that the only real unforgivable sin is denial of Christ. What do you say about this?
16. Will there be a hell when there is a new earth? If it's not there then what will happen to it?
17. Where in scripture does it say we are forgiven for all our sins, past, present, and future?
18. How many times/different places in the Bible does it clearly state that Jesus is the only way to heaven? The book of John was written about 100-150 years after Jesus. How do we know Jesus' quotes were accurate?
19. I want to accept Jesus because of faith, not because of fear of the afterlife. How do I know I have time and I'm not being rushed?

## **10:00 Service**

1. We have gone through a hard time recently, as our 3 week old baby girl died of an intestinal disease. I'm not sure how we explain such things happening in our lives, except that we are on earth. Is it good theology for us to say "God took him or her," when a person dies tragically? I don't think negatively against God; however, there is nothing to put my finger on how this could have happened.
2. In today's sermon, Bryant noted that Lazarus died twice. Does this mean that he was taken out of Heaven after his first death?
3. Don Piper's popular new book, 90 Minutes in Heaven, raises this question for me. Since Scripture says we're appointed ONCE to die, how can Don Piper "die"

and then come back to life, only to die a second death in the future? My tendency is to think that he really didn't die.

4. Do you think believers need a living will?
5. Not sure if this question is appropriate for the sermon, but I am still interested in the answer if you can help me. I was wondering what the bible says about cremation and how it may affect your afterlife destination.
6. Randy Alcorn's books on Heaven are a little ambiguous about when we receive our "new bodies." Do Christians receive a new body at the moment of death or will we have to wait for Christ's return and the "New Heaven and New Earth?"
7. 1 John 5:12 is pretty clear on who has eternal life and will spend eternity with God in heaven. What does Scripture teach (if anything) about those who die without ever really hearing of the salvation found in Christ? Where will they spend eternity?
8. What about children who die before they are capable of understanding the good news of Christ? Where do they spend eternity?
9. Will there be golf in heaven? Is it still true that only God can accurately hit a one iron? Will I get any better, because the devil's got my game now?
10. Will people in heaven have physical bodies like we do now? Obviously, there will be no pain or suffering. Will we be able to recognize our earthy loved ones and will we have relationships with them?
11. I find your comments from past sermons that "there will be no sex in heaven" troubling. As I am not aware of any scripture that specifically says this, I don't think we can honestly say dogmatically one way or the other. What do you think?
12. Our class is having a major discussion about being judged if we're Christians, some believing that we will not be judged and others saying we will. I thought I understood you to say all will face judgment, saved or unsaved. Could you clear that up?
13. Can you explain the difference between the Book of Life and the Book of Deeds?
14. Two weeks ago you quoted an atheist and C.S. Lewis on the subject of the existence of hell. The atheist has a problem with the idea of a loving God's sending souls to hell, and C.S Lewis reasoned that for God to be loving, hell had

to exist. It seemed obvious to me that they came to different conclusions because they had fundamentally different views of hell. The atheist sees hell as a physically torturous place (eternal torture chamber) and C.S. Lewis sees hell as eternal separation from God. My Question is: Is hell an eternal torture chamber?

15. Where in scripture does it say we are forgiven for all our sins, past, present, and future?
16. I want to accept Jesus because of faith, not because of fear of the afterlife. How do I know I have time and I'm not being rushed?

## 11:30 Service

1. Don Piper's popular new book, 90 Minutes in Heaven, raises this question for me. Since Scripture says we're appointed ONCE to die, how can Don Piper "die" and then come back to life, only to die a second death in the future? My tendency is to think that he really didn't die.
2. My father had kidney failure and slipped into a coma. Due to his living will after 10 days we took him off life support, and he died within hours. When is a person really dead? Do you think believers need a living will?
3. Is there anything in the Bible regarding cremation? What is your view on cremation?
4. What happened to all the prophets and patriarchs who died before Christ arrived on the scene? Did Jesus go to them in Sheol and minister to them upon His death?
5. As a born-again Christian, will my spirit immediately go to heaven when I die and later my body when Jesus comes again? Or do my spirit and body rise together?
6. Does the word rapture appear in the Bible? Do we believe that when Jesus returns Christians will be raised in the air to meet Jesus and be spared from Armageddon? If so is this "The Rapture"? If we go to Heaven when we die, why does the Bible say that the dead will also be raised from the grave when Jesus returns?
7. Where did people go when they died before Christ died for our sins?

8. 1 John 5:12 is pretty clear on who has eternal life and will spend eternity with God in heaven. What does Scripture teach (if anything) about those who die without ever really hearing of the salvation found in Christ? Where will they spend eternity?
9. What happens to children after they die (are they judged after a certain age?)
10. Do you think someone will have eternal life if they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior but live a homosexual lifestyle, saying they've had homosexual desires as long as they can remember?
11. Someone dear to us claims they "prayed a prayer" many years ago, and has been baptized in our church, and yet there is no fruit. There is no evidence of life change nor of a personal relationship with Christ in their daily walk. They question, even mock, the biblical stories about Noah and the Flood, Moses parting the Red Sea, and Jonah and the whale, and even express doubt about the Resurrection of Jesus. The traits of an unbeliever such as gambling, verbal abuse of their spouse, occasionally drinking alcohol to excess, and enjoying off-color jokes are evident. What is this person's status in regards to being saved and going to heaven?
12. Will there be golf in heaven? Is it still true that only God can accurately hit a one iron? Will I get any better, because the devil's got my game now?
13. Will we remember our unsaved loved ones in heaven? If so, how can we truly be happy (Rev.21:4) knowing these people who lived good lives are suffering eternally in Hell?"
14. Really appreciated your sermon Sunday on the judgment. The distinction between the book of life and the book of deeds was very clear. However, I am still concerned about the role the book of deeds will play in judgment for the Christian's sin while a Christian. I believe our rewards will be based on our good deeds but what influence do our bad deeds play in our rewards? Knowing that Christ died for our sins - past, present & future - leaves me no doubt about salvation, but what about rewards? Are the sins of a Christian erased completely for the purposes of determining our heavenly reward?
15. If a Christian commits suicide, what happens? How is he judged? He knowingly sinned and couldn't repent? What happens to him?
16. Where in scripture does it say we are forgiven for all our sins, past, present, and future?

17. In your last sermon (April 27), you mentioned Hebrews 10:26-27, which reads, "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." Does this passage indicate that we can somehow lose our salvation?
  
18. I want to accept Jesus because of faith, not because of fear of the afterlife. How do I know I have time and I'm not being rushed?