

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 1)

I. Are There Degrees of Punishment and Reward in Hell and Heaven?

- A. God is a just God (Psalm 89:14) "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
- B. The laws, both in the Old Testament and New Testament, demonstrate measured responses to sin.
- C. Measured punishment for sin on earth
 - 1. (Exodus 21:23-25) Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.
 - 2. (Deuteronomy 25:2-3) Number of blows determined by the judge.
 - 3. (Hebrews 10:29) Sorer punishment.
 - 4. (John 19:11) Greater sin.
- D. Measured punishment for sin after earth (Matthew 11:20-24; 2 Peter 2:20-22).
- E. Measured rewards in Heaven (Matthew 16:27) Rewarded according to our works.

II. Please Explain Ephesians 3:10

- A. What is the meaning of the expression "manifold wisdom of God," and are the principalities and powers angels?
- B. The Greek word translated "manifold" means multifaceted. Think of a diamond.
- C. Yes, the "principalities and powers" are angels, and could be good and bad.
 - 1. (Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 3:22; Ephesians 2:2, etc.).
- D. Remember, the angels were interested in salvation (1 Peter 1:10-13).
- E. God's intent was to demonstrate his multifaceted wisdom to heavenly beings through the church.

III. Does a Person Who Commits Suicide Go to Hell?

- A. Two passages come to my mind that I think would be helpful to consider.
 - 1. (Genesis 18:25).
 - 2. (John 21:20-22).
- B. Mental Condition must be considered – Chemical imbalances in the brain are as real as clogged arteries are in the heart.
- C. Intent – Walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
 - 1. Was it a momentary misstep?
 - 2. Was it a premeditated action with malice and forethought?
- D. Bottom line is that God will be the judge and he will do right.

IV. Why Are Poverty and Wealth the Only Conditions of Salvation and Condemnation Mentioned in Luke 16?

- A. (Luke 16:19-31) The story of the rich man and Lazarus.
- B. Certainly we know that having money or not having money is not the standard that determines our status in the afterlife.
- C. Abraham was a rich man, and we see him in Paradise (Luke 16:23).
- D. Likewise, there are poor people who will be lost (1 Timothy 6:9).
- E. Don't miss the context – Luke 16:14.
- F. This illustration is a direct rebuke to the Pharisees who were lovers of money, and Jesus is showing them how that will work out.

- Conclusion:
- 1. I hope this question and answer session has been helpful.
 - 2. If it has generated more questions, you can email me at higginbotham.steve@gmail.com.
 - 3. Tonight's lessons caused us to focus our attention on the afterlife and if you are not prepared for that transition, I hope you will prepare yourself before you leave tonight.