

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

06/04/2023 PM

I. QUESTION #1: FORGIVENESS.

A. The question: How can we know if our sins have been forgiven?

B. Answer:

1. Forgiveness is not a tangible object.
2. It is not something you can hold in your hand.
3. You are not given a sheet of paper with an official stamp declaring you are forgiven of sins.

C. So, how do we know we are forgiven?

1. There are several elements that need to be understood in regard to the answer to this question.
 - 1) First, there is the remedy for sins that has been provided, the blood of Christ. **Matthew 26:28 Ephesians 1:7 Revelation 1:5.**
 - 2) Second, there must be the application of the blood in our lives.
 - a. Just like we must take medicine and follow the directions when taking it, the same is true of the blood of Christ.
 - b. God has given us the prescription in the pages of His holy Word.
 - a) Hear the truth (**Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17**).
 - b) Belief (**Acts 10:43**).
 - c) Repentance (**Acts 5:31**).
 - d) Confess (**Rom. 10:9-10**).
 - e) Baptism (**Acts 2:38; 22:26; Rom. 6:3**).
 - 3) Third, after being converted we must live by faith (**Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58; 1 John 1:7**). That includes repenting when we commit sin (**1 John 1:9; Luke 13:3, 5**).
2. This is what God has said to do.
3. If I have done those things. I can know that I am saved (**Rom. 8:16**).

II. QUESTION #2: WORLDLINESS.

A. The question: **1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.” I’m confused on that because I love God’s creation and I don’t understand why I shouldn’t.**

B. The answer: Read **1 John 2:15-17.**

C. The word world can mean the physical things. Such as trees, flowers, soil, mankind, etc. It can also mean influences that can lead us into sin.

D. The “world” in this passage is the evil influences of the world.

1. It is not referring to God's creation (**Romans 1:20**).

2. God did not create an evil world (**Genesis 1:31**).
3. There is nothing evil about sunshine, rain, mountains, seas, sunsets, stars, birds, flowers, etc.
4. It also is not the world of human beings that exist on this planet (**John 3:16**).
5. The world of evil influences is identified in **verse 16**.
 - 1) Lust of the flesh. The improper desire which arises from the flesh and finds expression through the flesh (**Ephesians 2:3**).
 - 2) Lust of the eyes. desires which are aroused through the appeal of objects by the way they look (**Gen. 3:6**).
 - 3) Pride of life. a desire for worldly honor, prestige, the exaltation before men; we usually call this vanity (**John 12:43**).

E. **Genesis 3:5-6 contain all three avenues for sin.**

1. Satan had lied to her: “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat”
2. We are tempted by these three avenues.

F. **Bad influences must be shunned. Flee from anything that can improperly influence us.**

1. That includes people and places.
2. We must not be companions of those who are involved in improper activities.