BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What are four vital questions everyone must ask?**

# QUESTIONS #1 & #2

The first two vital questions were asked by Jesus Himself:

Matthew 16:26

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Think about those two questions.

The first question is: **What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?**

Have you ever thought about this? Suppose for a moment that you became the richest and most powerful person in the entire world. You would be able to do anything and everything you wanted to do. You could buy anything you wanted. You could go anywhere at any time and everyone around you would be doing everything they could possibly do to please you.

It this were possible, how long could this last? Maybe 50 or 60 years. If you're 30 years old right now and it lasted 60 years, you would be 90 years old and then you would die … and what then? If you gained the whole world, but lost your soul, what would you have gained? Eternity in the next life is a lot longer than 60 years on earth.

The answer to this first question is this: **It doesn't profit a man at all to gain the whole world and lose his own soul**.

A man's soul is the only thing he really owns. Everything else can be taken away. Eventually, when a man dies, he leaves everything behind – except his own soul.

The second question is: **What will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

The answer to this question is: **There is nothing a man can give in exchange for his soul**.

There is a Judgment Day coming:

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

When you stand before God in judgment, what will you offer Him in exchange for your soul? You won't have any money. If you did, do you honestly think God is interested in money? "God, I'll give you a billion dollars for my soul"? Do you think that will work?

The Lord is teaching us in Mt 16:26 that we must look to the future. We must think ahead. Don't live your life just thinking about this earth and the present moment. Prepare for judgment and for eternity by seeking after God and doing His will (Mt 7:21).

# QUESTION #3

We come now to the third most vital question. This question was asked by a prison warden in the Bible:

Acts 16:30

30 … what must I do to be saved?

This question assumes that salvation requires doing something. A man cannot earn his own salvation, because it is a free gift from God (Eph 2:8-9). However, even free gifts require doing something in order to receive the gift.

If a friend called you up and said, "Come over to my house and I have a free gift to give to you," you would have to do many things to receive that free gift. You would have to get dressed, get in a car, drive over to the house and walk up to the door, ring the doorbell. When you friend brought your gift to you, you would have to reach out your hands and take the gift. You would have to say, "Thank you." After doing all these things, would you then say, "This was not a free gift, because I had to do all these things in order to receive it"? Of course you would not say that.

Salvation is a free gift from God, but there are many things which we must do in order to receive the free gift.

Here is the answer to the third vital question, "What must I do to be saved?"

* I must believe in Christ – that He is the Son of God (Jn 8:24).
* I must repent of my sins (Lk 13:3).
* I must confess the name of Christ (Mt 10:32).
* I must be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

# QUESTION #4

The forth vital question was asked by the apostle Paul:

Romans 4:3

3 For what does the Scripture say? …

Many people do not care what the scriptures say. They think a 2,000 year old book is so out of date there is no possible way such a book could be relevant in our lives today. But this is wrong. The scriptures are still fresh and relevant today.

Matthew 24:35

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, …

Every person needs to ask what the NT scriptures says about:

* Church membership (Acts 2:47).
* Women remaining silent in the assemblies of the church (1 Cor 14:34-35).
* Weekly communion (Acts 20:7).
* One loaf and one cup in the communion (1 Cor 10:16-17).
* A cappella singing (Eph 5:19).

These and many other issues need to be investigated in the scriptures. One day we will stand before God in judgment and the books of the Bible will be opened up to judge us (Rev 20:12). If we have not been living by the instructions contained in the scriptures, we will find ourselves lost forever (Rev 20:12-15).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well … thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website [**www.WillOfTheLord.com**](http://www.WillOfTheLord.com). There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.