

## God's First Questions

The first questions of life appear in the third and fourth chapters of Genesis. Our enemy raises one to introduce doubt and an opening for temptation. Especially noteworthy, however, is the series of questions God asks once sin has entered human experience. It's not that He doesn't know the answers. It's that He wants persons to grasp reality.

1. "Where are you?" (3:9). This is what one asks of somebody when he wants to help that person. It's also the first thing a person has to answer to himself before he can ever do any better. It's not about where I have been or where I plan to go. The question is where I am.

2. "Who told you?" (3:11). In other words, what authority have I been listening to? By what standard have I been determining reality? Who are we willing to listen to — why we think what we do — is as important as what we think or do.

3. "What have you done?" (3:13). Not, what has someone else done? Not, what has been done to me? Rather, can I offer a candid statement of the facts of my own actions with no attempt to spin them? We will all finally be judged according to what we have done.

4. "Why are you angry?" (4:6). There is reason for concern when anger becomes my settled mood. When it does, it may be more because of what I am than because of what has been done to me (cf. 1 John 3:12). The first thing to do with an emotion is to examine what really brought it on.

5. "Where is your brother?" (4:9). How I handle this question says so much about my heart. Do I care about people or things? Do I have any awareness of anyone but myself? Am I capable of loving God and my neighbors? Each one is responsible for his own part in any relationship.

Aren't these still really the first questions of life? Our answers to God open our eyes to our real condition and open our hearts to His grace.

- Bill McFarland

Water Mill Church of Christ, Springfield, MO

### DANGERS FACING THE LORD'S CHURCH

Brother N. B. Hardeman (1874-1965), one of the great spiritual giants of another generation was asked what dangers he saw to the Lord's church at that time. Those dangers still exist today. Here is his reply:

1. First, a lack of Bible knowledge and a light regard with what it says.
2. A tendency to make the church a social club of entertainment.
3. A disposition to compromise the truth and to discourage sound preaching.
4. A love for the praise of men more than the praise of God, lest they be put out of someone's social circle.

- Chester Bulletin , March 28, 1993 -

*It you want to walk with God, you must go God's way.*

### News & Notes

**SPEAKER TODAY:** Bill Miller will speak in Bro. Rico's absence.

**COVERED DISH DINNER:** TODAY at about noon at the Fellowship Building. All are invited. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

**N. CENTRAL OHIO BIBLE LECTURES:** Lorain, OH, begins today through Wednesday, Aug. 9th. Theme: *The Resurrection Revealed*. Multiple Speakers. Call Bob Eddy at 440-233-5489 or 440-477-1049.

**MEALS NEEDED:** For **Ernie & Bill Robinson** through August while Bill recuperates from his recent surgery and for **Keith McClung** while Elaine is away taking care of family matters about her Dad. Sign-up sheets on the desk in the foyer.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate.

**MEN'S BREKFAST:** Next Saturday, Aug. 12th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana, OH Church of Christ. Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer. RSVP by Thursday, Aug. 19th.

**SING & PIE FLING:** Aug. 18th, 7:00 p.m. at WV School of Preaching in Moundsville. Andy Robison, Song Leader. Singing, fellowship, and desserts following. RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 16th at 304-845-8001.

**CORN ROAST:** Saturday, Aug. 19th, 2:00 p.m. at the Delong's. All are invited. **PANTRY:** Canned fruit & applesauce.

**REMEMBER WITH PRAYER & CARDS:** **Cindy Moore** (Pat Allison's cousin), 2760 Craig Circle, Fullerton, CA 92835 [Cindy is recovering from stem cell treatment]. **Ruth Wright** (Sharon Williams' sister), 1211 Mound St., Salem, OH 44460. **Margie Chisler** (Peggy Williams' sister), 1596 Daybrook Road, Fairview, WV 26570.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** Fred Larrimore, Bill Robinson, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Lewis Call (Cindy Miskimen's dad), Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **LIFELINE, WINTERSVILLE, OH:** Jim Smith. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

### REAL CHRISTIANS

are

*forgiven,  
forgiving,  
and for giving.*

- Their sins are forgiven by God.
- They forgive those who wrong them.
- And a generous spirit prompts them to give cheerfully to the work of the Lord.

- R. L. Cox -

### SURE!

How sure can you be about Christianity? God offers the Christian these sureties:

1. Christians are established on a **SURE FOUNDATION**. (Isa. 28:16; 2 Tim. 2:19).
2. Christians are grounded upon a **SURE WORD**. (2 Pet. 1:19).
3. Christians are the possessors of a **SURE HOPE**. (Heb. 6:19).
4. Christians are the recipients of **SURE MERCIES**. (Acts 13:34; 2 Cor. 1:3).

- Author Unknown -