

How to Respond? to Biblical Questions ...

by **Hiram Kemp**, Minister
Lebman Ave. Church of Christ, Bowling Green, KY
(hiram.kemp@yahoo.com)

There have always been those who have been interested in Christianity and who have questioned its practitioners (Acts 17:18-20; 25:22; 26:1).

We should not be surprised when people question our faith today. When it comes to answering questions about our faith and why we believe what we believe, we must be careful and wise. We should be careful because many will not hesitate to "fact check" us, and wise because if we are dishonest or inaccurate we may further their skepticism and doubt. Christians are told to be ready to give an answer for the reason we possess our hope (1 Peter 3:15). How can we do this? Allow me to offer three simple responses that we can adopt to answer those who have questions about our faith.

1. "I don't know" - It may be the case that we are asked something that is beyond our ability to know (Job 11:7). God has revealed himself in the Bible, but there are some things we do not know (Deuteronomy 29:29). This answer shows humility on the part of Christians and lets unbelievers know we do not have all the answers, but we know one who does. It may be the case that we can say we do not know the answer now, but we will research it and study and come back better informed.

2. "The Bible says ..." - By answering questions with "the Bible says" or "It is written," we move things out of the realm of opinion and into the factual. By answering with Scripture, we let God do the talking instead of us (1 Peter 4:11). Please do not say "churches of Christ believe" or "my preacher said." Point people to Bible passages, and if they want to argue, let them argue with God. This response will show that we believe the Bible is the only authority in Christianity (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Point them to the text because it is there that they will encounter God.

3. "With gracious speech" - Be sure not to be harsh, rude, or sarcastic in answering people's questions (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Be firm, be bold, be convicted, but do not be unkind. Responses like, "I cannot believe that you believe that!" or "How could you not know that?" may sound clever in our minds but they do not sound inviting to the lost. If we are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), let us keep our speech seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:5-6). If we answer with gracious speech they may inquire further and desire to take hold of the eternal grace extended to everyone (Ephesians 2:4-9).

(via *Magnolia Messenger*, Church of Christ, Kosciusko, MS - Spring, 2023)

"Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind."

— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart* —

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Willard Burdine & family at the passing of his brother, Sam. Sam was a member and an Elder of the Southern Hills congregation. God bless and comfort Sam's family and many friends.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

SECRET SISTER PROGRAM: Applications for the sisters participating are due **TODAY**. Place the form in a sealed envelope and put in the basket under the bay window in the foyer.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, April 22nd, Steelton Church of Christ, New Martinsville, WV. "Pray ... a Latte!" Speaker: Clista Heintzman. Details on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

SICK & SHUT-IN: *Calcutta Health Care:* Peggy Linger. *At Home:* Sandy Allen (Terri DeLong Patterson's mother), Pat Allison, Debbie Waite, Nancy Cox, Mike West, David Strum (Karen's husband), Jim Hadley, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece) 305 Bentley Ave., Newell, WV 26050, Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. *Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:* David McCoy. *In Indiana:* Bill Miller. *In Rehab:* Sharon Beck. Home address: 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Pennsboro	March 26-31	Roger Rush
CHESTER	April 2- 6	Terry Jones
Salem Ch of Christ, Glen Easton ...	April 2- 7	Peter Ray Cole
Steelton, New Martinsville	April 2- 6	Mark Bass
Kent	April 20-22	Ralph Price

The All-seeing Eye



The death of a young man at the hand of policemen in Memphis, Tennessee, has shocked and disappointed all who saw the videos. Today, most policemen have body cameras which record their actions during any confrontation. Most of the time these cameras defend the officers' actions, and in the Memphis case, they convicted them of wrongdoing.

As we judge these policemen, I wonder how any of us would escape scrutiny if we too had body cameras to record our actions. Well, in a sense, we do. We cannot escape the all-seeing eye of our heavenly Father. David wrote, "You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path, and my laying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways." He wrote, "Where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:1-3, 7).

King David knew there was no place where he could escape the presence of God. Like policemen's body cameras, God's all-seeing eye can comfort our souls, or convict us of our sins. Jonah tried to flee from the presence of God without success (Jonah 1:3). Jesus even read the thoughts of his critics (Matthew 9:4; Luke 11:17). God's presence is with you today. Will it bless and comfort you, or convict and condemn you?

- Dennis Doughty, "Inscriptions", *Magnolia Messenger*, Church of Christ, Kosciusko, MS -