

TOPICAL STUDY FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS TO ANSWER MANS QUESTIONS

2 PETER 3:15

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH372 SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

LET GOD ANSWER THEM - PART 4

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Salvation, Dedication, Encouragement, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

1 Peter 3:15

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

But **in** your hearts **revere** Christ as Lord. **Always** be **prepared** to give an **answer** to everyone who asks you - to give **the reason** for **the hope** that you **have**. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**,

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

LET GOD ANSWER THEM

1.) Regarding life and death (eternity)

2.) Regarding the right to life (abortion)

3.) Regarding the immigration crisis (rule of law)

4.) Regarding the sanctity of marriage (design)

5.) Regarding homosexuality (unnatural)

6.) Regarding our liberties (drug use)

BY LIBERTIES I MEAN;
THINGS THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM.

Ephesians 5:15-20

See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, **16 redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. **:17** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what **the will of the Lord is**. **18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit**, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Here Are a Few Simple Questions from Me – That Result in a Series of Complicated Answers from You,

- #1 - Being a Christian, Why smoke pot or drink alcohol?
- #2 - Being a Christian, What Christ-honoring effect comes from these things?
- #3 - Being a Christian, How does this draw you closer to being more like Jesus?
- #4 – Being a Christian, Why would your non-believing friends become like you?

How does someone become an alcoholic? – it begins with tolerating it.

there will always be those who are self-centered and self-pleasing who will fight tooth and nail to defend and justify their appetite for alcohol and pot or drugs.

Ephesians 5:18

And **DO NOT** be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **BUT BE** filled with the Spirit,

“**drunk**” speaking of being influenced by or altered by something else other than the Holy Spirit.

What happens when we are under the influence of the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 5:19-20

We speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

What happens when we are under the influence of drink?

REALITY CHECK TIME

% of alcohol related effects in U.S.
(NIAA & CDC Reports)

16 million + alcoholics

76 million Americans who do not drink - have an alcoholic as a family member

10-15% of Americans 60 years old and older are alcoholics

Alcoholism is the #1 drug problem in America

In the last 50 years more have died from alcohol related deaths than WWI-II

25-40% of hospital beds per day in the US are from alcohol related issues.

50% of traffic fatalities are from alcohol related accidents

Freezing deaths - 20% are alcohol related

5% of choking deaths are alcohol related

50% of all falling deaths are alcohol related

52% of those who die in a fire are alcohol related deaths

60% of all suicides are alcohol related

64% of all murders are alcohol related

69% of all drownings are alcohol related

72% of assault and robberies are alcohol related

60% of all rapes are alcohol related

80% of all criminal court cases have an element of alcohol involved

52% of teenage drivers die from alcohol

77% of high school students say they have drunk or do drink alcohol

44% of all junior high school students say they have drunk or do drink alcohol

500K children in the US, ages ranging between 9 to 12 are alcohol dependent

The NIAA est. that 11,000 children under 18yrs. take their first drink per-day

The WHO has determined that 4% of worldwide untimely deaths are due to alcohol

and 59% of male deaths world wide between 15 to 59 yrs are from alcohol.

per capita / per population; Washington DC Is the largest population of alcoholics in America
(which explains alot about the direction of our nation)

LISTEN CHURCH – WE’RE TO BE LIKE JESUS, NOT LIKE THIS WORLD

THE CHURCH WAS BORN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT / EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT / EQUIPPED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT / YOU CAN ONLY END BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 8:36

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Let’s Make it Personal - What happens to you when you come under the influence of alcohol?

Aren’t You no longer in control of yourself?

Proverbs 20:1

Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging (*wine older than 12 months old*): and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. = you get stupid !!!

Aren’t You compromising your witness for Jesus before others?

1 Corinthians 8:9

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Romans 14:21

It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Isn’t Your relationship to Christ open for question?

Galatians 5:21

Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Isn’t Your ministry to Christ flirting with disqualification?

Isaiah 28:7

But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink (*old wine*) are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble [in] judgment.

Didn’t Jesus Christ die to make you free – Are you really free?

Proverbs 23:29-35

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. 34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: 35 “They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?”

Galatians 5:13

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

LET GOD ANSWER THEM

7.) Regarding our self-defense

(protection)

Matthew 5:38-40

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

To "turn the other cheek," does not imply pacifism, nor does it mean we place ourselves or others in mortal danger. Turning the other cheek refers to personal retaliation, it is not regarding criminal offenses or acts of military aggression. As Christians, turning the other cheek means that we do not return an insult with an insult in retaliation, which is what most people expect and how worldly people act. Responding to hatred with love is a profound witness.

#1

To “Turn the Other Cheek”

does not mean we’re to be passive or to be adopting the concept of passivity. That is inconsistent with Scripture.

#2

To “Turn the Other Cheek”

does not mean that we’re to allow, invite or to tolerate someone who is bringing against you or your family or others -mortal danger, bodily harm or an act of violence.

#3

To “Turn the Other Cheek”

It does mean that we are not to avenge ourselves against an attack upon our dignity, reputation or name. we are not to retaliate against a wrong done to us in the common manner of daily life.

1 Peter 2:20-23

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 23 **who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return**; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Luke 22:35-36

And He said to them, “**When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?**” So they said, “Nothing.” :36 **Then He said to them, “But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.**

Matthew 26:51-52

And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus (Peter) stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. :52 **But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.**

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Every Christian is to Strive to be as Biblical as is Possible.

As long as we’re Biblical, we’ll always be right regarding the issues of life.

LET GOD ANSWER THEM

8.) Regarding our sexual morality (immorality)

Who created you?

If that is true – Then you are answerable to God. He is your Creator.

Sex is a gift - invented by God and given by God, Under the supervision of God for the pleasure, benefit and protection of a marriage.

Matthew 5:28

But I say to you that whoever looks at **(a) woman** to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

There are limitations to sexual conduct. There are fences and guardrails.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but **fornicators** and adulterers God will judge.

Romans 1:25-28 ESV

25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **:18** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality **sins against his own body.** (*a negative, supernatural effect*) **19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

“I have a friend who says that for him and his girlfriend, they believe that they’re not technically having sex because there is no intercourse involved. If it’s so wrong, why is the desire so strong?”

The Cross of Christ

John 3:16-19

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **:18** “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

End of Study

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