

F A Q

“Questions about Salvation”

June 13, 2010

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Selected Passages (ESV)

QUESTION:

How is it fair that God sends people to hell, especially those who have never heard of Jesus or who have tried their best to live good lives?

DEFINITION OF HEAVEN & HELL

1. Heaven = the place of _____ with God.
Going to heaven is eternal life (Romans 6:23b).
 - What makes heaven “heavenly” is the eternal fellowship that redeemed humanity has with holy God.
 - Why do you want to go to heaven? Would you yearn for heaven even if God were not a part of it? Heaven is not an eternal vacation paradise.
2. Hell = the place of _____ from God.
Going to hell is spiritual death (Romans 6:23a).
 - What makes hell “hellish” is the eternal absence of God’s fellowship.

SALVATION AND THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED THEIR BEST TO LIVE GOOD LIVES

1. No matter how hard you try to be good, you can _____ to merit eternal life.
 - God’s standard for being good enough to merit heaven is perfect righteousness (i.e., being on a par with God’s glory – Romans 3:23).
 - Intentions don’t count in a merit-based system; only what you actually do.
2. That is why it is good news that salvation is a _____ based upon God’s grace though faith in Jesus and not a _____ based upon merit or works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

SALVATION AND THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD OF JESUS

1. The way to eternal life is always and only through _____ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13; 1 John 5:11-12).
 - Christ, alone, can save. He died for the sins of the world. For those who preceded Christ, it was future. For everyone else, it is past, but it was and is still through Christ alone.
2. The means of eternal life is always and only through _____ in the one true God of the Bible. (Romans 3:21-22, 28; Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - The work of Christ on the cross applies to us through faith—i.e., when we believe in God. Abraham believed in God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Romans 4:3). What did he believe? He believed _____ — about God himself, about Abraham’s own sinfulness, and about the future Messiah (see Hebrews 11).
 - No one can bypass faith and be saved. This means that ignorance of God does not lead to automatic salvation. If it did, then why should we attempt to evangelize unreached people? Wouldn’t it be more sensible to just keep everyone in the dark about Jesus? After all, the introduction of Jesus could mean doom for those who are already saved (due to ignorance of God).
3. God has revealed himself in _____.
 - Through the light of _____ (Romans 1:18-21)
 - Through the light of _____ (Romans 2:14-16)
“Eternity in Their Hearts” by Don Richardson.
There is startling evidence of belief in the One True God in hundreds of cultures throughout the world.
 - Through the light of _____ (Romans 3:21-22; John 1:1)

MY RESPONSE

Just because God reveals himself doesn’t mean that people respond. That is why every believer has a mandate from God to _____ the good news about Him (Romans 10:13-15; Matthew 28:18-20).

CENTRAL TRUTH

God has revealed himself to all the world so that all who believe in Him may be saved through the death of Jesus Christ.

** CDs of today’s message as well as previous weeks’ sermons are available in the YNCC office. Sermons are also viewable online at www.ynccla.org/sermons.