

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of October 2, 2022 A.D.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read John 14:6-7

1. Do you believe in life after death? Do you believe that each person will go to either heaven or in hell after they die? Do most people in America believe that they will go to either heaven or hell after they die?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says that He is (a) the way, (b) the truth, and (c) the life? Do you personally believe that the statements made by Jesus in John 14:6-7 are true?
3. In your opinion, when all of human life on earth comes to an end, will there be more people in heaven or in hell? Does God allow every person to make the personal choice between going to heaven or going to hell? Why do some people choose to go to (a) heaven and (b) hell?
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Truth is an objective standard by which reality is measured. Truth is God's point of view on any subject."
5. Does the American culture/society believe that (a) truth is an objective standard, (b) Jesus came to earth to announce the truth by which every person will be judged by God, (c) Jesus took the punishment of God for every person who fails to live an absolutely truthful, perfect life before God, and (d) faith in Christ is the only way to avoid the punishment of hell and to go to heaven?

Read John 3:16-17

6. Is God perfect, eternal, and without sin? Can a holy and righteous God have complete unity, agreement, and fellowship with a created being which is not also perfect, eternal, and without sin?

7. Is the truth of John 3:16 absolutely essential for any human to receive and enjoy eternal life in fellowship with God?

Read John 3:19-21

8. Has God proclaimed judgment (a verdict) on the life of every person who now lives (or ever has lived) on planet earth? What is the truth that God has established as the absolute standard by which that judgment has been proclaimed? Does God give every person the freedom to choose the judgment (verdict) which they will receive from God?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

9. Please explain how the truth of John 3:16 requires an acknowledgment of the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

10. Must every believer in Christ (out of necessity) become a new creation as expressed in verse 17?
11. Please explain how John 3:16 is meaningless if believers in Christ do not acknowledge the truth of 2 Corinthians 17-19.
12. Please explain the connection between John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, and 2 Corinthians 5:20. Is there anything more important in the life of a believer than to be a full-time ambassador of the message of reconciliation which is available through faith in Christ?

Consider: The apostle Paul said "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." You think about that. Amen.