

now and forevermore" (Jude 24, 25). (cp. 1 Peter 1:5, Titus 1:2, 1John 3:2, 5:13).

If you have genuinely trusted in Christ as your Saviour, God guarantees that you will have a home in heaven. You are eternally secure in Christ.

4. Can I Do Things That Will Keep Me Out Of Heaven?

As a child of God, there is nothing we can do or say that will cancel our eternal salvation or keep us out of heaven. We may hurt and disappoint our heavenly father by sinning, but He will never disown his children.

If at a point of time, we genuinely responded in faith to the good news of salvation by grace in Jesus Christ, we are saved once for all. All our sins are forgiven and God accepts us in Christ his Son. The Bible is full of assurance that every true believer will one day go to heaven. Paul states that nothing past, present, or future will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38, 39).

5. What Happens If I Lose Heart And Doubt God?

As we get older, our minds grow tired, and can play tricks on us. Our memory fails and we can think and say strange things. We need to be reminded that the first time we sincerely trusted in Christ for Salvation, God did a lot of things to seal and certify our eternal salvation.

Our Heavenly destiny is not based on our ability in any way, but on God's work that will never fail (2Thessalonians 2:13-14). Even if we doubt our salvation, the Bible says, *"The solid foundation of God stands sure, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are is'"* (2Timothy 2:19).

6. What About My Family Or Friends Who No Longer Act Like Christians?

Salvation is a personal thing. Each person must decide for themselves about Jesus and Salvation.

The Bible says in Romans, *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you*

will be saved. As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Romans 10:9-13).

If your family member or friend genuinely accepted Christ as his or her Saviour and Lord, then they are saved. They may have wandered away from Jesus and the Bible and need to come back to God. But if our family or friend has 'faked or falsely' claimed to trust Christ in order to pacify parents or peer pressure, then they are not saved. We must warn them of false claims and present the gospel afresh to them. (cp. 1Thessalonians 5:14, Jude 22, Hebrews 10:35-37, 2Timothy 2:25).

7. What Will Keep Me From Doubting?

As Christians we need to stay spiritually healthy. With the huge advancement of technology in our day, there are so many things that can fill our minds and occupy our thoughts that it becomes easy to doubt. (cp. 2Peter1:4-8).

The best way to combat worldly input and brain drainers is to spend time reading the promises of God in the Bible. (cp. John 15:1-10, James 1:21, Colossians 3:16, Ephesians chap. 1).

We are encouraged to *"hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"* (Hebrews 10:23).

For further information and help, please contact....

PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA 98366
www.prisonmission.org



Answers to Probing Questions

2Timothy 3:1-17



PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA 98366
www.prisonmission.org

ANSWERS TO PROBING QUESTIONS

In these last days of the Church age, we see an increase in unbelief in the things of God. Our nation continues to turn away from God. There are worldwide crises and constant changes, and even Christians are struggling with doubts and fears. They have concerns about faith, salvation, God, the Bible and the future. They are asking themselves questions about the present and the future. Here are answers to some of these probing questions.

1. Can We Trust God's Word?

Recent programs on Television throw doubt upon the Bible as God's word. They present questions from an unbelieving point of view. They raise doubt, producing ideas suggesting the Bible is not what people think it is. They cause people to doubt the Bible.

Since the Bible is truly the Word of God, then it is the final authority for all matters of faith, religious practice, and morals. The question we must ask ourselves is how can we know that the Bible is the Word of God and not just a good book? What is unique about the Bible that sets it apart from all other religious books ever written? Is there any evidence that the Bible is God's Word? These types of questions must be seriously examined if we are to determine the validity of the Bible's claim to be the very Word of God, divinely inspired, and totally sufficient for all matters of faith and practice.

There can be no doubt that the Bible does claim to be the very Word of God. This is clearly seen in Paul's commendation to Timothy: "... *from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

The Bible is a record of what God told his servants to write down and therefore its content is called **the Word of God**.

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard

from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe" (1Thessalonians 2:13).

Throughout time, sceptics have regarded the Bible as mythological, but archaeology has confirmed it as historical. Opponents have attacked its teaching as primitive and outdated, but its moral and legal concepts and teachings have had a positive influence on societies and cultures throughout the world.

It continues to be attacked by pseudo-science, psychology, and political movements, yet it remains just as true and relevant today as it was when it was first written. It is a book that has transformed countless lives and cultures throughout the last 2000 years. No matter how its opponents try to attack, destroy, or discredit it, the Bible remains; its veracity and impact on lives is unmistakable. The accuracy which has been preserved despite every attempt to corrupt, attack, or destroy it is clear testimony to the fact that the Bible is truly God's Word and is supernaturally protected by Him.

It should not surprise us that, no matter how the Bible is attacked, it always comes out unchanged and unscathed. After all, Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away"* (Mark 13:31). After looking at the evidence, one can say without a doubt that, yes, the Bible is truly God's Word. (cp. Psalm 119).

2. Can I Be Sure I'm Going To Heaven?

The Bible teaches us that the Lord Jesus gave his life on the cross of Calvary to pay the price for our sin and make it possible for all those who trust in him to have a home in heaven. The Bible is a supernatural life changing book which produces spiritual renewal. *"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). Millions can give witness to the change they have experienced when they read and believed the Word of God - the Bible.

The Bible brings the message of Salvation

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31).

The Bible is the means of a New Spiritual Birth *"You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God"* (1Peter 1:23). (cp. James 1:18, 21).

The Bible gives assurance of a home in Heaven *"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints - the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you"* (Colossians 1:3-6).

And who can forget the personal promise of Jesus himself *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am"* (John 14:1-3).

It is through the promises of God in the Bible that we can be assured of a home in heaven.

3. Are We Once Saved Always Saved?

The Word of God clearly states that the Salvation we have in Christ is as safe and certain as Jesus himself. **Yes, we are once saved always saved.** Jesus said, *"All whom the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast away"* (John 6:37).

"My sheep listen to my voice; I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10: 27-28). Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, he who believes [in me] has everlasting life"* (John 6:47).

Other New Testament writers confirmed eternal salvation for all who believe. **Jude** closes his brief epistle with the benediction: *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both*