**Three Essential Questions**

**Introduction**

1. Questions are tools given us by the Lord for growth – ask, seek, find, and grow.
2. The following are three questions which are essential for all believers in God to ask, and come to know:
   1. Why did the Lord create us?
   2. Why did the Lord send His Son into the world?
   3. Why did the Lord give us the Bible?
3. The answers to these questions are essential to our understanding of the God we serve, and our relationship to Him.
4. Why did the Lord create us?
5. He wanted to.
   1. **Acts 17:25** – The Lord did not create because He needed anything.
      1. One eternal is one self-sufficient is one who needs nothing.
      2. **The opposite is true in Pagan thought regarding their “gods” – Thought the idols consumed and were sustained by the sacrifices offered.**
      3. **Cf. Psalm 50:7-15** – God is not sustained by us, we are sustained by Him.
   2. **If God did not need us, then He created us because He wanted to:**
      1. **Genesis 1:1** – ***“In the beginning”*** sets before us the idea of the eternal existence of God.
         1. He always was, and always was BY HIMSELF (Godhead), **until He decided to create**.
         2. ***“heavens and the earth”*** – all in them was toward an ultimate end.
         3. **(v. 26)** – **Man was the ultimate object of God’s creation. The focus of all that was created.**
      2. **Psalm 8:3-9** – Man was unlike any other thing created, in that any other thing created was created for man’s benefit.
         1. Even though man was created a little lower than angels, it is abundantly clear that God cares for us even more than they 🡪
         2. ***“For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham” (Hebrews 2:16).***
      3. **In a way, mankind is at the center of creation. *However, when mankind’s purpose of existence is considered, it is found that they are not at the center of everything.***
6. Why did He want to?
   1. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – The ***“all,”*** or whole purpose of man must be the answer given to the question, **“Why was man created?” – God wanted man to serve Him.**
   2. **Such is reflected in the words of Paul to the Athenians:**
      1. **Acts 17:26-27** – The reason God created earth, and placed man upon the earth, was so they would seek Him.
         1. The whole purpose of our existence is to seek after God.
         2. **This shows that He has made Himself available to be found, and wants us to find Him.**
      2. **If God did not need anything or anyone, why did He create man for Himself, i.e. that they might seek Him and serve Him?**
         1. **In every man is an innermost desire** – all seek the fulfillment of this desire.
         2. Many seek fulfilment in various created forms – they have never, and will never find such fulfillment.
         3. Solomon showed us such was the case – **all is vanity – and concluded the fulfillment is found in serving God** – **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – but why?
         4. Consider the wisdom of Christ – **cf. John 13:16** – **servant not greater than master – same with creation and the Creator.**
            1. **How can you find fulfilment in something which is inferior to another thing, or another One?**
            2. **Like the Gentiles of Romans 1:25, many foolishly seek fulfillment in other things created just like themselves.**
         5. Logically, such ultimate fulfillment cannot be found with any CREATED thing, because there is a CREATOR.
         6. **The only thing which can offer such fulfillment is not a thing at all, but THE ONE FROM WHOM ALL THINGS, INCLUDING US, PROCEED.**
         7. Thus, the words of Paul to the Athenians – **cf. Acts 17:26-28** – EMPHASIS ON **VERSE 28** – Why do we seek Him? Because we come from Him!
      3. **God created man out of love, to share the greatest treasure of all – HIMSELF.**
         1. **Psalm 73:25-26** – The Psalmist recognized the fulfillment of this desire.
         2. **John 14:21, 23** – Jesus explained how one might come to enjoy the Lord so – keeping His word (**cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13).**
   3. **The tragedy is that though the Lord offered such, man fell short of His glory and forfeited it – cf. Romans 3:23 – *which brings us to the next question* 🡪**
7. Why did the Lord send His Son into the world?
8. Falling Short
   1. **Romans 3:23** – What did this falling short of God’s glory in sin accomplish?
   2. **Consider the fulfillment of the inner most desire found in God:**
      1. **This is ultimately summed up in one word – LIFE (Spiritually of course).**
      2. **Cf. Psalm 36:7-9** – The abundant satisfaction found with God IS THE LIFE HE GIVES.
      3. When we sin – fall short of the glory of God – we are separated from Him (**cf. Isaiah 59:2**) – **thus, separated from that ultimate fulfillment**.
      4. **Romans 6:23** – The HS shows this to be spiritual death. (***The fulfillment of life’s purpose found in God is spiritual LIFE, and the loss of such is spiritual DEATH***.)
9. Life Found in Christ
   1. **The very thing that all men long for (whether knowingly or otherwise) is forfeited in sin. But through Christ it is offered again.**
   2. **John 5:21, 26, 27** – Jesus is of the same nature as the Father, and has authority to grant LIFE TO OTHERS.
   3. **Why did the Lord send His Son into the world? – John 3:17 – NOTE: *“might be saved”* – made possible, but conditional:**
      1. **(v. 13)** – The Son sent – came down.
      2. **(vv. 14-15)** – The Son lifted up – crucified (atonement made by His blood) – believe, or trust in Him and His atoning work to have ***“life.”***
      3. **(vv. 16-17)** – Why did the Lord send His Son into the world?
   4. But, what does it mean to believe in Him? – **John 12:44-50** – **to keep His word!**
   5. **However, Jesus is not here in person to speak to us today. *Which leads us to our next question 🡪***
10. Why did the Lord give us the Bible?
11. The Son’s earthly time was limited.
    1. **It was never God’s plan that Jesus remain on earth.**
    2. *Prophecies of old foretold His ascension back into heaven* – **Daniel 7:13-14** – to receive a kingdom.
    3. **Mark 1:14-15** – Jesus preached about this kingdom during His ministry, but had to leave in order to receive it.
       1. **The disciples whom Jesus selected to be His ambassadors were taught concerning this kingdom, but their learning was limited.**
       2. **John 16:12** – Jesus did not tell the apostles EVERYTHING concerning this kingdom before He left earth for good.
    4. **How are we to know more fully the words of Christ, thus the Father’s will?**
       1. **Jesus would continue to speak to the apostles, giving them His word, thus the Father’s will, through Another 🡪**
       2. **John 16:13-15** – The Spirit takes the words of Christ and declares them to the apostles – which is the will of God.
       3. **The apostles then declared these words to others** **– cf. Ephesians 3:3-5** – The mystery revealed through apostles and prophets.
       4. **These things were eventually recorded in totality for us today** – **cf. Jude 3** – once for all delivered to the saints.
    5. **What purpose does the Scripture serve?**
12. The Purpose Scripture Serves
    1. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – The Scripture is GOD BREATHED, and is profitable unto us – **logically, in a way which aids us in our CREATED PURPOSE.**
       1. **Doctrine** – teaching (need nothing else – creed, catechism, etc.).
          1. **This teaching, if followed and obeyed, fulfills in us the greatest joy – fellowship with God.**
          2. **Cf. John 14:23** – obey Him so He will make His home with us.
       2. **Reproof** – conviction of sin when we stray from the doctrine to bring us back to it.
       3. **Correction** – to bring us back in line with the doctrine, thus, bring us back in fellowship with God.
       4. **Instruction in righteousness** – further, and perpetual instruction for pleasing God.
       5. **(v. 17)** – IT IS SUFFICIENT – to equip us for good works – i.e. THE WORKS OF GOD.
          1. This is that which Solomon concluded was our purpose!
          2. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – serve God because we were created for such, **but also because we will be judged.**
             1. **It is God’s desire that we will be judged as having done that which is *“good”* in His sight.**
             2. TO THE END THAT WE CAN FOREVER ENJOY THE LORD IN HIS ABODE – **John 17:24-26** – That we can dwell in the love of God forever!

**Conclusion**

1. God has not left us in ignorance concerning the most important things about this life, and the life that is to come.
2. **God created us to serve Him, and by doing so enjoy Him for eternity. He sent His Son to restore us to Him after we have fallen. He gave us the Bible to direct us to the benefits in His Son, and further instruct us on how to live so as to be found with Him for eternity in heaven.**
3. Will you obey the Lord today?