Questions of Life

Introduction

Ecclesiastes 3:11

- 1. God has put "eternity" in our hearts, and there are some questions that people everywhere ask instinctively.
- 2. The way we answer these questions largely determines our personal character, for better or worse.

Where Did We Come From?

1. The Bible answer is God.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

2. We are made by God and made in His image

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

3. We are the "offspring" of God

Acts 17:28-29 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

Who and What Are We?

- 1. The Bible answer is that we are personal beings. Psalms 8:3-9
- 2. Having been created in the image of God, we are persons, as He is. (Genesis 1:26-27)
- 3. As the "offspring" of God, we can draw some important conclusions about God's nature. (Acts 17:28-29).
- 4. We are "free moral agents" having the power of choice.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Why Are We Here?

1. The Bible answer is: to live in fellowship with God. 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

What Are Our Moral Obligations?

1. The Bible answer is to obey God's will.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

2. We must give account to God

Hebrews 4:12-13

3. To whatever extent we have not obeyed the law of God, we are commanded to repent

Acts 17:30-31

What Is Our Destiny?

1. The Bible answer is eternity, either in heaven or in hell.

Romans 2:5-11

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2. The Bible closes with a vivid picture of the alternatives that face us in eternity

Revelation 22:12-17

Conclusion

1. The answers to these fundamental questions are known to all of mankind

Romans 1:18-21

- 2. We frequently teach these basic truths to others. Do we really believe them ourselves at the practical level?
 - A. If we do, then we will ensure that we live our lives accordingly.
 - 1) May we have a new year of life where we earnest live for God in all things that we say and do.

Invitation

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Richard Thetford, January 2011 (Based on a sermon by Gary Henry, 1996)