

Thought Provoking Questions

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Jesus Christ truly was the Master in raising “thought provoking questions.” He reached into men’s hearts the day he asked, “I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things” (Mt. 21:24-27).

Never was there a more personal question asked of anyone than the one Jesus asked of his closest and most loyal disciples when he said, “Will ye also go away?” (Jn. 6:67).

The responses on these two occasions were diametrically different. The refusal on the part of the chief priests and the elders of the people to answer the Lord’s question constituted a foreshadowing of the destruction into which they were leading the whole nation (Mt. 12:42-45). The reply of the twelve in the second instance forever rings true in the ears of those who love the Lord and live in harmony with his word, “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68).

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PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER A FEW QUESTIONS FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY.

Am I nearer to God today than when I first became a Christian?

Have I wept over the lost ones around me?

Do my prayers reflect selfishness or selflessness?

Do I truly want to go to heaven when this life is over?

Does my life show a love and respect for the Lord, his word, his church, his purpose for me?

Am I setting the very best example I possibly can for those around me? My spouse? My children? My grandchildren? My neighbors? My co-workers?

Do I know what my children are watching on television? What they are reading? What they are listening to on their radio/ipod/Mp3 player? Do I know who they are talking to on the telephone? Do I know what they are talking about? Do I monitor their internet use? Do I supervise their activities with their friends?

If I were to die today, what would be the fate of my spouse? Would he/she continue to live the Christian life?

If I were to die today, what would my children do? Would they continue to show an interest in the church for which Christ died?

Have I identified the recurring sins in my life that may ultimately cost me my soul? What am I doing to “resist the Devil”?

Have I taken a spiritual inventory of my Christian life? How well am I doing in adding the fruit of the Spirit and the “Christian graces”?

As honestly as I can determine, will eternity be for me “spent” in heaven or in hell?