

Questions from God

Where Art Thou?

Have you ever wanted to ask God a question face to face? Why did this happen? Where did I go wrong? Why am I here?

Many questions are found in the Bible, and I would like to focus on one of the questions God asks in the Scripture.

The word *question* by Webster's definition means the act of asking; an interrogatory; as, to examine by question and answer.

Life is often defined by the questions we ask. By that I mean the questions we are asking often reveal what we are thinking or the direction we are going. Maybe you've come here today with a question (or several), and if answered, this will change your whole outlook on life and the direction in which you are heading.

Who asked the first question in the Bible? Satan did in Genesis 3:1, ". . . Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Note that Satan came to Eve in the guise of a serpent. He is a liar and seldom appears to people in his true

character. Revelation 20:2 refers to him as "the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan." He is "transformed into an angel of light" according to 2 Corinthians 11:14. His aim is to deceive and destroy.

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ," 2 Corinthians 11:3.

Satan's target was Eve's mind, and his weapon was deception. By questioning what God said, Satan raised doubts in Eve's mind concerning the truthfulness of God's Word.

We must take care to avoid his deceptive ways. The very first method Satan employed to attack the mind of man is still his favorite tactic today. "Yea, hath God said . . . ?" Or, in other words, "Did God really say . . . ?" When Eve began to doubt what God had said, or more specifically, when she began to question if He really meant it, Satan had his foot in the door.

The biggest problem we have today is that people doubt God's Word. Because they doubt certain



by **Darren Rogers**
Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church
Pwllgwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taf

parts of it, they change it to suit themselves. It is NOT that we do not know WHAT God has said, but it is that **we do not want to accept the fact that He meant it!**

If Satan can get us to question God's Word, to begin to doubt what God has said, or to ask ourselves did God really mean what He said, then he has a foothold in the door of our minds. He is cunning and crafty, and our minds are no match for his schemes. That is why we are told to put on the helmet of salvation to protect our minds. That is why we need God's Word preached and taught that we may devour it. As the psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee," Psalm 119:11.

I want to ask you today, what part of God's Word are you questioning?

Did God really say that He is the only God? (Isaiah 45:21)

Did God really say to worship no one/nothing else? (Exodus 20:3)

Did God really say that Israel will always be His people? (1 Kings 6:13)

Questions from God

continued from front page

Did God really say that Jesus was born of a virgin? (Isaiah 7:14)

Did God really say that Jesus was the only way to Him? (John 14:6)

Did God really say there is a hell for the lost? (Psalm 9:17)

Did God really say that I am to tithe? (Malachi 3:10)

Did God really say I am to read my Bible? (2 Timothy 2:15)

Did God really say I am to love my enemy? (Matthew 5:44)

Did God really say I am to tell others about Christ? (Mark 16:15)

Did God really say that I should be in church? (Hebrews 10:25)

Did God really say I should live for Him? (Romans 12:1-2)

What does it mean when God asks a question? Does it mean that He doesn't know the answer?

One day a teacher was mocking God's ability because He asked questions. She told the class, "God is not powerful."

A little boy who attended Sunday school was very confused because he had been told that God was all powerful.

During a maths class that afternoon, she wrote a sum on the board and asked, "What is 10 + 10?"

The little boy's face lit up as he raised his hand. "Don't you know the answer, Miss?"

"Of course, I do!" was her reply. "I'm asking you so that you can know."

With a smile on his face, the young boy said, "That's exactly what God does. He knows all the answers. He just asks us questions so we can know too."

Where art thou? Genesis 3:9

God did not pose this question to Adam because God needed information. God is omniscient. He knows all things. Any time God asks a question in Scripture, it is always a rhetorical question, meaning He already knows the answer, but He wants you to see the answer as well.

We do exactly the same thing with our children when we ask them, "What are you doing?" or "Why did you do that?" We know exactly what they are doing and why they did it, but we want them to admit it!

"Adam, . . . Where art thou?"

It can be a good feeling when someone calls your name. It can make you feel important, wanted, and special. It's nice when someone you have met for only a brief moment remembers your name. Other times hearing your name may not be so good, when you've done something wrong, for example.

God asked Adam, "Where art thou?" because Adam needed to see himself where he was—hiding in the bushes, instead of walking free in God's world, hiding his sin instead of running to God for forgiveness.


You can almost feel the longing in God's heart as He says those words. Prior to this, man had an unbroken communion and fellowship with God, but now it was different.

Adam's reply is recorded in Genesis 3:10, "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

I heard! I was afraid! I hid! The truth had to be dragged out of him. No longer was Adam waiting for that time with God, instead Adam was hiding. Something had happened in their relationship.

Sin had separated Adam from God. So many times sin hinders and spoils our fellowship with the Lord. Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Fear has now invaded Adam's relationship with God, and he's hiding from Him.

Maybe God is asking you questions that you are afraid to answer? Maybe you are avoiding spending time in fellowship with Him because you don't want to hear His questions? Maybe He is asking you today, "Where are you?"

Where are you in your relationship with Him? Do you know Him? Where are you emotionally? Where are you physically? Where are you spiritually? You can replace Adam's name with your own as God asks, "Where art thou?" He knows where you are. He wants you to know as well. 

GPA Bible Institute

Autumn Classes Begin
14 September, 2010 at 7 PM

Book of Romans
Rev. Paul Jones, Lecturer
Life of Christ
Rev. Chris Bluto, Lecturer

Venue: Bethany Baptist, Ynyshir

Contact Rev. Chris Bluto
(01443) 675424



Half Term
HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB
at Horeb Baptist Chapel
Dinam Close, Nantymoel

Children ages 5 through 13

26 October through 29 October
4:00 to 6:30 pm
Sunday, 31 October
4:30 to 5:30 pm
Parent Night Service at 6:00 pm

Rev. Chris Bluto, Pastor
(01443) 675424

A Faithful Shepherd

William Hughes

written by Rev. Christopher Bluto



Rev. William Hughes

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

(Matthew 25:23)

William Hughes, known affectionately as Brother Bill, was born and reared in Tylorstown in the Rhondda Valley of South Wales. His parents faithfully took him to chapel services three times every Sunday. He attended, first, the morning service, then Sunday school in the afternoon, and finally the evening service. He heard the Gospel faithfully proclaimed, but still he refused to surrender to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

When he was old enough, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force serving honorably during World War II. Brother Bill married his wife, Sylvia, a feisty, valley girl who was a truly committed Christian faithfully serving her Lord wherever she attended chapel. The young couple settled in the village of Nant-y-moel in the Ogmore Valley and attended Horeb Baptist Chapel.

Bill and Sylvia Hughes continued to go to Horeb, but Bill's rebellion against the Lord continued. It wasn't until he was 48 years of age on a cold, snowy night during the prayer meeting at Horeb Chapel that Bill bowed his knee and his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. Shortly after being saved and baptized, he surrendered to

the call of God to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. He enrolled in the London Bible College and completed his training via correspondence.

This spirited dynamo began preaching whenever he had the opportunity. In 1974, having proved himself in his home church, he assumed the pastorate of Horeb Baptist Chapel. During his time at Horeb, a strong youth group was developed. This fine group of Christian young people took on the task of raising money to fight against the rising drug movement in the valley. Pastor Hughes led them in conducting different marathons, like continually cycling for five days on two stationary bikes in the vestry, and on another occasion, playing table tennis from Monday to Saturday.


Pastor Hughes retired from the pastorate at Horeb Baptist Chapel in 1992 after many years of faithfully serving the Lord. Since that time, he has continued to teach Sunday school and make visits in the local community. He has continued to tirelessly serve his blessed Saviour preaching at Horeb and other chapels in the area.

Brother Bill has become a regular at The Gospel Preacher Association's Annual Bible Convention and has

preached the past two years in the meeting. His lively manner of preaching reminds us that the Welsh hwyl has not died in the preachers of the Word of God. The Lord continues to use him in a mighty way.

The apostle Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Brother Bill has steadfastly proclaimed the Gospel these many years. At 89 years young, he is often called upon to fill the pulpit, and eagerly takes each opportunity to do just that, to preach the unsearchable riches of the Word of God at Horeb and other churches throughout the valley and local area.

At Horeb Baptist Chapel's 132 Anniversary Service, Brother Bill Hughes was our featured speaker. As always the Lord blessed him as he proclaimed the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ. The congregation took the opportunity on this special occasion to recognise Brother Bill Hughes' long, faithful service for his precious Lord. We presented him with a shepherd's crook, a symbol of a faithful and loving shepherd. 



The **G**ospel **P**reacher **A**ssociation

Bible Convention

Great Success!

Bethany Baptist Church, Ynyshir, hosted the annual Gospel Preacher Association Bible Convention on 27 March through 1 April. It was uniquely blessed of the Lord. The cooperation of pastors and churches was such a blessing. The preachers from America and Wales blended beautifully. The singing was just tremendous, and the spirit of the messages called our attention to the greatness of our God and our position in Him.

Much work by the ladies of Bethany went in to providing lovely meals for all who would stay after the morning service. Fellowship with an appetising spread was enjoyed after the Saturday and Thursday evening services. Choirs sang from Bethany Baptist Church, Pwllgwaun, as well as Bethany Baptist Church, Ynyshir.

There was other special music, and we were blessed by each one.


Saturday night was a special service for the Cwm Rhondda Bible College. Reverend Stuart Ryce-Davies was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree, and Reverend Paul Jones was awarded a Bachelor of Theology. Both men are well known and have exerted a strong influence for the cause of Christ in Wales, as well as in other parts of the world.

The week was filled with spirit-filled preaching by Dr. Dennis Petty,



by **Dr. Edwin G. Moore**
European Director for the GPA

Rev. Trevor Jones, Rev. Bill Hughes, Dr. Jeff Holloway, Rev. Darren Rogers and several others. Rev. Chris Bluto, Rev. David Bennett, and Rev. Paul Jones did a great job of making preparations for the meeting.

We would invite you to mark your diaries for the meeting next year 16-22 April, 2011. The theme of the convention will be "Feeding the Lord's Sheep." 

Beginners Greek Classes at Cwm Rhondda Bible College

Beginners Greek Classes will commence on 11 September, 2010



Lecturer: Mr. Clive Harvard
Venue: Bethany Baptist, Ynyshir

To enroll, contact Rev. Paul Jones at (01443) 688158

Volume III — 2010

The Gospel Preacher

is a publication of
The Gospel Preacher Association
a ministry of
Galilean Baptist Church
Lawrenceville, GA, USA

Editor
Dr. Edwin G. Moore

Assistant Editor
Rev. Christopher Bluto

Layout & Graphic Design
Jessica McPherson



You can read *The Gospel Preacher* online
Go to www.galilean-baptist.org
and click on the Welsh magazine tab

If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy receiving
The Gospel Preacher, please fill in the information below and mail to:
Chris Bluto, 19 Heol Haulfryn, Tynybryn, Tonyrefail, RCT, CF39 8DG

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
County _____ Post Code _____