

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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July 5, 2020

“What Can God Do?”

by Ed Bragwell

Brother John T. Lewis used to say, “The Bible was not designed to answer every fool question that some people can think up.” How true! It is especially true when it comes to questions about the ability of the all-powerful God. There is no end to the questions, some downright foolish and some just speculative, that people raise.

Like:

Can God make two mountains without a valley between them?

Can God make an object too heavy for Him to move?

Can God perform miracles in answer to our prayers today?

Could God have ordained a scheme of redemption other than the one

He did ordain? Can God save man without faith?

The List can be expanded as far as the imagination can take us....

When we have exhausted our imagination of what He may or may not be able to do— we are still in an area of God’s attributes “past finding out.”

If we could answer each of the above questions in the affirmative, the question would still be not be what He CAN do, but what He DOES do.

It is much easier to determine the extent of His WILL toward man than the extent of the exercise of His POWER. *“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”* (Deuteronomy 29:29)

God has revealed His will for mankind, but not the answer to everything we might conceive to be within His power. It is our business to learn, believe, teach, and preach the REVEALED will— rather than presume what is not revealed and run with that.

Is God able to save one without faith? But is it God’s WILL that man be saved without faith? (Hebrews 11:6)

Is God able to save without baptism? But is it His WILL to save men by baptism? (1 Peter 3:21)

Is God able to save an alien sinner without repentance? But is it His WILL that repentance be a condition of salvation? (Luke 13:3,5)

Is God able to forgive a brother before he repents and prays for forgiveness of his sins? But it is REVEALED that He forgives one in answer to repentance and asking for it in prayer (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)

It is not our business to hold out hope to anyone based on what we think God might be able to do with His awesome power. It is our business to point them to what is revealed concerning His will for man's salvation.

“Where Will You Spend Eternity?”

By Cecil F. Cox

How often do you give serious thought to as to where you will spend eternity? Thousands of dollars are spent, much time given, and labor exerted to provide a place in which to spend our lives here. Judging from actions, I am persuaded that many do not give *any* consideration to this important question. When you consider the two alternatives, we can see at once why we must give serious thought to this. One choice is everlasting happiness, joy, and bliss. The other choice is everlasting punishment. Or we can say heaven or hell. Where will it be?

All want to go to heaven. I cannot remember ever having anyone tell me he did not want to go to heaven. I had a man tell me once that he did not believe he would go to heaven and had no intention of changing his life to make heaven possible. Desiring to go to heaven is indeed a wonderful desire and one is to be commended for this...
But will you?

Let us understand that the way is “strait” (Matthew 7:13) meaning narrow or difficult. We must “deny ungodliness and worldly lusts” and “live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” (Titus 2:11-12) We must do God's will, not ours. There is only one way and it is revealed in God's word (John 14:6).

Resolved now to correct anything not in harmony with the word of God, the carry out resolution. A broken resolution is worthless. If you are not a Christian, you should resolve now to obey the Gospel. You need to read and study the word of God so that you have faith (Romans 10:17).

You must repent of your sins, make a confession with your mouth that Jesus is the Christ, and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38). Those who have become Christians and are children of God must carry out their responsibilities and live a life of dedication and steadfastness in the family of God (Colossians 3:5-17; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

“Once For All”

by Billy Norris

via Gospel Guide, Vol. 27, No. 12, December 1995

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints...” (Jude 3).

The original Greek word *hapax* translated "once for all" means that it is "of perpetual validity not requiring repetition" (Vine, pg. 819). The faith delivered to the saints is of such quality that it is complete ("perfect." James 1:25) and will not tolerate repetition or alteration.

This means that any "revelations" since the faith was given once for all have not come from God but from the inventive minds of men. It further means that those who claim the revelations and those who believe them are condemned. The warning is clearly given, *“Whoever transgresses (goes ahead) and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son”* (II John 9).

We must recognize and respect the significance of this word translated "once for all." Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. (Hebrews 9:28). His sacrifice was of such quality as to never need repetition.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor,, Danny Cottrell, Gary Doles, Sherry Doles, Joe Felks, and Randy Beaty.

Those Who Serve:

Announcements:	Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Busby <i>Ephesians 4:31-32</i>
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Lord's Supper:	Russell Briggs
Preaching:	Adam Harris
Sermon:	<i>"The Importance of Forgiveness"</i>
Closing Prayer:	J D Griffin