

wrestling with
doubt,
finding
faith

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 January 21, 2024

"Is Jesus the Only Way?"

Acts 17:22-28; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 2:3-6;

Daniel 12:2; John 11:25, 14:1-3, 6.

2 Corinthians 4:7, 5:1; Matthew 6:10; Mark 9:24



I. World Religions

- A. God was allowing human beings to develop their understanding of Him over a _____ period of time.
- B. We see throughout scripture, that God seems to care deeply about people of other _____ and not just the Jewish and Christian people.
- C. When we look at Jesus, we see the _____ picture we have of God.
- D. The saving grace of God through Jesus is _____ to people who were yearning for him, even if they did not know it.
- E. Jesus calls us to _____ our neighbors as ourselves including people of other faiths.

II. Is Heaven Real?

- A. In ancient times, the Hebrew people have this sense that heaven is not where people go, heaven is _____ realm.
- B. In the later written documents of the Old Testament, the Hebrew people have this sense that one day God will _____ those who are in the realm of the dead.
- C. In the Gospels, Jesus points to the fact that there is a realm after this _____.
- D. Christ has risen and because he lives, we shall _____ also.
- E. Your life is _____ when you choose to believe that there is a life beyond this life.
- F. Dr. Parnia's current scientific research on near-_____ experiences is precisely what the New Testament authors have said.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *January 22 - 27, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

Many Christians have questions when it comes to people of other faiths. If we believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven, does God send people of other faiths to hell? Not only do Christians have questions like this about people of other faiths, but Christians also wonder if heaven is even real? How do we find faith when we are struggling with those questions?

Monday: Isaiah 25:6-9, Daniel 12:2-3

By Jesus' day, many of Israel's religious leaders were sure only they would be guests at God's great final banquet. They'd missed a crucial part of the vision: in Isaiah, God is imagined preparing a banquet for *all* the nations. Do you ever limit your vision of God's "banquet" to your own church, nation, or ethnic group? How does your heart react to God's generous vision?

Tuesday: Mark 9:30-32, John 14:1-3, 19

Jesus promised that, after he died, he would rise; and then when he returned, his followers would always be with him. "Heaven" is not an abstract subject - it's about whether we believe Jesus' promise. Do you believe what Jesus says about heaven? Why or why not?

Wednesday: John 20:24-29, Acts 23:6-10, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14

The risen Jesus was different in some ways (John 14:26), but he was not a ghost - that was the point of "put your hand into my side." This was the physical Jesus, now in a body his grave could not hold captive. The Word who became flesh arose as flesh still, with what Paul would call a "spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). How can these somewhat mysterious hints about what the risen Jesus was like start to "flesh out" your hope for life with him eternally?

Thursday: Isaiah 64:1-4, 1 Corinthians 2:4-9

Do you ever think something like, "If only God would part the clouds and show me the reality of his person and rule, I wouldn't have to doubt"? The prophet had that idea long before you in Isaiah 64:1. But Mark 1:10 said that, in Jesus, God gave us the clearest view of divine reality we could process, and yet many who saw Jesus still wouldn't believe. What makes trust - rather than "proof" - an important element of your personal spiritual journey?

Friday: Hebrews 2:10-15

The human fear of death is so deep-seated that, if we haven't faced it, we may be unable to "be there" emotionally for friends, family members or even ourselves when illness or accident threatens someone's life. Can you accept that one day in this world you will die? Bone-deep, do you move beyond thinking of Jesus' resurrection as a long-ago story to "counting on it" to give you peace that there is, in fact, life on the other side of death?

MOVING FORWARD

Christians believe that Jesus already paid the price for everyone's salvation. And if we put our trust in Him we will go to heaven. Many Christians also believe that the saving grace of God through Jesus is applied to people who were yearning for him, even if they did not know it. Therefore, people of other faiths can go to heaven. Heaven is not something we can prove, but Jesus stated that there is a life beyond this one. At some point, we need to make a leap of faith and believe Jesus and the testimony of the apostles that there is a life beyond this one.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) long, B) faiths, C) clearest, D) applied, E) love.
IIA) God's, IIB) resurrect, C) life, D) live, E) different, F) death.*