

## Unanswered Questions

Questions are interesting. Sometimes answers are amazing. Many times questions are not given proper consideration. These fall into the category of “stupid questions.” Have you been guilty of asking one of these? I plead guilty. Many times I have been known to ask my children, (never my grandchildren) “Do you want a spanking?” Another question of this type has to do with search for items that are misplaced. How many times have you announced that you have lost an item, and the first thing you hear is, “Where did you lose it?” Of course if we knew where the item was lost, it would not be lost.

Some years ago Bill Engvall and Travis Tritt teamed up to make the very popular song, “Here’s Your Sign.” One of the segments deals with a fishing trip, “A couple of months ago I went fishing with a buddy of mine, we pulled his boat into the dock, I lifted up this big ol’ stringer of bass and this idiot on the dock goes, ‘Hey, y’all catch all them fish?’ ‘Nope - talked ‘em into giving up.’ Here’s your sign.”

There are other questions that go unanswered because of the difficult position it may put a person in. The Pharisees were asked by Jesus, “*The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?*” (Matthew 25:21). They were put in a dilemma. They couldn’t answer and simply said, “We don’t know.” Sometimes questions are difficult to answer. Instead of giving an answer to the question, we answer a different question. It seems to me that this is what Peter did, “So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?*’ He said to Him, ‘*Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.*’ He said to him, ‘*Feed My lambs*’” (John 21:15). Jesus asked Peter, “*Do you love (agapaoô ) me?*” Peter answered, “*Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileoô) You.*” Peter gave an answer to a different question than Jesus asked.

There are questions today that many who profess that Jesus is their Savior will not or cannot answer, such as, questions concerning salvation. A simple question, “Are you saved?” The answer, “I have been baptized.” The question was not “have you been baptized?”, but rather are you in a saved condition. Baptism is necessary for the remission of sins, “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned*” (Mark 16:16). Peter said, “*There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 3:21). Many people were baptized as infants. They were baptized without believing. Others have experienced baptism for the purpose of “joining” a denominational church. The Bible tells us, “*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered*” (Romans 6:17). Salvation is a result of that obedience. “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain*” (1 Corinthians 15:1,2).

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