

Things Most Surely Believed

Chapter 1: Things Most Surely Believed

Discussion Questions

1. What does the statement “I believe” mean? How is it used in our age?
2. Read Luke 1:1-4. What does this say about the “things most surely believed”?
3. What does Luke mean by the phrase, “most surely believed”?
4. Define biblical faith. Why is it so important?
5. Discuss Peter’s answer to Jesus’ question in John 6:66-69. What kind of attitude does this express? How can we imitate this same attitude?
6. What are some of the things Peter had seen and heard from Jesus that gave him his conviction?
7. Why do we need a source for our faith? What serves as this source?
8. Since the Bible contains “things most surely believed,” what are our responsibilities to these things?
9. How is the gospel able to save us?
10. How may we uphold the faith today?

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Chapter 2: I Believe God

Discussion Questions

1. Does the Bible give a formal argument for God's existence? Why does Luke make no argument to this effect?
2. What kind of faith did Paul have? Why did Paul "believe God" (Acts 27:21-25)?
3. Read Acts 17:22-31. What are some of the elements of this speech?
4. How does Paul state that the Athenians had a desire to worship something? Is there a universal desire among people to worship or serve something?
5. What is the "cause and effect" argument for God? What did Paul say about it?
6. How does our own existence help point to God?
7. What kind of God do we serve? How does Paul describe God's nature?
8. Since God is Creator, what does this say about our responsibility to Him?
9. How may we recognize God's authority? What other obligations do we have toward God?
10. How do we know that there will be a Day of Judgment? Discuss God as Judge.

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Chapter 3: Jesus Christ – the Son of God

Discussion Questions

1. What caused the Ethiopian Nobleman to believe in Jesus? How did Philip preach Jesus? What was he teaching from?
2. What are the two possible conceptions of Jesus? Why is there no “middle ground”?
3. What did Jesus claim for Himself in terms of who He was? Where are these found? What are the implications of this claim?
4. How do the Scriptures testify about Jesus?
5. What are some major prophecies about Jesus and why are they so important?
6. What did Jesus do to back up His claims? Be specific.
7. Why are miracles important in the identity of Jesus?
8. Why is it necessary to teach what Jesus said?
9. What does it mean to say that Jesus is “Divine”?
10. For more research and thought: when the phrase “Son of God” is used of Jesus, what exactly is this referring to?

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Chapter 4: Jesus Christ – Our Lord

Discussion Questions

1. What does “Christ” mean? What does “Lord” mean?
2. What are some of the prophecies that were made concerning the Messiah? How were these fulfilled in Christ?
3. What does it mean to call Jesus the Messiah? What are we saying about Him?
4. What was the prophecy about Jesus made by Moses in Deut. 18? How do you know this was fulfilled in Jesus?
5. To say that Jesus was “the Prophet” is to say what about Him? Why does this have significant implications concerning Jesus?
6. What or who was the High Priest? How does Jesus fill this role today?
7. Why is it so important to understand that Jesus is King?
8. What does it mean to be in His Kingdom?
9. In the sense of establishing His kingdom, when did Christ “sit on His throne”?
10. What responsibilities do we have to Jesus as our Lord?

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Chapter 5: The Cross of Jesus

Discussion Questions

1. Why is so much prominence given to the death of Jesus in the gospel accounts?
2. What are the basic facts of the gospel according to 1 Corinthians 15:1-3?
3. What did Paul mean by saying that he “determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”? (1 Cor. 2:2)
4. When we speak of the “cross,” what are we talking about exactly?
5. How does the cross show the curse of sin?
6. Why is the cross said to be the “power of our salvation”?
7. What is a “ransom”? How did Christ pay this?
8. What is reconciliation? How was this effected?
9. What is a propitiation? Why is this an important idea?
10. What is the plan of salvation? Where does the cross fit in? Where does baptism fit in?

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Chapter 6: The Resurrection of Jesus

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus the basis of the hope of heaven?
2. According to Acts 1:3, what kind of proofs are available for the resurrection?
3. What is the argument of the “empty tomb”? What is meant by it? How is it accounted for?
4. Why is eyewitness testimony important for establishing a case? To whom did Jesus appear?
5. What was the character of these eyewitnesses? Were they credible?
6. How does the life of Paul argue for the resurrection?
7. How does the resurrection prove the identity of Jesus as the Son?
8. How is baptism connected to the death and resurrection of Christ?
9. Why is the resurrection a vital proof of the final judgment?
10. Bonus: Is it significant that Jesus first appeared to women? How could this help establish the authenticity of the account?

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Chapter 7: The Holy Spirit

Discussion Questions

1. What is meant when the Holy Spirit is said to be a “Divine Person”?
2. What are some of the actions attributed to the HS which supports that He is a personality, not just an impersonal force?
3. What are some of the divine characteristics attributed to the HS?
4. How did the HS act in creation? In the revelation of God’s word?
5. What role did the HS play in the life of Jesus?
6. Why is Matt. 3:16-17 significant in regards to the Godhead?
7. What did Jesus promise His apostles regarding the HS?
8. When were these promises fulfilled?
9. What was the purpose of miraculous spiritual gifts? Are these still in effect? Why or why not?
10. How does the HS indwell us? What should our attitude toward the HS be?

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Chapter 8: The Holy Scriptures

Discussion Questions

1. Why is there a connection between things “most surely believed” and the Scriptures?
2. What does 2 Tim. 3:14-17 say about the Scriptures? What are they profitable for?
3. Define “inspiration” as it pertains to the Scriptures. Why is this so important?
4. What does Peter tell us in 2 Pet. 1:20-21? What does “private interpretation” refer to?
5. What evidences exist to back up the claim that the Bible is inspired by God?
6. How should one receive the Bible? How can this be done?
7. Why would we say that the Bible is our “only rule” of faith and practice? Why is this important?
8. How do the Scriptures help us with our past sins?
9. Why and how are the Scriptures profitable for our present needs?
10. How do the Scriptures help us for the future?

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Chapter 9: The Church of the Living God

Discussion Questions

1. What is the “church”? What is it not?
2. How is the church identified with Christ? (see pp. 64-65 in intro)
3. How is the church the product of the seed of the kingdom? What is the “seed”?
4. Why is the church referred to as “the house of God”? Why is this an important figure?
5. How does thinking of the church as God’s family help us in understand relationships?
6. Why is the “body of Christ” an important concept? What are the implications of this?
7. If Christ is “head” of His body, what does this tell us?
8. How many “bodies” are authorized by God? Why is this so significant for today?
9. How does the idea of the church being the “bride of Christ” help us in understanding the relationship we have to the Lord?
10. How do we become a part of the church?

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Chapter 10: The Mission of the Church

Discussion Questions

1. Why would we speak of the “mission” of the church?
2. When was the church conceived and planned?
3. Define God’s purpose in building the church.
4. Discuss God as builder of the church. What is the idea behind referring to Him as architect?
5. What are some things for which the church was NOT built?
6. Why is it important to understand what the purpose of the church was NOT?
7. Does the church save? Explain your answer.
8. Has God given the universal body a work to do as a unit?
9. What are the primary functions of a local church?
10. How important is it that we maintain these functions according to God’s pattern?

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Chapter 11: The Servants of Sin

Discussion Questions

1. What is the one grand purpose for Jesus coming into the world? What is sin?
2. When did sin enter the world? (where is it found? What happened?)
3. What were the physical and spiritual consequences of the sin of Adam and Eve?
4. What consequences did this sin have on the human race?
5. Do children bear the guilt of the sin of Adam and Eve? (i.e., inherited sin)
6. Why are all accountable people in need of salvation?
7. What is the spiritual condition of those who are in sin?
8. What will happen if one dies physically in that state?
9. What consequences result from sin now?
10. How is it possible to avoid the eternal consequences of sin?

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Chapter 12: The Power of God unto Salvation

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the question, “what must I do to be saved?” one of the most important ones you can ask?
2. What are the elements of the “great commission” as given by Jesus in Matt. 28: 18-20; Mark 16:15-16, and Luke 24:46-47?
3. What is necessary before salvation takes place?
4. What is repentance, and what place does it have in our salvation?
5. Where does baptism fit in concerning salvation? Is it really necessary? Why?
6. Extras: What is the purpose of baptism? What is the mode of baptism (e.g., sprinkling? Pouring? Immersion)? Who is baptism for? Can you back your answers up with Bible?
7. What should be done with someone after he/she is baptized?
8. Give some examples of the plan of salvation in operation in the first century.
9. What did Peter tell the Jew on Pentecost in Acts 2?
10. Can you find any examples of conversion in Acts that did not include baptism?

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Chapter 13: The Second Coming of Jesus

Discussion Questions

1. On what basis can we believe that Jesus is coming again?
2. What did Paul say is proof that He will return in judgment? (Acts 17:30-31)
3. What will be the nature of His coming? What will characterize His coming?
4. Will Jesus come in person or only figuratively? Give biblical evidence.
5. When will Jesus come again? How do you know?
6. What happens when people try to predict His coming?
7. Jesus will come, but what will His purpose NOT be at that time?
8. Positively, why will Jesus come again?
9. Why is the doctrine of His second coming so important?
10. What are we obligated to do in view of His coming?

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Chapter 14: The Day of Judgment

Discussion Questions

1. How do we know that there will be a final Day of Judgment?
2. Why do we say that the judgment is an “appointed event”?
3. To whom will judgment come? How do you know?
4. When will the Day come?
5. What is meant by the statement that “the judgment will be impartial”?
6. Why will the judgment be true and accurate? Who will be the Judge?
7. Why and how will the judgment be just? What does “just” mean?
8. What standard of judgment will be used?
9. To say that judgment will be final means what?
10. How can the Day of Judgment be a glorious and happy day?

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Chapter 15: Hell

Discussion Questions

1. What biblical words are translated with the word “hell,” and to what do they refer?
2. The KJV in particular uses the word “hell” for these words. How can this cause some confusion? Which word refers to “Hell” in the truest sense?
3. After reading the various passages telling us what Jesus said about hell, put together a composite of what hell will be like.
4. Why is it so important to learn what Hell is like?
5. Why are so many traveling the path toward Hell?
6. What does the concept of “everlasting fire” impress on you?
7. What does “outer darkness” tell you about Hell? Wailing and gnashing of teeth?
8. To what does the “second death” refer? Why is it described this way?
9. How long will Hell last?
10. Who is going to Hell? How does knowing this motivate you?

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Chapter 16: Heaven

Discussion Questions

1. How does “Heaven” serve as a motivation to do what is right?
2. What does the figure of “mansions” tell us about Heaven?
3. How is Heaven a “better country”? Where does this figure come from?
4. What kind of entrance into Heaven will God’s people enjoy?
5. How is Heaven compared to a city? What kind of city? Who’s city?
6. Before looking at the book, answer this: Why do *you* want to go to Heaven?
7. Is Heaven worth the self-denial the Lord calls us to? Why?
8. Ultimately, Heaven is about being with God. Why do you want to see God?
9. Who is going to Heaven?
10. How can we make sure that we are on our way to Heaven? Can we be confident of this?