

The Most Important Question One Can Ask

Acts 16:30

Introduction:

- A. There are many important questions in life.
 - 1. What career should one follow?
 - 2. What place should one live?
 - 3. Who should one marry?
- B. There is no question more important than the Jailer's question (Acts 16:30).
- C. This question has several implied recognitions:

Discussion:

- I. It Shows That One Recognizes That *Salvation Is Needed*.**
 - A. He has been convicted of sin (cf. John 16:8).
 - 1. Of its meaning (1 John 3:4; 5:17)
 - 2. Of its real nature (cf. Rom. 7:13; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).
 - 3. Of its wages (Rom. 6:23).
 - B. Here is the great weakness in today's evangelism.
 - 1. Sinners are not saved because they are not made to feel lost.
 - 2. Christians do not really feel neighbors are lost outside of Christ and His church (cf. Eph 5:23).
- II. It Shows That One Recognizes That *Salvation Is Available*.**
 - A. Available only through the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-2).
 - B. Available only in Christ and His church (Acts 4:12; 2:47; Eph. 5:23)
- III. It Shows That One Recognizes That *Salvation Is Personal*.**
 - A. Condemnation is personal (cf. Ezek. 18:20)
 - B. Salvation is personal (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10 - "each one" - asv, nkjv)
 - 1. Not as a nation.
 - 2. Not as a family.
 - 3. Not as a church (cf. Rev. 3:4,5)
 - 4. But, not that each one may choose own personal way of salvation.
- IV. It Shows That One Recognizes That *Salvation Is Conditional*.**
 - A. If unconditional, then universal. (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:4)
 - B. It involves several conditions:
 - 1. Belief in Christ (Acts 16:31; 8:36-37; Rom. 10:17).
 - 2. Repentance of sins (Acts 2:38; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - 3. Confession of faith (Rom. 10:10; cf. Acts 8:37).
 - 4. Baptism (Acts 16:34; 1 Pet. 3:21)
 - a. Into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27)
 - b. Into church (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).
 - 5. Commitment (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 14:26,27,33)
 - 6. Maintaining salvation (Rev. 2:10)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you ready to ask that important question?
- B. Are you ready to respond to the answer?