

“Answers to Questions”

John 1:19-28

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

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When I look around me and see all the tension and turmoil in the world, it reminds me of how much we need hope. So many people live without hope. But where should we turn for hope in such difficult days? I turn to God’s Word; the Holy Bible and I urge you to turn to God’s Word too. In it we find the only foundation for lasting hope, because, the Psalmist, David, said, “*Forever, O Lord, you Word is settled in heaven.*” And Jesus said, “*Heaven and earth will pass away; but my words will NOT pass away.*” So, you and I can have complete confidence in God’s Word!

Through the centuries sceptics and scoffers have tried to dismiss the Word of God. They say it is full of contradictions and inaccuracies. But many who make those claims have never taken the time to examine the Word carefully. If there were to do so, they would find that Bible is incredibly accurate, considering that its 66 books were written by 40 authors across a span of 1500 years! And, although the Bible is not a science textbook, wherever it addresses scientific facts, it is accurate. My friend, I have walked with the Lord for more than 40 years now, and I have found His Word to be true and accurate in my life and experience. You will find Him the same if you will only give Him the opportunity to transform your life and give you hope.

In a few moments, Dr. Yoder will be presenting his teaching from John 1:19 to 28, “Answers to Questions.” But before we listen, let’s pray together.

Heavenly Father, we come to you in the precious name of Jesus, your Son and our Savior. We praise you that you have revealed yourself to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. For those of us who are your children, we understand that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

In a few moments Dr. Yoder will share his teaching from the Word, and I pray that you will open my heart and the heart of my friend who is listening to receive that Word. I pray that

each one listening will find the answers to life's most important questions. And I pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Now, here's Dr. Yoder with today's teaching.

Does anyone actually have all the answers? The answer to that question is yes and no. God has all the answers to be sure but does any human being have all the answers? No, no human being has all the answers, only in so far as that human being has his faith in God. That is, at least he will have more answers to questions; more of his questions will have answers.

Faith makes the difference. Faith makes the difference but faith in the right object. This is what I want to lead you to in this discussion: ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

I am sure all of us have questions for which answers are hard to find. In some cases it is because we are not able to see everything as God sees. We must live with some unanswered questions. But that is not without solution because we can rest those questions with God if we truly know Him as a personal God.

However, for some people those hard questions become traps from which they never escape. They are snared by those questions. For other people those questions create a search which leads them to true answers, the answers that can be found in God's Holy Word and by a relationship to Him.

In order to get answers to those important questions, and the right answers, we must go to the right source. I am not surprised that some people are still struggling with questions, not finding satisfying answers, because it is impossible to find satisfying answers to the questions of life until you go to the right source; and the right source is the Bible.

1 *And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?*

20 *And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.*

21 *And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.*

22 *Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?*

23 *He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*

- 24 *And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.*
- 25 *And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?*
- 26 *John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;*
- 27 *He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.*
- 28 *These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

In this recorded conversation we find the answers to two of the most basic QUESTIONS facing all of us.

The First is

The Question of Identification.

They came to John the Baptist with the question “Who are you?” He was very quick to identify himself and to make clear to them that he was not the Messiah. “Christ” in English is the Greek word which means “the Anointed One,” and is parallel to the Hebrew word for “messiah”. “I am not the Messiah,” John the Baptist said.

Then they asked him, “Are you Elijah?” Malachi predicted that Elijah would come before the great and notable day of the Lord will come, so they were asking him if he were Elijah? He said, “No.”

They said, “Are you that prophet?” What prophet? Well, the prophet Moses spoke about in Deuteronomy 18:15. Moses said the Lord was going to raise up unto them a prophet like unto him and they ought to listen to that prophet. So they asked the question, “Are you that prophet?” John the Baptist identified himself and said, “No, I am not that prophet.”

They then asked, “Well, who are you then?” And he quoted from Isaiah, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.”

From this conversation we readily learn that John the Baptist had a special place. He was the voice which was to prepare the way for the Messiah. But I must ask you, “Who are you and what place do you have?” I am convinced you do have a place. Have you found it? Are you doing what God wants you to do?

If I were to ask you who are you, what would be your answer? John made it clear in his answer. He said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.” That is a most noble task. So it was the question of identification and that was made clear.

The Second question is

The Question of Explanation.

They then asked Him, “Why do you baptize then if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or that prophet?” Then John gave them the explanation. He said, “I baptize with water.” That was true. When we turn to other texts in the New Testament where John’s baptism is explained we learn further that he said, “I baptize you with water unto repentance.” So the water baptism of John was a baptism as a sign of repentance.

But he said, “Somebody else is coming greater than I am. He is, in fact, standing among you now but you do not know Him. And when He comes, I will not be able even to loose His shoe latchet. I will not be worthy to do that. He is so much greater than I, that I would feel unworthy to loosen His shoe latchet.”

Now let me ask you why you are doing what you are doing? Can you answer that question? John the Baptist answered it quite well because he had a particular relationship with the Messiah and he was fulfilling his calling. What kind of relationship do you have with the Messiah? Why are you doing what you are doing? How do you answer me?

The answers to these questions show us the relation we ought to have to Jesus Christ. As you answer the question of identification, do you know Him as the One who has come? As the coming One? Are you interested in making a straight way for Him? How do you answer the question of explanation? Why are you doing what you are doing? Does it relate directly to the Anointed One?

The Messiah is coming! John saw it in His day. How do you see it? Have you a personal relationship with Him, the Messiah, Jesus Christ? You can have that relationship right now.

CLOSING

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for that helpful teaching. My friend, do you have unanswered questions about life? Do you struggle to make sense of the events that happen to you? Do you see your life as a series of unrelated random happenings with no connection or purpose? If so, that’s

unfortunate, because the Word of God shows us that God has a plan for each life that he creates. That means He has a plan for you.

If you have questions about life, write to us. We will take your questions to the Word of God and find answers that will bring meaning and purpose to your life – IF – you accept them. So, if you have questions write to us today.

The quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. That email address again is, m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember too, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Answers to Questions.” I’d be happy to send one to you.

Once again, the quickest way for you to send your questions to us is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, “Answers to Questions.” It’s available in print or on an audio CD.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue study in the Gospel of John. In his teaching, Dr. Yoder will answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.