

# Q/A Night

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KCCF

Ellis Auditorium 7pm

Pastor Ho-Ming J. Tsui

Nov. 25, 2011

# Your Questions

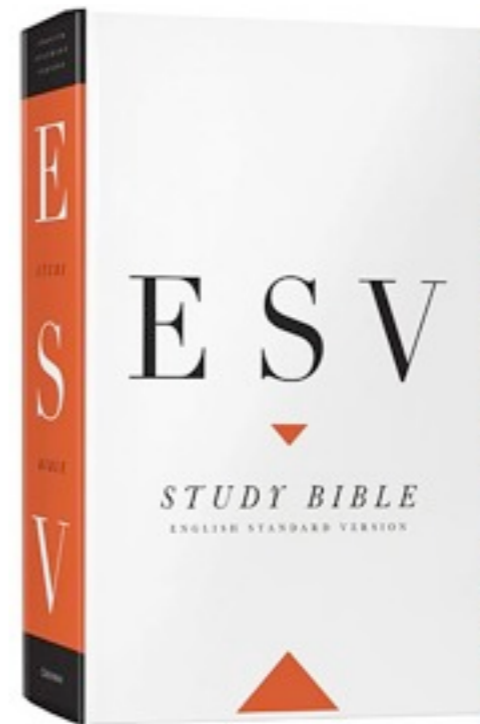
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- Gospel: Sin, Salvation
- Bible: Validity, Origin, Specific Questions
- Theology: Prayer, Election, Spiritual Warfare, War
- Life Application: Dating, School
- Church: History

# Tonight

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- We cannot cover every question tonight (40+!)
- Apologetics Questions, in particular, are hard to answer in this setting.
- Get the Keynote from Ms. Victoria Ting
- Text-In Questions
- Get a Study Bible (ex. ESV Study Bible)
- Visit websites for more information



# Resources

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- **The Ask Us Blog:** <http://doxa.rhccc.ca>
- **General:** [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org); [www.christiananswers.net](http://www.christiananswers.net)
- **Apologetics & Theology:** [www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org) (Dr. William L. Craig); [www.josh.org](http://www.josh.org) (Josh McDowell); [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org) (Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry)
- **Life Application:** [www.theresurgence.org](http://www.theresurgence.org) (Mark Driscoll and others)

# **Gospel: Sin & Salvation**

- “I grew up in the church, and heard Bible stories all my life. I accepted Christ when I was little, but didn't really take my faith seriously until I was older... is it bad that I can't pinpoint the one day of my conversion? Does this make my testimony weaker?”
- “How do I know if I'm actually a Christian? Other than believing the gospel, what is a Christian?”
- “What is sin?”

# What is a Christian?

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- **Belief that you are a sinner in need of salvation (Rom 3:23).** God created you for His glory, but in your thoughts and actions you have sought glory for yourself, and in other things. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23a). God’s holiness and justice demands payment for sin. Do you believe that?
- **Trust that God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to save you;** to be your substitute on the cross; to win for you all the benefits that He earned from His life of perfect obedience (John 3:16-18). Jesus died the death you should have died, and lived the life that you should have lived. Do you trust that?

# What is a Christian?

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- **Calling upon Jesus to save you.** Nothing, and no one, else can save (Rom 3:20). Being a Christian doesn't mean doing good deeds, going to church, giving to the poor, or living a moral life. All of those are important, but none of them result in salvation, because you cannot possibly do all that God requires. ***Christians, therefore, repent not only of the bad things they've done, but also the good things that they've done from a sinful motive; namely, thinking their good deeds could earn them salvation.*** Only Jesus can save. Have you asked Him to? Genuine repentance involves all of this, and it comes only when you see Christ as the beautiful treasure that He is; when you want Him more than anything else. Real repentance results in a changed life, a new life (2 Cor 5:17): new attitudes, new beliefs, new behaviours, new motives. When you are a Christian you want to obey the One who loves you and saved you while you were yet His enemy (Rom 5:10).

# Am I a Christian?

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- Heartfelt **repentance** for sins
- Sense of the **love** of God
- **Assurance** of salvation enabling one to give praise and pray to God
- New power over **temptation** (i.e. desire for holiness, hatred of sin)
- New love for one's **neighbour**
- **The Fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23). The crowning fruit is love.

“Why should I believe in the Christian God? Or what makes the Christian God more credible/ believable than the other supposed gods?”

1. We are not saying there is no truth in other religions.

2. We are not saying we cannot learn from other religions.

**:Religion:** a set of beliefs that explain what life is all about; who we are; and the important things that human beings should spend their time doing.

3. We are not saying Christianity is the one true religion.

4. Christians do not believe  
Jesus is the only way because  
we are narrow...

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

**John 3:16-18**

5. Christianity is not the only religion that claims exclusivity.

7. Jesus Christ is not the only way to salvation...

8. The uniqueness of  
Christianity is unparalleled.



What are you trusting to save you? *Can* they save you?

“We know we're sinners, and we're never going to be perfect so why try? What motivation do we have to continue striving to be more like Christ?”

# Striving to more like Christ? Why be holy?

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- **Because God is holy.** People are supposed to be able to look at us and see God is like (“believable”)
- **Because holiness is God’s goal for every believer.** Holiness is not secondary to all other goals in life (Ephesians 1:4); it is God’s supreme purpose for your life
- **Because Jesus died to deliver us from sin.** His death provides the motivation and power to say no to sin and yes to holiness in every area of our lives
- **Because the well-being of others depends on it.** Your life can create a thirst for God! (John 17:19)
- **Because we are saints (Eph. 5:3).** When we are Christians and yet sin continually, it means our behaviour doesn’t show our true nature.
- **Because our relationship with God depends on it (Psalm 24:3, and Matthew 5:8).** Ignoring or cherishing sin, no matter what else we do, brings us further from God.
- **Because we are going to live forever in a holy city (Rev. 21:1-4).**

# How did salvation work before Jesus?

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- There are many that came before Jesus who were saved by faith in God, including David (Psalm 86:1-2), Isaiah (Isaiah 61:10) and Abraham (Genesis 15:6). Read Hebrews 11.
- How could they have been saved when Jesus had not yet died for their sins? The answer is that these figures had FAITH that God would, in His perfect time, provide them with a Savior to bring salvation from their sins (Zech. 9:9, Job 19:25-26, Gen. 3:15, Gen. 22:8, Isa. 53:5).
- The entire animal-sacrifice system (see Leviticus 16) pointed the fact that God would provide a Redeemer to shed blood in atonement for their sins, so if a person believed in a Messiah-to-come, they would be indeed saved.

# What happens to unsaved people who never had the opportunity to hear of the Gospel?

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- Scripture does not specifically address this issue, we cannot make an absolute statement concerning it. However, since the Bible does state that salvation is only through Jesus (Acts 4:12; John 14:6) and that a person must receive Christ, then logically we conclude that those who have not heard the gospel are lost.

- See Romans 1:19-20. People are without excuse.

- 10/40 Window: Same lostness, but no access to the gospel. See Romans 10:12-15.



# **Life Application: Dating**

- “Is it okay to date a non-Christian?”
- “Where is the boundary for opposite-gender friendships? How can we have God-glorifying opposite-gender friendships?”



Lose intimacy  
with BF/GF

OR



Lose intimacy  
with God

2 Cor. 6:14

# Guard your heart & your body.

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” Proverbs 4:23

“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity” 1 Tim. 5:1-2

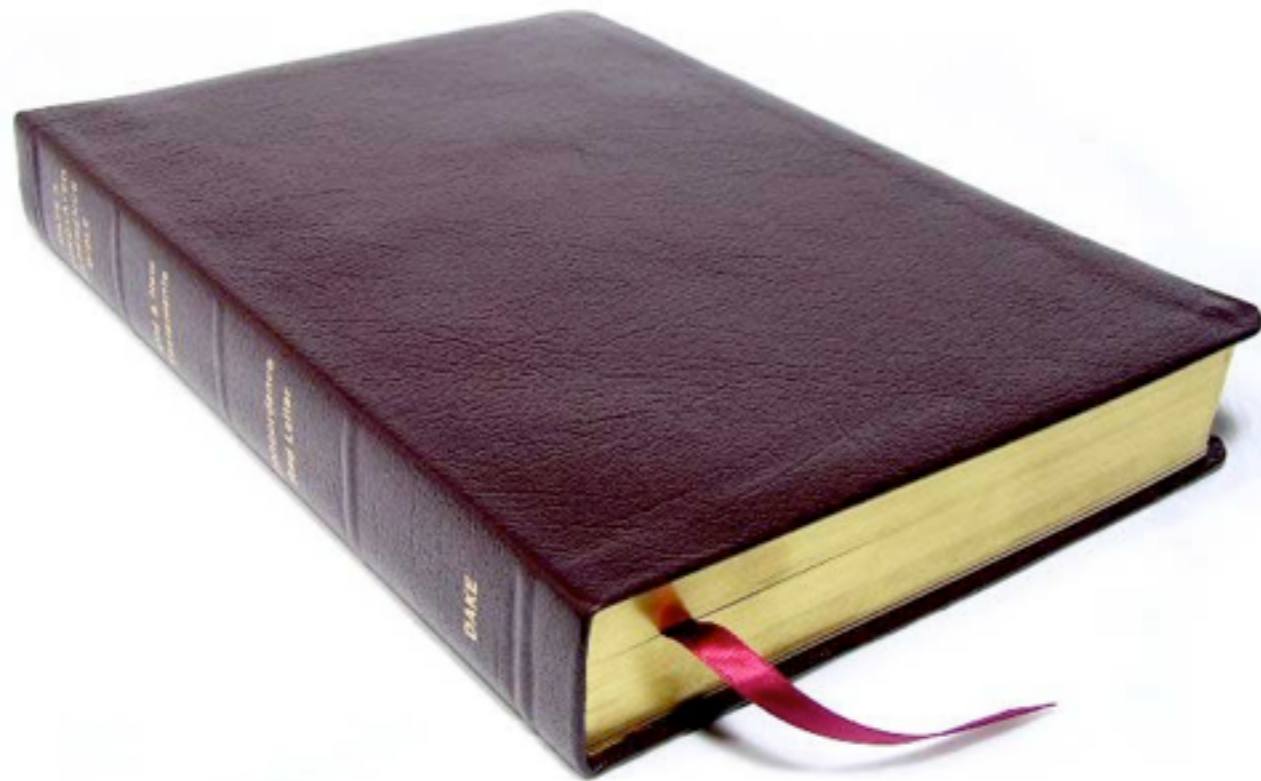
# **Life Application: Prayer**

- “What does it mean when people pray things like ‘Dear God, help us to honour/glorify you in our studies.’?”
- “When non-Christians pray, does God hear their prayers?”
- “Do we *need* to end off our prayers with ‘in Jesus’ name’?”

- **Praying in Jesus' name** means praying with His authority and asking God the Father to act upon our prayers because we come in the name of His Son, Jesus (1 John 5:14-15). Praying in Jesus' name is praying for things that will glorify Jesus. It's not a magical formula to grant you whatever you wish.
- **Praying that God would be honoured in your studies** means that you will be able to glorify God with your work (Col. 3:23). That could mean studying hard, or even learning a lesson if you don't do well. In any case, praying this means your studies & career will be used - not for your own glory - but for God's.
- **The Non-Christian's Prayer?** Yes, because God listens to the cries of the heart (Jonah 3) and make promises that are applicable to the saved and unsaved alike (Jeremiah 29:13). 1John 5:14-15 also tells us that God answers prayers based on whether they are asked according to His will. If an unbeliever asks a prayer of God that is according to His will, nothing prevents God from answering such a prayer. The issue is non-Christians do not often ask for things in accordance with God's will (Hebrews 4:14-16)

# **Bible: Validity, Origin**

- “Christians believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. The original documents were inerrant, but what about the copies? If the copies have errors (even if they are ‘insignificant’ errors like a technical typo), should it still be trusted or held as ‘divine’?”
- “How do we know that those who wrote Scripture were inspired?”
- “What about the books that were written but omitted from the Bible? Who compiled all the books together? Christians often talk about the consistency throughout the Bible as an argument for its validity, but if it was put together by humans, couldn’t people easily omit any books/chapters that contradict other parts of the Bible?”
- “Christians believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. The original documents were inerrant, but what about the copies? If the copies have errors (even if they are ‘insignificant’ errors like a technical typo), should it still be trusted or held as ‘divine’?”
- How do we know that those who wrote Scripture were inspired? (Other than the fact that the Bible says so; the Bible is used to confirm its own authority - doesn't seem very legitimate).
- What about the books that were written but omitted from the Bible? Who compiled all the books together? Christians often talk about the consistency throughout the Bible as an argument for its validity, but if it was put together by humans, couldn’t people easily omit any books/chapters that contradict other parts of the Bible?



<http://carm.org/bible>

<http://www.josh.org>

[http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/  
authenticity.html](http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/authenticity.html)

# **Theology: Killing, War**

- **Examples of military service are found in the Bible.** The first example of military service is found in the Old Testament (Genesis 14), when Abraham's nephew Lot was kidnapped by king of Elam, and his allies. Other examples include David and Solomon (1 Kings 10:26). Many Centurions mentioned in the New Testament are praised as Christians and men of good character (Matthew 8:5-13, 27:54, Acts 10:1-2, 22). The titles and places may have changed, but the armed forces should be favourably valued as the Centurions in the NT.
- **Though war is a terrible thing, and innocent lives are lost, sometimes war is required to restrain evil.** Sometimes the only way to keep sinful people from doing great harm is by going to war with them. If Hitler had not been defeated in World War II, how many more millions of Jews would have been killed? If the Civil War had not been fought, how much longer would African Americans have had to suffer as slaves? Therefore for the Christian, going to war would be a valid option, and a part of submitting to the ruling authorities as required in Romans 13.
- However, the most important thing we can be doing in a time of war is to be praying for godly wisdom for our leaders, praying for the safety of our military, praying for quick resolution to the conflict, and praying for minimum casualties – on both sides of the conflict.



**Abortion:** The Ask Us Blog, Search “Abortion” or visit <http://www.abort73.com>

# **Theology: Free-Will**

- “Why did God harden Pharaoh’s heart? Did God want innocent people to die from Pharaoh’s stubbornness?”
- “If Jesus died for everyone, then why are there still the ‘elect’? In other words, how can God choose people if Jesus died for everyone?”
- “How do I know that he actually died for me? If he really didn't die for everyone, how do I know he died for me, thus cleansing my sins?”

- The Ask Us Blog (Search for “Free-Will”)
- <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/aiia-pharaoh.html>
- <http://blog.marshall.com/2008/01/21/predestination-duck-duck-damned/>
- Do your research and listen. Be humble and patient. Even professors and theologians have many questions regarding this very issue.

# **Life Application: Culture**



- “Though our primary identity is a child of God, our sub-identities rooted in culture and society are important too. What is unique about the Chinese-Canadian Christian? How can we use our unique cultural lens to understand God better? How can we use our outward appearance to serve Him more?”
- How do I honour my parents and honour God if I believe they want me to do different things? For example, my parents are non-Christians and they don't want me to go to church, or my parents are Christians and want me to pursue a different career path than the one I believe God is calling me to.

- 1. Attending church services of your choosing is not considered a right in our society.
- 2. Many people have problems attending services: the physically disabled, language problems, those who work Sundays, those who cannot find or afford transportation, etc.
- 3. If you disobey your parents and a fight ensues .. is it worth it to attend church services and damage your relationship with your parents?
- 4. The church is the people of God, not the buildings we worship in.
- 5. This situation will not last forever.

# Chinese-Canadian Culture

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- Make use of our education & resources for God's glory
- Cross-Cultural Ministry (Examples of Moses and Esther)
- Understand the value and power of community & relationships

“I would have saved myself from five hundred years’ imprisonment beneath a mountain of rock had I only realized how good it is to be a monkey.”

The Monkey King

“Someone clever once said, ‘God wants our availability more than he wants our ability.’ That may be theologically sound, but why not give him both? What could sound sweeter to God than ‘I’m available, Lord. What can you do with what I bring?’”

Paul M. Tokugana, *Following Jesus Without Dishonoring Your Parents*

**Text-in Q/A?**

# Ho-Ming Tsui

[homing.tsui@rhccc.ca](mailto:homing.tsui@rhccc.ca)

Twitter: homingle

