

Five Great Mysteries

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS A GOD?

Since childhood we have lived in an atheistic environment. Because of this we grew up believing there is no God. However, if we think about it carefully, we come to realize that we never really thought seriously about whether God exists or not.

Many questions concern us if we really think about it. The three basic ones are as follows:

1. The first question concerns the universe. According to scientists, light can go around the earth 7 1/2 times each second, but it still takes 800 million years to go from this side of space to the other side. Where did this vast and wonderful universe come from?
2. The next question is about life. Today's science is highly developed. We can make cars, submarines, and satellites but this "almighty science" cannot make life or even a tiny living cell. Man can only make inanimate objects. Therefore, where does this miraculous life come from?
3. The last question is about man himself. Of all the creatures in the world, why is man the only one who has wisdom, the ability to think and develop the world? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where will I go after I die?

Only one book can give answers to these basic questions. That book is the Bible. It is the oldest, most complete and authoritative book. History has proven it to be true. "Shi-Ji," written by Si Ma Qian, is the most ancient and complete history book in our country (China) dating about 90 B.C. However the scriptures of the Bible are written about 1300 years earlier than "Shi-Ji."

The Bible is the Word of God. It not only reveals the mysteries of the physical world, but also the mysteries of the spiritual world.

Would you like to know about the "Five Great Mysteries" of the Bible?

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

1. God is the creator of the whole universe.

The first verse in the Bible states that God created everything in the Universe.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)

The Bible tells us that God created man in God's own image, breathed into man the breath of life, thus making man different from animals.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27)

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

The most ancient Chinese character in China is "Tortoise Shells" and it is one of the great symbols of Chinese Culture. However, most of the content of Tortoise Shells are related to worshipping the only Creator-God. Our ancestors realized the existence of God by the mystery of everything in the Universe. That is why China was called "The land of God" in ancient time. We can also realize there must be a God as evidenced by all of creation.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

2. God is a God of love.

God loves us and has a marvelous plan for each one of us.

"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." (John 3:16)

3. God is a holy God.

We cannot hide our thoughts and actions from the light of God's holiness and righteousness.

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5)

How then does this God relate to us?

THE MYSTERY OF MANKIND

1. All have sinned.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Man had an intimate relationship with God when he was first created. However because of his pride and greed, man disobeyed God. The Bible calls this willful act of disobedience, sin.

2. Sin has tragic consequences.

Sin came into the world through mans disobedience and the intimate relationship between God and man was broken. Tragedy and heartache began and man was separated from God.

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

3. Sinners cannot save themselves.

Man attempts to gain God's acceptance through good works or doing things he thinks will please God. But sinful man cannot do anything to earn favor with God. There is an abyss between a holy God and sinful man.

4. Sin must be punished.

Sin results in suffering, death, and, ultimately, hell which is eternal punishment.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)

Man, therefore, has this problem of sin, which he is unable to solve by himself. Is there any hope of escaping eternal punishment?

The Bible says YES! What is that way?

THE MYSTERY OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinner.

God is love and He has provided a way to forgive sin by sending Jesus Christ, His only Son, into the world.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

2. Jesus bore our sins on the cross.

The holy and righteous God must punish sin, but He is also a loving God. He placed all of man's sin on His Son Jesus as he died on the cross. Jesus' death satisfied the need for punishment.

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." (I Peter 2:20)

3. Jesus arose from the grave and ascended into heaven.

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (I Corinthians 15:3,4)

Jesus arose from the dead and appeared to many people, thus proving He was the Son of God. His resurrection proved that God accepted his sacrifice and gives eternal life to all who believe.

4. Jesus Christ will come back again.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 13:3)

Jesus will return again some day and take His believers back to heaven to be with Him.

5. Jesus Christ became the bridge of life for us.

"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

6. We are saved by God's grace.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)

How then can we receive God's grace?

THE MYSTERY OF SALVATION

1. Repentance is required.

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

Man must acknowledge that he is a sinner, ask God's forgiveness, and turn from his sin. God will then pardon and give him eternal life.

2. Believe and accept the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not enough to know about Jesus Christ. We need to confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that Jesus is really the Son of God.

"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9,10)

Open your heart and accept Jesus.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Rev 3:20)

"Accept" means to change from a self-centered life to a Jesus-centered life. We have to open our hearts and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord of our life.

3. When you repent and accept the Lord, you can have assurance of eternal life.

Jesus has promised to forgive our sins and give us new eternal life.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (I John 5:13)

What are the blessings for those who believe and accept the Lord?

THE MYSTERY OF ABUNDANT LIFE

1. Sins are forgiven.

Even though the sins of man are red as crimson, they can be forgiven and become white as snow.

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."
(Ephesians 1:7)

2. Eternal life is a free gift.

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)

3. You become a child of God.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

4. You will have peace from God.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

5. God's Spirit lives in you.

"The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." (John 14:17)

How can we obtain these blessings?

WAIT A MINUTE!

There are three questions you have to answer.

1. Do you understand the Five Great Mysteries above? Yes No

If not, please read again!

2. Do you wish to accept by faith the gift of eternal life from God?

Yes No

Please consider it seriously, because it is a decision that determines your eternal destiny.

3. Do you wish to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord of your life?

Yes No

If you really want to accept God's free gift of eternal life, tell Him that now. Just pray and talk to God. He knows and sees the sincerity of your heart. This is more important than the words you speak. The following prayer is a guide:

"Oh God, I need your grace. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for my sins, and that He rose from the dead. I now open my heart and accept Jesus to be my Lord and my Savior. Thank you Lord for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. I pray this in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen."

Did you really pray from your heart? Yes No

If so, the Lord Jesus Christ has already become your Savior and the Lord of your life!

Congratulations! You have become a member of God's family!

Please read the "Five Great Mysteries" again to make sure and give thanks to God who gives you the blessings.

SALVATION VERSUS FEELINGS

When you are reborn into God's family, you may or may not feel any different. Faith is based on God's Word, not on changeable feelings.

For example, we all know there is a sun in the sky, but there are times when we cannot see it because of clouds. However, just because we cannot see the sun does not mean it is no longer there. We know that it is.

Sometimes our feelings may cause us to doubt our salvation. During these times we need to remember that God is faithful to keep His promises. Believe Him and rejoice, regardless of how you may feel.

"However do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20)

How can we keep growing in our "New Life"?

PRINCIPLES OF GROWTH IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Bible calls new believers "infants in Christ". (1 Cor. 3:1)

We are spiritual infants because we have a new life. Growth in this new spiritual life requires the following five things:

1. Study the Bible daily.

As our physical bodies cannot live long without food, so our spiritual life needs the nourishment of spiritual food, which is the Word of God (Bible). This book also gives us principles and direction for our lives.

2. Pray to God daily.

Praying is our way of talking to God and it is also the breath of our spiritual life. We need to have regular and continuous communication by telling God our wishes, confessing our sins (breathe out), and drawing new power (breathe in) from God through prayer.

Prayer Guidelines.

Dear Father in Heaven! (Praise . . . Give thanks . . . Confession . . .
Petition . . . Pray for others . . .) I pray this in the name of the Lord Jesus,
Amen.

3. Fellowship with other believers.

The church is our spiritual family. We need the love and encouragement of one another to grow in our spiritual lives. As a burning coal that is separated from the other hot coals may soon burn out, so we may become cold without the fellowship of other believers.

4. Tell others what God has done for you.

The soul of each person is very precious. We can tell the people around us about this new life so they can have it also. Would you like to share the gospel with your close family or friend? Please write down their names below and begin to pray for them.

5. Let Jesus be the center of your life.

Jesus Christ is the center and the guide of your life; therefore, obey Him. You can experience His power and love only when you are obedient to Him.

DECLARATION OF NEW LIFE

Jesus is the Christ, Son of the eternal God.

I, _____, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I, _____, have accepted Jesus Christ to be my Savior and the Lord of my life.

Therefore,

I, _____, have had all my sins forgiven.

I, _____, have eternal life by faith.

I, _____, have become a child of God.

I, _____, have peace with God.

I, _____, have opened myself as a sanctuary of Holy Spirit.

“The old has gone, I, _____, am a new creation in Christ.

Name: _____ - the newborn child of God

Name: _____ - the introducer of Five Great Mysteries

Date: _____

THE GREAT COMMISSION

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15,16)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matt. 28:18-20)

The Lord Jesus Christ gives the great commission to everyone who believes in him. Please memorize the 20 scriptures of the outline of Five Great Mysteries, and become an ambassador to spread this precious message.

All scripture quotations are from the New International Version.