

Question Night May 2006

Introduction: Are you desiring to learn more about God's word? Are you teachable?

I. Can a Christian take an oath without sinning in doing so?

- A. What is an oath? ὄρκος horkos {hor'-kos} ∅ from herkos (a fence, perhaps akin to 3725); TDNT - 5:457,729; n m ∅ AV - oath 10; 10 ∅ 1) that which has been pledged or promised with an oath
1. It is in effect a promise where other things are sometimes named.
 2. Can we take an oath in light of **James 5:12** and **Mt 5:33-37**?
- B. Consider some of the use of oaths in the New Testament.
1. Good oaths- (**Heb 6:16-17; 7:20-21,28; Lk 1:73; Acts 2:30; Mt 26:63-64**)
 - a. Are these examples of righteousness?
 - b. Is there any need for men to name divine things? (**Rom 9:1-3**)
 2. Bad oaths (**Mt 26:72; Acts 23:12,14,21; Mt 14:7**)
 - a. Why did Peter use an oath?
 - b. Why were the other oaths bad?
 3. The Christian must always tell the truth! There is no need to name divine things to "strengthen" our words. We can however name divine things as a matter of truth.

II. When God chooses one as a "chosen vessel" as He did in the case of Pharaoh (Rom 9), does one (i.e. Pharaoh) still have free will? Could Pharaoh have let God's people go at the first and God's will be accomplished?

- A. When one hardens their heart against God then God can easily use that one for His purposes without violating their free will.
1. God has always willed that all men be saved. (**1 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Pt 3:9-10**)
 2. If God made someone apart from their will to sin, then how could God be righteous in condemning and punishing such a one? (**Psa 89:14**)
- B. What does the scripture say about Pharaoh? (**Rom 9:14-23**)
1. How was Pharaoh "raised up?" Could he not have exercised his free will and been eliminated in this process? YES! Another would have taken his place.
 2. Pharaoh had passed many "milestones" to reach the place he was. In some ways he is like king Saul! One can progress in sin to hardness. (**Rom 1; Eph 4:17-19; 1 Tim 4:2**)
 3. Those who crucified Jesus had deliberately rejected evidence that would have convinced them. God used these people! (**1 Cor 2:7-8**)

III. Please discuss the idea of the resurrection from the view of those living under the law, specifically where did the Sadducees come up with the notion that there was no resurrection. How could they have any motivation for following the Law with such a view?

- A. There are many possible motives for false views of God's word.
1. In NT times the Sadducees were a sect that demanded human loyalty.
 2. This spirit makes it difficult to know the truth. (**Jn 5:41-44**)

3. This spirit makes the party supreme and thus all other things secondary (including God's word). (**Acts 23:6-10**)
 4. Their specific view of the resurrection likely came from one esteemed man of the past taking one false view on a subject and then reinterpreting the rest of the scripture to "harmonize" with that view. (**2 Pt 3:15-16**)
- B. This danger is ever present today.
1. Within the denominations there is Calvinism, Premillennialism.....
 2. In recent years systems of doctrine and groups of men have formed around false views of "the deity of Christ, "divorce and remarriage,"
- B. The Sadducees had no scriptural motivation with their view. (**Acts 24:15**)
1. They had plenty of motivation for the "here and now."
 2. Their reward was with men.

IV. How do you answer those who say "wine is wine" and thus social drinking is fine for the Christian. Often they will use the example of Jesus turning water into wine.

- A. While the issue of social drinking and addiction are different but related issues, it is important to note that *addiction has a start*.
1. Over 70% of the people in this country drink.
 2. Over 20 million are **known** alcoholics.
 3. One out of seven who take their first drink becomes an alcoholic.
- B. What is the "strong" drink of the scriptures? (**Prov 20:1; 31:6**)
1. This is undiluted fermented grape juice. This is the equivalent of our modern day beer.
 2. The typical use of wine both in the Old and New Testaments, involves a diluting of the grape juice with 3 to 5 parts water.
 3. This process in fact acted as a purifying agent for the water. (**1 Tim 5:23**)
 4. There is no parallel with the common Bible wines and the modern social drink, except that of strong drink. This is everywhere condemned in the scripture.
- C. There are different levels of drinking and they are all condemned. (**1 Pt 4:3-4**)
1. Is drunkenness the only thing condemned? No! There is also "revelries, drinking parties."
 2. This denotes both the action of social intercourse and the kind of drinking itself!
 3. What other sins accompany the modern drink? (**Gal 5:19-21**)

V. What role does the written word of God play to the Calvinist who believes God chooses individually who is lost or saved?

- A. The Calvinist believes that word of God has no power at all unless the Holy Spirit operates directly upon the heart of the unbeliever. Without God's action the word of God cannot work!
1. This makes God's direct action responsible for who believes.
 2. Does the Bible affirm this? (**Mk 16:15-16; Rom 10:13-17**)
- B. It is hard to discuss this issue with one who believes that he has the perfect view while you cannot see even if you wanted to!
1. What does the Bible say? (**Jn 7:17; Prov 2:1-5**)
 2. What did Jesus say? (**Jn 5:41-44**)