

So What? – Asking Honest Questions That Lead to Beautiful Truths!

- I. Introduction
 - a. In history and other fields, students are encouraged to ask the question 'So What?' when evaluating any given topic.
 - i. Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492. So What?
 - ii. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. So What?
 - iii. The Louisiana Purchase expanded U.S. territory by double its size in 1803. So What?
 - b. Too often, students of history become bored and disinterested because all they see are facts to memorize.
 - i. The question 'So What?' is a mental exercise that allows you to go beyond the facts.
- II. Discerning
 - a. This gets to the heart of Christianity!
 - i. We are not to be passive and disinterested as Christians. God wants us to engage our thinking!
 - b. Scripture tells us that we ought to be a thoughtful and discerning people.
 - i. Isaiah 1:18 > Let us reason together...
 - ii. Rom. 12:1-2 > Renew your mind...
 - iii. Eph. 5:6-10 > Discern what is pleasing to the Lord...
 - iv. 2 Tim. 2:14-19 > Be diligent...
 - v. 1 Jn. 4:1 > Our thoughts ought to be guided by Truth...
 - vi. Js. 3:13-18 > Wisdom is behavioral...
 - vii. Phil. 1:9-10 > Abound with knowledge/discernment...
- III. Attitude
 - a. The problem with today's culture is not that this question isn't being asked. It is asked plenty but with the wrong attitude!
 - i. "Christ died for my sins? So what? I don't care!"
 - ii. Rather, the question ought to be asked in this way... Christ died for my sins... So What...? What does that mean for me?
 - b. Psalm 24
 - i. David asks a series of rhetorical questions that deal with God and his relationship to God.

- ii. Notice how David starts the Psalm and how that informs the answers to future questions. (vs. 8-10, 3-6)
 - c. Psalm 73
 - i. In the first half of the Psalm, Asaph observes that evil thrives and the righteous are cast down.
 - ii. Notice how Asaph reframes these realities (vs. 15af)
 - d. John 4
 - i. Notice how Jesus leads the woman to great truths by reasoning with her and having a discussion.
 - ii. Jesus lets her ask questions based upon the first request of "Give Me a drink."
 - iii. Asking questions with an open heart is what God desires!
- IV. God is Righteous – So What?
 - a. God cannot associate Himself with sin.
 - b. I am full of sin... therefore, I cannot be in God's presence!
- V. God is Just... So What?
 - a. Bad news for me!
 - b. He must punish all sin!
- VI. God is Merciful... So What?
 - a. He has appeased His wrath and we have forgiveness!
- VII. Salvation
 - a. Romans 10:17 - "So now, faith comes by **hearing** and **hearing** by the word of God."
 - i. So What?
 - ii. First step in obtaining salvation is **hearing**.
 - b. Mark 16:16 - "He who **believes** and is baptized shall be saved. He who does not **believe** shall be condemned."
 - i. So What?
 - ii. You must also **believe**.
 - c. Acts 2:38 - "Then Peter said to them, '**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."
 - i. So What?
 - ii. You must act on belief in **repentance**.
 - d. Rom. 10:9 - "that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

- i. So What?
 - ii. You must **confess** Christ is Lord.
- e. 1 Pet. 3:21 - "There is also an antitype which now saves us – **baptism...**"
 - i. So What?
 - ii. **Baptism** is essential for your salvation.
- f. Eph. 4:1 - "...**walk** worthy of the calling with which you were called..."
 - i. So What?
 - ii. We must **continue to walk** with God.

Instead of asking the question "So What" in a sarcastic way, ask the Lord each day, "What shall I do?"