

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - December 9, 2021

Prepared & Presented by: Pastor James G. Austin, Jr., PhD, D.Min.

Title: "Heaven's Entrance Exam"

Subtitle: "Are You Sure You Are Saved?"

Scripture Reference: 1 John 5:13

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

I. Introduction

A. A college football coach recruited a top football player to play for his school. The football player, however, did not score well enough on his entrance exam to get into college.

B. The coach approached the dean of admissions and said, "We have to get this player into our school. Do whatever you can to get him in."

C. The dean, being a big football fan said, "I'll give him an easy entrance exam, and if he passes it, we'll let him in." The coach called the player in and said, "We're going to give you another entrance exam. There are only three questions on the test, but you have to get all of them correct in order to pass."

D. The dean asked the player the first question, "How many days of the week begin with the letter "T"?"

E. The football player thought for a minute and said, "Two!" As the dean and the coach breathed a sign of relief, the player added, "today and tomorrow."

F. The coach looked at the Dean and said, "Well, we did ask how many, and he answered correctly." The dean said, "Very well. He got the first answer. The second question is, How many seconds

are in a year?" The football player got out a piece of paper and pencil and began figuring.

G. He wrote, then erased, then wrote again. Then he answered, "Twelve. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd, ..."

H. The coach said to the dean, "We didn't clarify what kind of seconds we were talking about. We've got to give him that one." I agree said the dean. He then asked the player, "How many d's are there in "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer?"

I. Again, the football player scribbled on the paper. As he did this, the coach, and the dean got nervous because the player was doing too much writing for such a simple answer.

J. Finally, the football player said, "One hundred and ten." How did you arrive at that number?" the coach asked. The athlete answered, singing to the tune of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," "Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, ..."

K. God also has an entrance exam to get into heaven with three questions on it. These deal with your perception of Jesus, how you view the cross, and what is required to enter heaven. Unless you answer all of them correctly, you won't get into heaven.

II. Question # 1 - Who is Jesus?

A. In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked the disciples, "He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**" **Jesus is asking us today that same question.**

B. Some say Jesus was just a man. One cult teaches that Jesus was an angel. Some say he was just a prophet. Still others refuse to believe He even existed,

C. Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16)

D. That is the correct answer, but what does "Son of God" mean? The term "Son" refers to His humanity and the term "God" refers to His deity. Although He was born as a human in Bethlehem, He

also existed in eternity past as God (Micah 5:2).

An additional fact: Jesus existed as God in heaven as a part of the Godhead, then put on human flesh and lived among us (John 1:1, 14).

E. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, meaning, He had a one-of-a-kind birth. He is fully God, yet He is also fully man.

III. Question # 2 - What did Jesus do on the cross?

A. We all know that Jesus died on the cross. But something marvelous occurred on the cross in the spiritual realm which was not visible to the human eye. Jesus Himself bore our sins in His own body on the cross. (1 Peter 2:24)

B. Jesus bore our sins on the cross, Yes, yours and mine! The people watching Jesus die could not see what was happening in the spiritual realm.

C. When Jesus died on the cross, He reached into the future and gathered up all of our sins and placed them upon Himself. On that day, the price for our salvation was paid by Jesus in full!

D. But not everyone views the cross in the same way. The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, put it this way - "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness: but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor. 1:18)

E. The Archbishop of Paris was once preaching to a large congregation in Notre Dame Cathedral. He told the story of three carefree, worldly, godless men who wandered into the Cathedral one day. Two of the men made a bet with the third man that he could not make a bogus confession to the priest. He accepted the bet, and during the confession, this man made up a story about a sin he had committed.

F. The priest realized what was happening. When the third man finished, the priest said, "Go to the crucifix, kneel down before it, and repeat three times, "All this you did for me, and I don't care."

G. The young man did as the priest asked. After kneeling down,

he said, "All this you did for me, and I ... "Immediately, his heart was torn in two with repentance, and tears rolled down his cheeks. His life was changed, and he became a new creation in Christ Jesus.

H. After completing the story, the archbishop announced to the congregation, "I was that young man!"

I. What does the cross mean to you? Once you realize what Jesus did for you, you won't be the same. People who look at the cross and walk away unchanged do not see what happened there. Do you see and believe what really happened on the cross?

IV. Question # 3 - What must I do to be saved?

A. A Philippian jailer once asked Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" They answered, "and they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:30-31)

B. You can get the first question right, and you can get the second question right, but if you miss the answer to this third question, you have failed the entrance exam.

C. The first thing we need to understand is that we cannot save ourselves. Jesus does all the saving, as a result, we have no right to brag about anything we have done. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

D. God the Father, sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (John 4:14). The Savior of the world is not the Son plus (fill in your name). Jesus is the only Savior.

E. The only thing we can do to be saved is to trust Jesus Christ to save us. We cannot work long enough or hard enough to merit salvation.

F. Some people once asked Jesus, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them,

This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:29-30)

G. Because salvation is a free gift, it cannot be earned as a wage. 'Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.'" (Romans 4:4-5)

V. Summary

A. If you have not taken the entrance exam for heaven, please do so right now, and with a sincere heart, my prayer for you is that you have passed.

B. After having taken and passed the exam, be sure to find a church where the Word of God is faithfully preached, then get involved.

C. Finally, don't be ashamed to share the love of the Lord Jesus Christ with others and I'll look forward to seeing you in heaven!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the below biblical passages by filling in the blank spaces. As always, each passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the _____, and shalt _____ in thine _____ that God hath raise him from the dead, thou shalt be _____. For with the _____ man _____ unto _____; and with the mouth _____ is made unto _____."

[Romans 10:9-10]

"But thou, _____ Ephratah, though thou be _____ among the _____ of Judah, yet out of _____ shall he come forth

unto _____ that is to be _____ in _____, whose going forth have been from of old, from _____."

[Micah 5:2]

"My _____ hear my voice, and I know _____, and they _____ me; and I give unto them _____ life; and they shall _____, neither shall any man _____ them out of my _____."

[John 10:27-28]

"For I am not _____ of the gospel of _____; for it is the _____ of God unto _____ to every one that _____; to the _____ first, and also to the _____.

[Romans 1:16]

"But if our gospel be _____, it is _____ to them that are _____; In whom the god of this _____ hath _____ the minds of them which _____ not, lest the _____ of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the _____ of God, should _____ unto them."

[1 Corinthians 4:3-4]

Passing Heaven's Entrance Exam

- Have you recently received Jesus Christ into you heart? If so, why not write down the date on a page in your Bible. (This is a very important date, and you will often reflect on it with joy.)
- Are you rejoicing over the fact that you are saved?
- Don't be ashamed, tell others about how to be saved so that they may come to know the joy that you have in Christ.

May the Lord continue to bless you and I am rejoicing with you because you have passed the exam.

Please feel free to share what you have learned with others, and I'll see you one day - in Heaven!

Jude 3

Pastor Austin