



## “Dealing With Doubts”

June 5, 2022

### June/July Meeting Schedule

- June 5 – Class
- June 12 – No class – EPCC not available
- June 19 – No Class – Father’s Day
- June 26 – No class – Dick with family
- July 3 – No class – Holiday weekend
- July 10 – No class – EPCC not available
- July 17 – Class
- July 24 – No class
- July 31 - Class

### Intro.

- Anyone and everyone doubts. Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, David, Elijah, Job, Gideon, Jeremiah, Barak, the disciples, Thomas.
- Doubt is the way you process information to come to a conclusion.
- It is part of the growing process.
- There is a difference between unbelief and doubt.
  - Doubt** – “I am skeptical, uncertain.”
  - Unbelief** – “I don’t believe it.”
- Doubt is not rejecting truth, it is questioning truth.
- We talk much about how normal it is to have faith.
- We talk little about how normal it is to have periods of doubt.
- Doubt can come from 3 different sources: 1. Personal experience. 2. World. 3. False teaching. 4. Other believers.

### Barna Research Survey -

The individuals surveyed considered themselves "born again", defined as:

1. Those who have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is important in their life today.
  2. Those who say they know they will go to Heaven after they die solely because they have confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their Savior.
- 2001 - 68% did not believe in absolute truth  
 These same "born again" individuals:  
**40%** - it does not matter what religious faith you follow because all faiths teach similar lessons about life.  
**77%** - man is basically good by nature.  
**84%** - in the matter of salvation, "God helps those who help themselves". They said it was the most well known verse in the Bible.  
**33%** - we all pray to the same God and therefore faith in Christ is not absolutely necessary, so long as one is a good person.  
**55%** - the Holy Spirit is merely a symbol of God's power and presence. (61% of general population)  
**34%** - Jesus sinned. (42% GP)  
**45%** - deny Satan is a real being. (59% GP)  
**35%** - deny the physical resurrection of Jesus. (39% GP)

### 2020 Barna survey -

- 48% believe a person who is good enough or does enough good works can earn eternal salvation.
- 44% do not believe that history is the unfolding narrative of God's reality.
- 44% claim the Bible is ambiguous in its teaching about abortion.
- 43% maintain that when Jesus was on earth, He sinned.
- 42% seek moral guidance primarily from sources other than the Bible.
- 42% do not identify and confess their sins on a daily basis.
- 40% accept lying as morally acceptable if it advances personal interests or protect one's reputation.
- 36% prefer socialism to capitalism.
- 34% reject the idea of legitimate marriage as one man and one woman.
- 34% argue that abortion is morally acceptable if it spares the mother from financial or emotional discomfort or hardship.

## 12 areas where believers have doubts:

1. Does God really exist?
2. Is Jesus Christ really God?
3. Is Jesus the only way to God?
4. Can I really trust the Bible?
5. Did I really become a Christian?
6. Have I lost my salvation?
7. Isn't faith just a leap in the dark?
8. If God is a God of love, then why does He allow so much suffering?
9. Is God really in control of the world?
10. Is there any point in praying?
11. Is heaven and hell real?
12. Is Jesus really coming back?

## 2. Condition of man's heart.

### **Matt 15:19**

19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

### **Jer 17:9**

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things,  
And desperately wicked;

### **Rom 3:10-12**

10 "THERE IS NONE RIGHTeous, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

### **Rom 3:23**

3 for: all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

• Look at a newspaper.

• Listen to the news.

\*Every day, month, year, decade, century, millennia is an unending succession of sin(uj, evil events by mankind that violates not only God's moral law, but the civil and moral laws of man. The Bible describes man exactly like he is.

## Does God really exist?

### **Heb 11:6**

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

## 3 reasons God exists and the Bible is true.

### 1. Creation of the universe.

### **Ps 19:1**

9 The heavens declare the glory of God;

And the firmament shows His handiwork.

### **Rom 1:19-20**

19 that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

• Look in a microscope.

• Look in a telescope.

\*From the smallest sub-atomic particle to the expanse of the universe for as far as we can see, it all declares and demands a creator, a designer, a spaceless, timeless, matterless, supernatural being.

## 3. Confirmation of a worldwide flood.

### **2 Peter 2:4-5**

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

• Look at the origin of oil and coal deposits.

• Look at the existence of fossils in unusual places (top of mountains) and the formation of fossils in sedimentary limestone.

\*The rapid accumulation, transportation, and sudden burial of vast amounts of vegetation that constitute the various coal beds found in the earth today, are only explained by a cataclysmic flood that covered the earth.

\*The countless billions and billions of animal fossils in "graveyards" around the world testify to the rapid burial of once-living animals on a global scale in a watery cataclysm and its immediate aftermath. Often these fossil graveyards consist of mixtures of marine and land-dwelling creatures, indicating that the waters of this global cataclysm swept over both the oceans and the continents.

\*From the layers of sedimentary strata in the Grand Canyon, to the fossils found on mountain peaks of the Himalayas, to the undigested fodder found in the stomachs of quickly frozen behemoths in Siberia, there leaves little doubt that a world wide cataclysmic flood has occurred as recorded in the Bible.

## Is Jesus Christ really God?

### **Matt 16:15-17**

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

## 4 reasons why Jesus is God.

1. He fulfilled all of the prophecies of the O.T.

• If you doubt the existence of God, you will have to try and find an alternative explanation for the existence of creation, sin, and a worldwide flood.

• The evidence and the facts that exist will force you to either believe and accept them, or you will have to suppress them.

• When you have doubts about God's existence it is essential for you to rethink the foundational truths the Bible gives us for His existence.

44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled		
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
1 Messiah would be born of a woman.	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:23
2 Messiah would be born in <u>Bethlehem</u> .	Isaiah 5:2	Matthew 2:6
3 Messiah would be born of a virgin.	Isaiah 7:14	Isaiah 7:14 Luke 1:26-31
4 Messiah would come from the line of <u>Jehoiachin</u> .	Jeremiah 22:3	Matthew 1:23
5 Messiah would be a descendant of <u>Jacob</u> .	Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:2
6 Messiah would be a descendant of <u>Abraham</u> .	Genesis 12:12	Matthew 1:2
7 Messiah would come from the tribe of <u>Judah</u> .	Numbers 24:17	Matthew 1:2
8 Messiah would be heir to <u>King David's</u> throne.	2 Samuel 7:12-13	Isaiah 9:7 Hebrews 7:4
9 Messiah's throne will be <u>unlimited and eternal</u> .	Isaiah 9:7	Isaiah 9:7
10 Messiah would spend a season in <u>Egypt</u> .	Isaiah 52:5	Isaiah 52:5
11 Messiah's name would be <u>called Immanuel</u> .	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
12 Messiah's name would be <u>called a Nazarene</u> .	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
13 A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah.	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-12
14 Messiah would be rejected by his own people.	Isaiah 53:3	Isaiah 53:3
15 Messiah would be preceded by <u>Elijah</u> .	Malachi 4:5-6	Matthew 11:13-14
16 Messiah would be declared the <u>Son of God</u> .	Isaiah 9:6-7	Matthew 3:16-17
17 Messiah would be called a <u>Nazarene</u> .	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
18 Messiah would bring light to <u>Gentiles</u> .	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
19 Messiah would speak in <u>parables</u> .	Isaiah 6:9-10	Matthew 13:10-15
20 Messiah would be seen to <u>heal the</u> <u>leprovized</u> .	Isaiah 61:1-2	Isaiah 61:1-2
21 Messiah would be a <u>priest after the order of Melchizedek</u> .	Psalm 110:4	Hebrews 5:6-6
22 Messiah would be called <u>King</u> .	Psalm 2:6	Matthew 21:7
23 Messiah would be <u>praised by all the children of men</u> .	Zachariah 9:9	Matthew 21:9
24 Messiah would be <u>praised by all the children of men</u> .	Psalm 3:2	Matthew 21:16

25 Messiah would be <u>betrayed</u> .	Psalm 41:9	Luke 22:47-48
26 Messiah's price money would be used to buy a <u>potter's field</u> .	Zachariah 11:12-13	Matthew 26:14-15
27 Messiah would be <u>falsely accused</u> .	Zachariah 11:12-13	Matthew 27:19
28 Messiah would be silent before his accusers.	Isaiah 53:7	Mark 14:57-58
29 Messiah would be spat upon and struck.	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
30 Messiah would be <u>bound without cause</u> .	Psalm 135:19	John 15:24-25
31 Messiah would be <u>condemned</u> with criminals.	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:32
32 Messiah would be given <u>vinegar to drink</u> .	Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34
33 Messiah's hands and feet would be <u>pierced</u> .	Psalm 22:16	John 20:25-27
34 Messiah would be <u>mocked and ridiculed</u> .	Zachariah 13:10	Luke 22:63-65
35 Soldiers would <u>gamble</u> for Messiah's garments.	Psalm 22:18	Luke 23:34
36 Messiah's bones would <u>not be broken</u> .	Psalm 34:20	John 19:33-36
37 Messiah would be <u>crucified</u> for God.	Isaiah 53:5	John 19:18
38 Messiah would <u>pray</u> for his enemies.	Psalm 109:4	Luke 23:34
39 Soldiers would <u>divide</u> Messiah's side.	Zachariah 12:10	John 19:34
40 Messiah would be <u>buried with the rich</u> .	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57
41 Messiah would <u>resurrect</u> from the dead.	Psalm 16:10	Matthew 28:2-7
42 Messiah would <u>ascend to heaven</u> .	Psalm 69:15	Acts 1:9
43 Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.	Psalm 24:7-10	Luke 24:31
44 Messiah would be a <u>judge</u> for sin.	Psalm 110:1	Mark 16:7
	Isaiah 33:51-2	Romans 8:34

### 3. His miracles backed up His claim.

#### John 10:24-25

24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me."

### 4. Those who spent time with Him testified that He was God.

#### John 20:27-28

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

### 5. Through His baptism and resurrection, God the Father confirmed that Jesus indeed was the Son of God.

#### Matt 3:16-17

16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,

17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

## Is Jesus Christ really God?

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### 4 reasons why Jesus is God.

1. He fulfilled all of the prophecies of the O.T.

2. He claimed to be God.

### John 10:30

30 "I and the Father are one."

### John 14:9

9 He who has seen Me has seen the Father;

### Is Jesus the only way to God?

#### John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

#### 1 Tim 2:5

5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

#### Acts 4:12

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

- It is both exclusive and inclusive.
- Anyone can come to Christ who desires to but they must come by the way of the cross which requires humility and repentance.
- That is the stickler - you can bring nothing to Christ.
- To believe there are other ways to God is to give glory to the other ways, which depreciates the glory of Jesus Christ. That, God will not allow.
- If you believe there are other ways to God, you are listening to the world. There is no "wider mercy." (Schuller, Osteen)
- Rather than balk that there is only 1 way, we should be thankful that there is a way.
- Your doubt will disappear if you stick to God's Word.

• All of the evidence confirms that Jesus is God.

• Read the gospels to dispel your doubt.