



“Dealing With Doubts”

Part 2

July 17, 2022

July/August Meeting Schedule

- July 17 – Class
- July 24 – No class
- July 31 – Class
- Aug. 7 - Pending
- Aug. 14 – EPCC not available
- Aug. 21 – Pending
- Aug. 28 – Pending
- Sept. 4 – No class – Labor Day
- Sept. 11 – EPCC not available

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?

1. 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.



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 sinful, 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.

2. 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.

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;

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.

4. Can I really trust the Bible?

5 proofs for the Bible's reliability:

1. Internal Consistency

The Bible contains 66 books written by over 40 different authors in 3 different languages over the course of 1,500 years, and together they paint a picture of one story that revolves around God creating mankind, man's fall into sin, and God providing salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The entire Bible gives us a consistent and clear picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. Manuscript Reliability

We base our knowledge of world history on writings where we have a handful of manuscripts, sometimes a few hundred. But we have over 14,000 full or partial manuscripts of the Greek New Testament, and more manuscripts are found every year, none of which have ever resulted in a major revision — just a relative few and extremely minor variations, making the Bible by far the most reliably attested writing in all of history.

3. Historical Accuracy

The Bible has been proven historically, geographically, and archeologically to be accurate. One non-Christian, non-Jewish archeologist said, "It may be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference." Ever.

4. Fulfilled Prophecy

The Bible contains thousands of prophecies fulfilled with uncanny precision, including 300 specific prophecies in the OT written over hundreds of years that are fulfilled in detail in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The odds of that happening by chance are less than one in 2000 zeros. In the words of R.C. Sproul, "The very dimension of the sheer fulfillment of the prophecy of the Old Testament Scriptures should be enough to convince anyone that we are dealing with a supernatural piece of literature."

5. Eyewitness Testimony

People wrote down what they saw, what actually happened. That testimony then was assembled into what we now call our Bible. Men and women gave their lives to protect that written record, which is further evidence of their conviction that this is indeed the very words of God.

• Doubt is erased by allowing the Word of God to pour over your heart and mind.

5. Did I really become a Christian?

Mark 1:15

15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and **believe** in the gospel."

John 1:12

12 But as many as **received** Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who **believe** in His name,

Rom 10:9

9 that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Rom 8:16-17

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Rom 5:1

1 Therefore, having been **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

Rom 5:9

9 Much more then, having now been **justified** by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Rom 8:30

30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

DO NOT DEPEND UPON FEELINGS

The promise of God's Word, the Bible — not our feelings — is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. This train diagram illustrates the relationship between fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21).



The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we, as Christians, do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

Rom 8:33-36,38-39

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 **Who will separate** us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **will be able to separate us** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- What did you do when you became a believer?

- The Bible says, repent and believe.

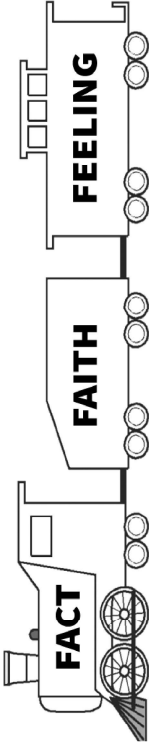
- Justification is an act of God where He declares the unbeliever righteous because of the work of Christ on the cross.

- Don't let your sanctification determine your justification.

- Feelings can not be allowed to run your life.

"Feelings go up and down with blood sugar. If I let my feelings take the wheel of my life, they'll crash my job, my marriage, and my faith many times over."

Remember:



6. Have I lost my salvation?

John 10:27-30

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of **My hand**.

29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the **Father's hand**."

Rom 8:1

1 Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:29-30

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 **who are protected by the power of God** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Eph 1:13-14

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were **sealed in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is given as a **pledge** of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 John 5:11-13

- 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us **eternal life**, and this life is in His Son.
- 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that **you may know that you have eternal life**.
- ### John 5:24
- 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life**.
- ### Jude 24
- 24 **Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,**
- ### Phil 1:6
- 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus

Rom 7:15-25

- 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.
- 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.
- 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
- 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.
- 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.
- 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
- 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.
- 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,
- 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.
- 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?
- 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

The Believer's Position in Christ

- The believer is:
1. Elect/Chosen (Eph. 1:4)
 2. Foreknown (1 Pet. 1:2)
 3. Predestined (Rom. 8:29,30)
 4. Called (1 Thes. 5:24)
 5. Redeemed (Rom. 3:24)
 6. Reconciled (Rom. 5:10)
 7. Related to God through propitiation (Rom. 3:24-26)
 8. Forgiven all sin (Eph. 1:7)
 9. Joined to Christ (Rom. 6:1-10)
 10. Free from the Law (Rom. 7:2-6)
 11. Made a child of God (Gal. 3:26)
 12. Adopted (Rom. 8:15, 23)
 13. Made acceptable to God through Christ (Eph. 1:6; Col. 1:12)
 14. Made righteous (Rom. 3:22)
 15. Sanctified (1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11)
 16. Perfected forever (Heb. 10:14)
 17. Justified (Rom. 5:1)
 18. Made close to God (Eph. 2:13)
 19. Delivered from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13)
 20. Translated into the Kingdom (Col. 1:13)
 21. Planted on the Rock, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:9-15)
 22. A gift from God to Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:6,11,12,20)
 23. Circumcised in Christ (Col. 2:11)
 24. A Priest in the Holy and Royal Priesthood of believers (1 Pet. 2:5,9)
 25. Part of a chosen generation, a holy nation, and a peculiar people (1 Pet. 5:9)
 26. A heavenly citizen (Phil. 3:20)
 27. In the family & household of God (Eph. 2:19)
 28. In the fellowship of the saints (Jn. 17:11,21,23)
 29. In a heavenly association (Col. 1:27; 3:1)
 30. Given access to God (Eph. 2:18)
 31. Within the care of God (Rom. 8:10)
 32. An object of God's love (Jn. 3:16)
 33. An object of God's grace (Eph. 2:7-9)
 34. An object of God's power (Eph. 1:19)
 35. An object of God's faithfulness (Phil. 1:6)
 36. An object of God's peace (Rom. 5:1)
 37. An object of God's consolation (2 Thes. 2:16,17)
 38. An object of God's intercession (Rom. 8:26)
 39. God's inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
 40. Given the inheritance of God Himself (1 Pet. 1:4)
 41. Given light in the Lord (2 Cor. 4:6)
 42. United to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (1 Thes. 1:1)
 43. Blessed with the earliest or first-fruits of the Spirit (Eph. 1:13,14)
 44. Born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:6)
 45. Baptized in the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)
 46. Inward by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9)
 47. Sealed by the Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22)
 48. Complete in God (Col. 2:9,10)
 49. Blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)
 50. Glorified (Rom. 8:18)

Heb 10:14

14 For by one offering **He has perfected for all time** those who are sanctified.

John 6:47

47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has **eternal life**.

Heb 13:5

5 for He Himself has said, "**I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,**"

2 Cor 5:17

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

1 Peter 2:2

- 2 like newborn babies, **long for the pure milk of the word**, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
- The security of the believer is dependent on God's ability to keep the believer, not the believer's ability to keep himself.
 - The believer's responsibility is expressed in his desire to grow, to mature, to follow Christ.
 - If there is no desire – not a believer.

1 John 1:9

- 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- If you concentrate on whether you are in or out of salvation, if you are in a state of doubt as to whether you are really saved, you get stuck and don't move.
 - Doubt will disappear as you understand the promises of God and your position in Christ which never changes.

7. Isn't faith just a leap in the dark?

Heb 11:1

11 Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

Rom 10:17

7 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- If faith is a leap into darkness, then it is not faith. Faith must have an object.
- Doubt comes to those who view faith as a mere stab in the dark. You can't live that way. Your Christian life will be unstable and eventually disappear.
- You erase doubt when you anchor your faith in the Word of God.

8. If God is a God of love, then why does He allow so much suffering?

Luke 13:1-5

- 1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.
- 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate?"
- 3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- 4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?"
- 5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

- Love is 1 attribute of God.
- Justice is another.
- Man comes into this world, not neutral, but a guilty sinner deserving of punishment and judgment.
- Judgment may come in this life or it may be delayed into the next life.
- Disease, tragedy, calamity (floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados), murder, war, accidents, are punishment for our sin, and the suffering that follows.
- The wrath of God is now and will be poured out on this world.
- Doubt comes when we see man as neutral and God as only one dimensional (love), and God not living up to it.

Isa 45:6-7

- 6 I am the Lord, and there is no other,
- 7 The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

Lam 3:37-38

- 37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it?
- 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?

Rom 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Eph 2:3

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

9. Is God really in control of the world?

Rom 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Col 1:16-17

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Heb 1:3

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things** by the word of His power.

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that God causes **all things** to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Eph 1:11

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who **works all things after the counsel of His will**,

Job 42:2

2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Isa 46:9-10

- 9 For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,
- 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Ps 97:9

9 For You are the Lord Most High over all the earth;
You are exalted far above all gods.

1 Chron 29:11-13

11 "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

12 "Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

13 "Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

- From a human viewpoint this world seems chaotic, out of control.
- From God's viewpoint everything is under control and going exactly as planned.
- God is never surprised, taken back, or wringing His hands about the day to day events that happen in this world.
- We can have complete confidence in Him and never doubt His sovereign and providential control of this universe.

10. Is there any point in praying?

Luke 18:1

18 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

James 4:2,3

2 You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Ps 37:4

4 **Delight yourself in the Lord;**

And He will give you the desires of your heart.

1 John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Matt 18:19-20

19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

John 15:7

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:16

16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Mark 11:24-25

24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

1 John 3:22

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

John 16:23-24

23 "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

* To ask, "in His name" is to ask according to His will, It is asking what Jesus would want.

Matt 21:22

22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

John 14:13-14

13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Luke 11:9-13

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

- We doubt the effectiveness of prayer because we are misinformed.
- Prayer is not God fitting into our purposes and timing but we fitting into His.
- Disillusionment and doubt come when we are not seeking His purposes and His timing.