

Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 1)

Note: The following is a written transcript of *Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 1)*, which is available in audio form on Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com.

Paul Scharf: Hello, again. This is Paul Scharf for Whitcomb Ministries. I'm here today with Dr. John Whitcomb in his study. We're coming to you on SermonAudio.com and this is the first of a new series that we're putting together for Dr. Whitcomb's pages there that's actually going to have a dual purpose. This series will be called *FAQs* or *Frequently Asked Questions*, and each session will be titled *Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions*, and the dual-purpose aspect of it is simply this: these questions were submitted on the Web site whitcombministries.org at the FAQ section there.

People have written in, Dr. Whitcomb, and asked you their Bible questions and you can go to the Web site there and see the various categories that these questions can come in under. People who have asked these are looking for answers and the answers will ultimately be posted there as well as being available here in audio format. So, we're killing two birds with one stone, as it were, utilizing these answers in audio format as well as utilizing these answers on the Web site as *FAQs*, and we're hoping that this new venture will be helpful, not only to the recipients of the answers, but, Dr. Whitcomb, to you, because you've been asked some of these questions, I'm sure, hundreds of times, and you are so busy in the ministry that God has given you at this point in your life that you're going to be able to say, "Check our Web site, listen to [SermonAudio](http://SermonAudio.com), the *FAQs* series and you'll be able to find answers to the question you may have had."

So I'm going to ask these questions, and these are just going to be like a bullet-point format. I'm going to ask a question and let Dr. Whitcomb take the mic over and supply you a short answer. And we'll just go from one to the other for a few minutes, and each section in this series will consist of that format.

Thanks for listening to these answers; we trust that they will be of help to you.

Dr. Whitcomb, the first question is that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, the question is simply that: “Where in Scripture is this fact noted?”

Dr. John Whitcomb: Yes, Paul. It’s fascinating how Jesus emphasized how that third day, right from the beginning of His public ministry, the third day after He died, He would rise again. Locked in history, chronology. Notice the emphasis placed on the timing of His resurrection. In John chapter 2, for example, He made this enigmatic statement when the Jews said, “What sign do you show to us, seeing that you do these things?” having cleansed the temple and shocked them in the process. And Jesus answered and said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,” of course referring to the temple of His body – verse 21. A little bit later, the Lord Jesus explained to His own disciples in Matthew chapter 16, verse 21: “From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, [now notice] and be raised up on the third day.” Well of course, all four gospels tell us the detailed story of how it was the first day of the week, that first Sunday, which we call, of course, Easter Sunday today, that Jesus rose bodily in a glorified state from the realm of the dead, having finished the work for which He came into the world, namely to die for our sins; and He cried out on the cross, “It is finished!” And that was, I think, Friday afternoon and that night and all day Saturday, that full day Saturday, and part of the third day, Sunday, He was in the realm of the physical dead.

Now, this became, of course, a major platform for the Biblical message of salvation. In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul says: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...was buried, and...was raised (up) on the third day according to the Scriptures.” And so we see here clear statements by the Lord Jesus Himself and the reflection by the Apostle Paul about what actually happened in historical events that intervened between His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead on the third day.

Paul Scharf: Dr. Whitcomb, our next question is: “What are your thoughts on the Catholic Church?”

Dr. John Whitcomb: Of course, the Catholic Church represents at least one billion people on planet earth today who believe in many cases, I’m sure, sincerely that they’re Christians. And I am convinced that many Catholic people are born-again Christians that we’ll meet in heaven. My concern, however, is this: If they are born-again Christians, it’s not because they have followed the guidelines officially of the Catholic Church. They are born-again Christians in spite of the system, the dogma, the indoctrination, the teaching, the standards of the church established for example in the Council of Trent in the 16th century and later confirmed in the Vatican II and in the 20th century. No, Catholics today are being misled by false teaching, namely, through doing various works and only through doing those works can they have their salvation confirmed. No Roman Catholic who is following the teachings, the literal teachings of the church, can have the assurance of salvation that the Bible guarantees to every born-again Christian as we read in 1 John, “That you may know that you have eternal life.” Even John 3:16: “God so loved the world, that He gave His (one and) only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have (not might have, perhaps will have, or possibly can have, but may have right now) everlasting (eternal) life” (KJV). That is, to my mind, the tragedy of the Roman Catholic official system of teaching, whatever the individual case may be for one who belongs to, or claims to be, a Roman Catholic today.

Paul Scharf: And Dr. Whitcomb, our final question for this short session number one of *Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions* is this. Someone has written in and asked about Bible prophecy. He says he can’t understand it and he’s wondering: “Is it just kind of all confusing, and can it just kind of be whatever a person wants to make of Bible prophecy, whatever view he has, can we make the prophecies fit? Or is there some kind of standard by which we interpret and understand Bible prophecy?”

Dr. John Whitcomb: Yes, Paul. We find for instance the Lord Jesus saying that 60 years after He rose from the dead, speaking from heaven to the Apostle John on the Island of

Patmos in Revelation chapter 1: “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

What prophecy? The prophecy that is revealed in these marvelous 22 chapters that are the capstone of the entire Bible, called the Book of Revelation. Yes, it requires study, but one of the things you have to realize is that even the figures of speech, the symbols that are used from time to time in the book of Revelation, are not doors to keep the light out, but windows to let the light in to help people understand more clearly the literal details that God wants to communicate to us about events about to happen, such as the rapture of the church, the resurrection of the dead, the great tribulation, the anti-christ, the two witnesses, the 144,000, the battle of Armageddon, the second coming of Christ in glory following the judgment throne of Christ for the church, the 1,000-year kingdom on earth.

Bible prophecies are clearly stated throughout the entire Bible, but it does require study. Search “the Scriptures daily,” Paul says of certain people called Bereans. They “searched the Scriptures daily” to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11, KJV). It isn’t something, friends, that just falls out of the sky without even thought and study and prayer to find out what God really said. Like everything else, it depends upon patient, prayerful, discerning, serious study of God’s Word, and then what looks obscure at first, or even contradictory, begins to take shape and form, and we see the truths that God wants to communicate very, very clearly in Bible prophecy.

Paul Scharf: Thank you, Dr. Whitcomb, for those Biblical answers. This concludes our first informal session here that has been taped for use on SermonAudio and also, as we said, WhitcombMinistries.org in the FAQ section. We hope you’ll join us again soon here on SermonAudio and will listen in again as Dr. Whitcomb answers more of your questions. Until then, God’s blessings!

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