

## ***Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 5)***

**Note:** The following is a written transcript of *Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 5)*, which is available in audio form on [Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com](http://Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com).

**Paul Scharf:** This is Paul Scharf for Whitcomb Ministries. Hello again! It's a great privilege to join you here and meet with you on the Internet. Thanks for catching up with us here at [Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com](http://Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com).

Dr. Whitcomb, we're here together to answer some more Biblical questions – *Frequently Asked Questions* – that have been sent to us via your Web site at [WhitcombMinistries.org](http://WhitcombMinistries.org). We have three questions we're going to deal with again in this session, which you can hear here on [SermonAudio.com](http://SermonAudio.com). Lord willing, in the near future, you'll be able to read the transcript of this message and we'll also attempt to deal with these questions by posting the answers at the *FAQ* section at [WhitcombMinistries.org](http://WhitcombMinistries.org).

Dr. Whitcomb, our first question tonight comes from Matthew. He says, "I am a new Christian. Could you please explain to me the basics of the Christian life? Also, please tell me how to grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." That's a good question that a lot of our listeners, I'm sure, will benefit from – what would you like to say to Matthew?

**Dr. Whitcomb:** Matthew, let's start with 2 Timothy chapter 3, verse 15: "From childhood," God tells us, Paul's ancestors, his mother particularly and grandmother, "From childhood you have known the sacred writings (that's the Bible – the Old Testament primarily) which are able (now watch the power system here to guarantee a fruitful, effective, mature Christian life)...which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." That is, a genuine Bible indoctrination that leads to a true understanding of God's plan of salvation through Christ Jesus the Savior.

Now, what part does the Bible have in our Christian life and growth? Listen, “All Scripture (that’s all 66 books of the Bible now)...All Scripture is inspired by God and (is) profitable for (what? number one) teaching” (2 Tim. 3:16).

In other words, you have to go to an assembly of God’s people – a church – that really teaches the Bible, ok? “Profitable for teaching, (and what else?) for reproof (in other words, we need to be confronted, we need to be corrected, we need to be helped)...reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God (might) be adequate, equipped for (what?) every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

Now what are some of the good works that a God-honoring Christian experiences? Not only a living faith, but believing prayer. Jesus said, “If you ask anything in My name, ask My Father, I will answer you” (cf. John 14:13; 15:16). In His name and for His glory. Yes, that means we’re ready to believe and obey God’s precious Word and to show our faith in Jesus by obeying Him with God-honoring works, believing prayer. God will tell you who to reach, your loved ones, your neighbors, your friends, an outreach, a witness to the ends of the earth through effectual fervent prayer – James 5.

Look at those basics – a living faith that results in, what, solid teaching of the Word, in fellowship with others of God’s people. And then do what? Obey that Word, tell people about Jesus. Yes, God-honoring works that show the whole world – your family, your neighbors, your friends – you’re serious about having a Savior who loves you and teaches you, confronts you and guides and helps you and protects you.

Those are some of the basics of the Christian life and the guarantee, the guarantee friend, of genuine Christian growth in the Lord.

**Paul Scharf:** Dr. Whitcomb, our second question was sent in by Nicole. And she said, “Why did people live so long back in Bible times?”

**Dr. Whitcomb:** Why did people live so long in Bible times? Well friends, it depends on what you mean by Bible times. Because 1,000 years before Christ, life spans on the average for human beings were already limited to how long? Listen carefully to Psalm 90, verse 10, “As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years (notice, not 700)...seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; (and) soon...soon it is gone and we fly away...Teach (me, the Psalmist says) to number our days, That we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:10, 12).

You see friends, at the beginning of the world, Adam and Eve had an absolutely perfect genetic system. They were perfect physical human beings. No mutations, no defects in the genetic information system. And therefore, even though they were cursed by God because of the rebellion, Adam lived 930 years! Think of it, 900 real years! And I say, “Well, how could that be?” And the answer scientifically, as we know, the second law of thermodynamics, that all scientists recognize and appreciate, would predict the farther back you go in human history, the more genetically pure and powerful the genetic system was. But because of the curse, through the passing of the thousands of years until our day, even until David’s day 3,000 years ago, people lived much longer lives on the average.

Now, of course, today we have additional factors that help us to live longer – even longer than our ancestors a hundred years ago – not because our genetic system is more pure, but because of the environment. That is, we have health facilities, health foods, medication, nursing homes to keep us alive longer than our ancestors could have lived.

So you see, for the last 3,000 years, the average predictable life-style and life-span is what, 70 or 80 years. And I say, “Well, Lord, why is this?” And it’s because of the curse, friends. If we had not sinned, we would never have died. In fact, when our sin is removed at death, or at rapture/resurrection day for the Christian, we’ll live forever with a body that has been glorified. And that’s the goal – the blessed hope – of living forever and ever in a glorified body like Jesus has.

So there is a way to overcome this genetic drag resulting from the curse. And that's what? Put your faith in Jesus Christ, invite the Spirit of God to be your, what, indweller, to reprogram you for resurrection and glory and living forever and ever with Him.

**Paul Scharf:** Well, thank you, Dr. Whitcomb, and I just want to, before we tackle the last question in this recording, I want to say thanks again to those who are listening around the world to your messages here at Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com. We're having just thousands of people every month tune into your broadcasts here. It's a wonderful opportunity and privilege and we're thankful that we can answer these *Frequently Asked Questions* here as well. And I stated earlier how we're attempting to do that.

Dr. Whitcomb, the last question for this broadcast comes from Chad, and it's part testimony and then part question. And he gives an encouraging word to begin with. He says, "Greetings, Dr. Whitcomb. I sat under your teachings at Grace Seminary in the 1980s and continue to hold to the truths you taught me during those years. The Lord has, in the past two years, positioned me to teach science in a public high school in Florida. Our principal is a Christian and actually expects creation science to be brought up in the classroom along with the standards of evolution. It is a great ministry opportunity that I do not want to take lightly." Now here's the question. He says, "I am continuing, excuse me, considering enrolling in the Institute for Creation Research's creationist worldview certification program to get refreshed on the current issues. Would you recommend this program, or do you have other resources that you might recommend to get me up to date?"

**Dr. Whitcomb:** Thank you so much for that testimony and that word of encouragement. Yes, that is a vital issue today, isn't it? In a world saturated, just desperately perverted and distorted through evolutionary, materialistic, atheistic teaching.

What can we do to equip ourselves to master the essentials, the basics, of our origin, nature and destiny to the point where we can speak with authority and helpfulness to others?

Well, I'm on the board of reference for the Institute for Creation Research. My close friend for 50 years, Henry Morris, now with the Lord, was the founder of the Institute for Creation Research and that school, that graduate school, is excellent. All I know about it is that they have a solid respect for the whole counsel of God and the Bible and are very skilled in scientific subjects. They have moved their training center now from California to the Dallas, Texas, area. And you want to contact the ICR for help and guidance with regard to the program they offer.

I also recommend Answers in Genesis. I'm connected to some extent with them also, near Cincinnati. And they can tell you their amazing resources – videotapes, books, all kinds of programs – that will help you in your study of the scientific implications of Biblical creationism. They can guide you on where you can get special help.

And, of course, fundamental to everything is a mastery of the Scriptures, isn't it? The Lord Jesus, in fact, didn't just suggest this. He commanded it in the Great Commission at the end of the gospel of Matthew, chapter 28. He said, "Teaching them (that is) – make disciples of all the nations...teaching them (to do what?) to observe all that I commanded you."

You say, "Well, that's impossible! The Bible is so enormous, it's so complex." Jesus says, in effect, "You're right, dear child, but listen, 'I am with you always.'" How long, Lord Jesus? Answer: "Even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19, 20).

Now friend, dear friend, that's our guarantee that God wants us to master truth in every area and do what, systematically, faithfully, consistently teach it to every person He brings across the pathways of our lives. Now, whether we have a legitimate degree, a Ph.D. or whatever, in the eyes of modern society, is of far less importance to God than what we believe and know and teach one-on-one.

And I say, “Lord, help me to master the truth as you give me opportunity in whatever area, in whatever institution, by whatever materials or means you make available to me.”  
Brother, thank you for your question and God bless you.

**Paul Scharf:** Well, thank you, Dr. Whitcomb. It’s been wonderful to deal with more of these questions and we thank you, listener, for joining us here at Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com.

Until we meet again here on the Internet, may you have a great day of God’s blessings, and thank you for joining us.

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