

WHAT IF...GOD IS REAL?

Friday Night Devotional

Speaker: Justin Morton

Introduction:

- A. We've probably all played the "What If" game. This game can be both fun and interesting.
- B. As fun and entertaining as this game can be, it can also cause us to stop and think.
- C. Let me pose a question to you; What if God is real? What would it mean for our lives?

Despite What People May Think, God is Real

- A. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).
- B. The Law of Cause and Effect – the universe is here so it must be explained.
- C. The Law of Design – everything designed must have a designer.
- D. The Moral Argument – where did we get the idea that certain things are right and certain things are wrong?

What He Says Is True

- A. All scripture was given by the inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. We must take God at His Word and trust what He has said.
- C. All the promises God has made to us are sure.

How We Live Matters

- A. How we live matters because we will all stand before the Lord in judgment (2 Cor. 5:10).
- B. Our actions matter (Jam. 2:14-17).
- C. Our words matter (Matt. 12:36-37).

We Have An Eternal Hope

- A. Hope is "A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen."
- B. For faithful believers, we know no matter what happens in this life, we have hope of being victorious (I Cor. 15:54-58).
- C. For the unfaithful or disbelievers, we know they stand to have no hope (Eph. 2:11-13).

Conclusion:

- A. Would our lives look any different if we truly lived as if God were real?
- B. We shouldn't live our lives thinking, "What if God is real?" Instead we ought to live our lives believing, "Because God is real!"

WHAT IF...WE WERE DEVOTED?
Saturday Morning Boy's Devotional
Speaker: David Baldwin

What if I were_____.

We Cannot Serve Two Masters:

A. Matt 6:24 and Luke 16:13

B. No man can serve two masters: For either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

If We Are Devoted To God, We Are In:

PRAYER

- A. Helps us stay Alert Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2).
- B. Helps us grow closer to Him - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (I Thess. 5:16-18).

THOUGHTS

- A. Proverbs 15:26
- B. The thoughts of the Wicked are an abomination to the Lord; but gracious words are pure.

Don't devote your life to an earthly dream that can have heavenly consequences!

WHAT IF... *WE WERE DEVOTED?*

Saturday Morning Girl's Devotional

Speaker: Katie Pruett

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Devoted is defined as profound dedication.
- B. What do our lives look like if we are devoted to God?

Purpose

- A. In order to be devoted to God, we must first understand our purpose here on earth.
- B. Solomon tells us that the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments
- Ecclesiastes 12:13.
- C. Paul tells the Philippians that to live is Christ and to die is gain – Philippians 1:21.

Commitment

- A. Once we understand our purpose, we have to commit to the purpose.
- B. Commitment requires sacrifice – Luke 14:26-27; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:7-8.
- C. Commitment requires serving God and only God – Matthew 6:24.

Application

- A. Full devotion requires that we study and apply what we learn.
- B. We must study the word of God in order to apply it to our lives Study – II Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 12:1-2; Acts 17:11.
- C. We must put into practice the things that we study in God's word – Philippians 4:8-9.

CONCLUSION:

- A. True devotion requires us to understand our purpose, commit to the Lord, and to grow in His word, studying and applying it. – I Kings 8:61.
- B. True devotion will lead us to say as King David in Psalm 73:25 "And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You."

WHAT IF... OUR LIVES REALLY COULD CHANGE?

Saturday Morning Class

Speaker: Kyle Melvin

Introduction

- A. Practically no one would disagree that becoming a Christian requires change, but is it easy?
- B. What makes it difficult to change? Why does it seem impossible?
- C. Maybe we should question our intentions instead of the situations.

Do We Have the Desire?

- A. Jesus asked the lame man if he wished to be made well; would that be obvious? (John 5: 1-7).
- B. Like considering the lame man, it should be obvious that we want to be made well, but do we really?
- C. Have you been in a situation where you were comfortable in a tough situation but felt torn because you knew you should want out?
- D. Paul affirms that flesh and spirit are in contrast and pull us in different directions (Romans 7:14-25) – the desire to persevere in Christ must be stronger.

Do We Have the Discipline?

- A. Paul had everything a Jew could have wanted in life, but gave up every aspect when he saw the beauty of the life of Christ (Philippians 3:4-8).
- B. It is easy to commit yourself to change in spiritual settings, but will we sacrifice what is sinful or what is distracting us from our Lord when the rubber meets the road?
- C. Colossians 3:1-3; Philippians 4:8; Romans 12:9.
- D. What does this practically look like? What areas of life would we have to use more discipline for our life to be hidden in Christ?

Do We Have the Determination in Mind?

- A. What does it take to make your faith a life changing faith?
- B. Ephesians 5:1 – Be imitators of God as beloved children – imitate our Father as a small child would when he looks up to his dad.

- C. 2 Peter 1:3 – we have everything needed pertaining to life and godliness (within His word).
- D. Within Scripture, we see that God provides us with a full set of armor to protect us and aid us in our fight against the devil (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Conclusion

- A. Consider, again, the life of Paul. Before Christ, his way of living was saturated with hate and violence with no violation of his conscience.
- B. If Paul can be forgiven of the things he did and those who crucified Jesus can be forgiven, we most certainly have no worry of forgiveness if we properly seek it.
- C. Life in Christ can go from being a lame man to a leaping man, from a man breathing threats to a man breathing blessings because life in Christ is a transformed one (Romans 12:2).

WHAT IF... WE PRAYED WITH AN EXPECTANT HEART?

Saturday Morning Class Session

Speaker: J.D. Russell

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Is prayer important to God?
- B. How should we pray (Mark 11:24)?
- C. Belief that your prayer will be answered is an important aspect to praying to God.
- D. Who are some examples of people who prayed expectantly?

JESUS EXPECTED ANSWERS TO HIS PRAYERS (Luke 22:39-44)

- A. Jesus was facing death and prayed to God.
- B. Jesus did not pray for his own will, but God's.
- C. Jesus was comforted by an angel.

WE NEED TO PRAY IN GOD'S WILL

- A. How will we know God's will to pray in it (Romans 8:26-27)?
- B. We will learn what God's will is over time and through study.
- C. Even if things do not go our way (Romans 8:28).
- D. God knows what's best (Proverbs 19:21).

GOD'S RESPONSE TO OUR PRAYERS

- A. When we pray expecting an answer, we will receive one (1 John 5:14-15).
- B. God will take us where we need to go (Proverbs 16:9).
- C. When God does not answer our prayers the way we want them (John 11:17-25).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Jesus set an example of praying in confidence.
- B. God's will is the most important thing for us to look for.
- C. God will answer our prayers (James 1:6).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to expect answers to our prayers?
2. Is it important for us to pray for people and expect something to happen?
3. What is something that you have prayed for and think you have not gotten an answer?
4. How can our prayers help us to learn more about God?

WHAT IF... GOD IS IN CONTROL?

Saturday Morning Class Session

Speaker: Don Scott

Do we have free will?

- A. If so, can God's Providence be complete?
- B. Can Sovereignty and free will co-exist?

What is Sovereignty?

- A. The Most High rules.

What is Providence? (Hint: it's not a city in Rhode Island)

- A. How does God accomplish His Will?
- B. How does God NOT accomplish His Will?

God's Will be done...or not?

- A. God and sin.
- B. Joseph.
- C. Judas.
- D. Adam and Eve and that free will thing again.

Conclusion:

- A. God _____ in control.

WHAT IF... ETERNITY IS REAL?

Saturday Night Devotional

Speaker: Demetrius Desnoes

INTRODUCTION:

- A. How many of us have ever doubted in the truthfulness of biblical matters?
- B. Even some Bible greats at times wavered (i.e. Abraham, Peter, and Thomas).
- C. Many people practice Christianity but live in doubt and fail to spread the message.
- D. If eternity is real do our actions represent an eternal priority? (John 3:36).

WOULD OUR DECISIONS CHANGE? (Luke 16:19-21)

- C. The rich man made choices that were beneficial to him on earth.
- D. We are not told of Lazarus' choices prior to his condition.
- E. Decisions should be made with a balance of intelligence with emotion.
- F. To change our choices we must change our minds (Romans 12:2).

WOULD OUR LIVES CHANGE? (Luke 16:22-26)

- B. The way we live determines what happens when we die.
- C. If we knew when we die, how different would we live?
- D. Eternity was in the benefit of Lazarus but not the rich man.
- E. The rich man learned of the authenticity of eternity too late.

WOULD OUR MESSAGE CHANGE? (Luke 16:27-31)

- C. Notice how different the rich man's desires were while in torment.
- D. The faithful preach with urgency (2 Tim. 4:1-2, Rev. 3:11-13).
- E. What is our responsibility to those who are lost, since we have the truth?
- F. If eternity was real then, it is real now, and will be after we die.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Since eternity is real then we have hope for life after this one.
- B. Since eternity is real then we have incentive to live righteously.
- C. Since eternity is real then we have a message to shout from the rooftops.
- D. Since eternity is real then we have a lot of work to do so that we can enjoy it.

WHAT IF... JESUS RETURNED TODAY?

Sunday Morning Devotional

Speaker: Justin Morton

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever heard or used the phrase, “I’d have to see it to believe it?”
- B. Too many people feel this way when it comes to the Second Coming of Jesus.
- C. Once a person sees Jesus return, it will be too late to believe it.

Whether People Believe It or Not, Jesus is Coming Back.

- A. We have Old Testament prophecies (Isa. 45:23).
- B. We have New Testament confirmation (Acts 1:11).
- C. We have a promise from Jesus (Jn. 14:1-3).

Nothing Will Be Out of the Ordinary (Matt. 24:36-39).

- A. People have spent a lot of time trying to predict the return of Jesus.
- B. Noah spent years building the ark and preaching to the people (Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5).
- C. People will be going about their daily lives not expecting Jesus to return and then it will happen.

No One Will Miss His Return (Matt. 24: 40-41).

- A. No matter where we are or what we are doing, when Jesus comes again we will know.
- B. No one will miss the return of Jesus (I Thess. 4:16).

We Better be Ready (Matt. 24:42-51)

- A. Since we don’t know when He is coming, we must always be prepared (I Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10).
- B. Some will rejoice at his return because they have been eagerly awaiting.
- C. Some will regret his return because they will be found unprepared.

Conclusion:

- A. If Jesus is coming back, then why is it taking so long? What’s with the delay (2 Pet. 3:8-10)? The Lord is giving man time to repent because he loves us.
- B. If we aren’t eagerly longing for the Lord’s return, perhaps we’re not ready for Him.