

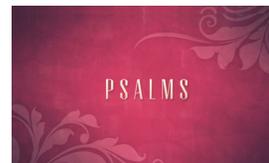
Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Prayerfully consider why you think Christianity is true. Do you see evidence of God's grace at work in your life?
2. Have you ever been overwhelmed by the knowledge of your own sinfulness? Have you experienced the sweet joy of forgiveness?
3. Are you living deliberately under the authority of God's word or do you trust your own sense of things?
4. Are we looking for evidences of God's grace as proof of conversion or to the sincerity of a person's profession?
5. In worship, are you looking for a good "worship experience," or are you looking to obediently assemble with true Christians, before God, under the authority of His Word?
6. How does knowing God has a majestic, eternal purpose for your life help you endure suffering & fear of death.

ⁱ Strange, Daniel. Plugged In: Connecting your faith with what you watch, read, and play (pp. 31-32). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱ Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cures (p. 12). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

RBC Lord's Day Sermon



Sunday, June 7, 2020

An Anchor for Our Soul

Hebrews 1:1–3

PLAUSIBLE

Merriam-Webster – appearing worthy of belief.

Synonyms:

believable, credible, creditable, likely, probable

Daniel Strange "...sin and unbelief manifest themselves differently in different cultures and sub-cultures. Academics call this a "plausibility structure"— essentially, a worldview: A plausibility structure is a web of beliefs that are so embedded in the hearts and minds of the bulk of a society that people hold them either unconsciously or so firmly that they never think to ask if they are true ... One of the main functions of a plausibility structure is to provide the background of beliefs that makes arguments easy or hard to accept. [James Sire, Naming the Elephant (InterVarsity Press, 2015), p 112.]

You don't need to be an academic to get this. We experience it every single day. **The good news of Jesus Christ is deeply implausible in our culture at the moment.**" ⁱ [Bold mine]

Isaiah 47:10–11

¹⁰ You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and **there is no one besides me.**"

¹¹ But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

What about Us?

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones "We are all in such a hurry, we want everything at once. We believe that all truth can be stated in a few minutes. The answer to that is that it cannot, and the reason why so many today are living superficial Christian lives is because they **will not take time to examine themselves.**" ⁱⁱ [emphasis mine]

Why Was this Letter to the Hebrews Written?

I. To Warn Them against Unbelief

Hebrews 3:12–14

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you **an evil, unbelieving heart**, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by **the deceitfulness of sin.** ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Hebrews 12:25, 28–29

²⁵ See that you *do not refuse him who is speaking*. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ... ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

II. To Anchor the Faith of Jewish Christians

Hebrews 6:18–20

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul*, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

III. To Equip them for Long-Suffering & Death (Plausibility...? 3:13)

Hebrews 10:32–36

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and *you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property*, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For *you have need of endurance*, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Hebrews 9:27–28

²⁷ And just as *it is appointed for man to die* once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save *those who are eagerly waiting for him*.

Anchored to the Rock (God Has Spoken!)

I. To Israel, Long Ago & in Many Ways

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke to our fathers** by the prophets, (e.g. Moses, David, Elijah)

II. To Us in These Last Days by His Son

² but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

III. Jesus is Most Glorious

³ **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. *After making purification for sins*, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...



IV. God's Revealed Worldview

- A. Majestic Purpose!
- B. God Loves Us!
- C. Resources to Face Suffering & Death

An Anchor for Our Soul

We are anchored to the solid rock of Jesus Christ
not the shifting sand of secularism.

- I. Trust God's Word not Your Own Sense of Things
 - A. Kid's Watch Out for False Faith!
 - B. How Can You Tell Your Faith is Anchored to God's Word?
 1. A Growing Hunger for the Word & Prayer
 2. Conviction of Sin
 3. Growth in Joy & Obedience
- II. Pray for Covid-19 Opportunities:
 - A. Question of Meaning...
 - B. Fear of Death...