

WHERE IS THY BROTHER?

John Edwards

Questions God asked men makes for a good study. God asked Cain, *“Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?”* (Gen. 4:9). *“Where is thy brother?”* is a good question for us today.

IS HE LOST? Sin separates man from God and will cause one to be lost eternally. Isaiah revealed, *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”* (Is. 59:1-2). The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 shows one with a brother who was lost, and is found.

IS HE IN ERROR? Some are involved in religious error and need to be restored. Paul spoke of our relationship to the erring brother, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”* (Gal. 6:1). James recorded, *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth*

the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (Jas. 5:19-20).

IS HE IN NEED? The Bible teaches us to help our brother in time of need. Paul wrote, *“Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth”* (1 Cor. 10:24). John asked, *“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”* (1 Jn. 3:17).

We need to have the proper love for our brother (1 Jn. 4:20). Where is thy brother? Where will he be in the judgment?

THE OBJECT OF MAN’S WORSHIP

John Edwards

The history of man shows that he is sure to worship the object of his devotion. But, not all worship the right object. Let’s learn what the object of man’s worship must be.

NOT NATURE. Some engage in nature worship. These folks worship such things as the sun, moon, and stars. The fact that the Bible is silent about worshipping nature shows

nature to be a false object of worship. The material world and its phenomena were not created to be praised by man, but for the praise of the Lord (Ps. 148). Nature says we should exalt and praise the Almighty God!

NOT GRAVEN IMAGES. The Bible forbids the worship of graven images. God said, *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth”* (Ex. 20:4-5). Graven images are idols, and idolatry keeps one from inheriting the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

NOT MEN. Some have sought to worship men. The meeting of Peter and Cornelius show men to be a false object of worship. *“And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man”* (Acts 10:25-26).

NOT SATAN. There are those today who are devil worshippers. Satanism is profound wickedness! The devil tempted Jesus to fall down and worship him in Matthew 4. Jesus said, *“Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,*

and him only shalt thou serve” (v. 10).

NOT ANGELS. John saw that angels are not to be worshipped. He said, “...*I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not...worship God*” (Rev. 22:8-9).

BUT GOD. Jesus said, “*Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*” (Mt. 4:10). The angel of the Lord said, “...*worship God*” (Rev. 22:9). We are to worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24).

AS FOR MAN

John Edwards

The Psalmist said, “*As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourish. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more*” (Ps. 103:15). The phrase, “*As for man*” provides us some valuable lessons.

HIS DAYS ARE AS GRASS.

The days of man are like “...*grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth*” (Ps. 90:5-6). We need to stop and realize just how quickly life is passing by. In light of the brevity of life it is written, “*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*” (Ps. 90:12).

HE IS COMPOSED OF BODY AND SPIRIT. “*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul*” (Gen. 2:7). God formed a spirit within man (Zech. 12:1). When death comes, “*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it*” (Eccl. 12:7).

HE IS A SINNER. The Bible teaches that all men are sinners and need saving. Paul wrote, “...*for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one*” (Rom. 3:9-10). Sins are not inherited, but are committed as we transgress

God’s law (1 Jn. 3:4). The saints at Rome were taught, “*For the wages of sin is death...*” (Rom. 6:23). That is, eternal separation from God in hell. To avoid this death, man must be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

HIS LIFE IS THE TARGET OF THE DEVIL. From the very beginning man’s life has been the target of Satan (Gen. 3). Satan has a number of devices to lead man into sin, and our best defense is knowledge (2 Cor. 2:11). We are charged, “*Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*” (1 Pet. 5:8). Don’t give place to Satan in your life (Eph. 4:27).

HE IS THE OBJECT OF GOD’S LOVE. “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (Jn. 3:16).

HE HAS DUTY. “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Eccl. 12:13).

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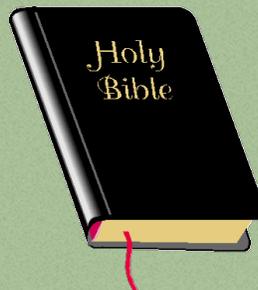
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