

THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S QUESTIONS

Galatians 4:4

Introduction: It can be said that mankind's history is so varied and disconnected that it has had to be literally nailed together and as a matter of fact since nails were driven, things have settled down somewhat and all the questions and loose parts of man's history have finally been brought together.

There was a man working for the government who drove nails for crucifixions when needed. He did his job and paid no attention to those whom he drove the nails into.

The only people who really knew what was happening were not historians but only fishermen, a tax collector, some peasants, a prostitute and other low-income people.

It was mostly the uneducated people who began to insist that that year of 27 A.D. marked a great historical event and from their prison cells, gallows, crosses and places of being stoned, they repeatedly told their story.

Slowly, ever so slowly, they convinced the world that the greatest event in time and eternity had happened and it happened on a cross.

I. THREE QUESTIONS TO LIFE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY EVERY GENERATION

1. Every one of these three questions can be answered by that one great historical event, the cross:
 - Where have I come from?
 - Where am I going?
 - What's the use of my being here?

2. Words alone cannot always answer questions.
 - A dancer interprets feelings and music by dancing.
 - An artist transfers ideas and feelings onto canvas.
 - A musician transfers his/her feelings into music
 - Some things just cannot be answered or explained by using spoken words.
 - So it was with the Lord Jesus. There was no other way to answer life's questions other than by way of the cross.
 - From the cross, to the darkness of the tomb to the resurrection those three questions were being answered.

II. EVERY GENERATION DOES BASICALLY THE VERY SAME THINGS

1. In every generation people love, weep, hunger, fight, work and die.
 - Discovering America is history. Inventions such as electricity, the telephone are history. Wars people have fought in are history.

2. Individuals are involved in history making being involved individually in sickness, cures, wars, space travel, crime, governments and the like although it is the minority who do such things.
 - Most individual history making is done in schools, clubs, work, family, recreation, plans, goals, dreams, a private, micro-history thing.

- For most life is like a circle, repeating the same thing over and over and wondering those three questions: where did I come from, where am I going, why am I here?
3. Our generation has two ways of getting out of the endless rut or circle of going nowhere in life - pills or the Cross.
- The Cross is God's cure/antidote for what's wrong with us.

III. THE CROSS REVEALS THE ANSWER TO MAN'S THREE QUESTIONS

1. Every generation since the cross has had people who have laughed at the cross but the cross answers - *1 Corinthians 1:18*.
 - Educated, wise men have stated that it is too unbelievable, but again the cross answers - *1 Corinthians 1:20*.
 - Critics of every generation and race of humanity have come, mocked, and gone, but the cross is still here and it's followers are still here.
2. The cross builds it's following ONE heart at a time, person by person and now it's our time.
 - The cross is there to remind us that we have come from God, HIMSELF, made in His own image.
3. The cross, also has come from God. It came because men, created in God's own image, have chosen sin over being righteous as God intended.
 - The one who died on that cross lived 33 years without ever sinning. Year after year He met every single law of God and never violated any.
 - Therefore the cross has become a symbol of Jesus Christ's righteousness. Jesus didn't have to die on the cross, He didn't need to, yet He did - why? For people like us.
4. A chain of men and women 2,000 years long have come, asking Jesus Christ to replace their sins with His righteousness, the righteousness they were supposed to have had in the first place.

CONCLUSION:

1. Where is the cross in your life? If it's not in the middle of your life, then perhaps it's past time for you to RETURN to that cross.
 - That cross will not co-exist with anything else in your life.
 - You must come to it, look up at it, embrace it with all your being and then serve it every hour of the rest of your life.
2. You were created by God for a specific purpose and the cross is your starting point in God's purpose for your life.
3. The answers to the three questions asked by man are:
 - You came from God. From the cross you will go to a prepared place. You have something to do for God which only YOU can do.