BIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS II (Acts 16:25-34)

Introduction:

- 1. People ask questions for many reasons:
 - a. Some want to see if they can "stump" the preacher.
 - b. Some have an "agenda" they want to push.
 - c. Some want the preacher to make a point for them.
 - d. Most have a genuine interest to learn.
- 2. We encourage every genuine Bible question whether from the congregation or from listeners to our radio and television programs.
 - a. I do not know all the answers.
 - b. I do know where the answers are found.
- 3. We have five questions that have been put in the question box.

Discussion:

- I. "HOW CAN I BE MOTIVATED TO READ THE BIBLE?"
 - A. A balanced and regular diet is essential for one to be healthy.
 - 1. If one does not eat regularly, he will become weak.
 - 2. If one eats very little, his appetite will decrease.
 - B. Christians must feed on the Word of GOD (1 Pet. 2:2).
 - 1. If one does not study regularly, he will grow weak spiritually (Heb. 5:12).
 - 2. If one studies little, his desire to study will soon cease.
 - C. One needs a regular program of Bible reading and prayer.
 - 1. Set aside a time each day when you can be alone to study and pray without interruption.
 - a. Spend 20 -30 minutes in reading and prayer.
 - b. Read the Bible in order, two chapters a day.
 - c. Concentrate and take notes.
 - 2. The more one does it, the more he will want to.
 - 3. We cannot grow if we do not study God's Word!

II. "HOW DOES ONE LEARN TO BE MOTIVATED BY LOVE AND NOT FEAR?"

- A. GOD uses fear as well as love to motivate us to do His will.
 - 1. People who live in sin ought to fear the judgment and wrath of GOD.
 - a. The Jews on Pentecost were "cut to their hearts" when they learned they had killed the Son of GOD (Acts 2:37).
 - b. Felix was afraid when Paul preached to him (Acts 24:25).
 - 2. Love is also a great motivation to obey GOD (1 John 4:10,11).
- B. Often people are initially moved by fear, but grow to serve GOD out of love.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:18,19).

III. "IS IT WRONG TO GO TO ANOTHER CHURCH IF A FRIEND INVITES YOU?"

- A. To answer this question, let us ask some questions?
 - 1. How many churches did Jesus establish (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4)?
 - 2. Does it make a difference what we do in worship (Matt. 15:8,9; (John 4:24)?
 - 3. How will attending with my friend be understood?
 - a. Will he think I agree with him?
 - b. Will attending with him help me to "teach him the way of the Lord more perfectly?"
 - c. Will my friend accept an invitation to come and worship with me?
 - 4. Am I forsaking the worship of the Lord's church to attend with him (Heb. 10:25)?
- B. The Bible must be our standard (John 12:28; 2 Tim. 3:16,17).
- IV. "WILL ALL OUR DEEDS BE REVEALED IN THE JUDGMENT? IF GOD FORGIVES MY SINS, WILL I FACE THEM AGAIN IN JUDGMENT?

- A. The Bible teaches there will be a day of Judgment (Acts 17:30,31).
 - 1. All will be judged on that day (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - 2. All will be revealed on that occasion.

"Fear GOD and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man. For GOD will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is bad" (Eccl. 12:13,14).

B. When GOD forgives, He forgets.

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psa. 103:11,12).

"For I will be merciful to their unrightousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Heb. 8:12).

- C. There is a difference between those who have repented and those who have not.
 - 1. It will be a fearful thing to face God in Judgment in one's sins (Heb. 10:31).
 - 2. If one's sins have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus, he will never see them again (Rev. 1:5; 1 John 1:6-2:2).
- V. "WHAT IS THE BOOK OF JASHER MENTIONED IN JOSHUA 10:13?"
 - A. This book is also mentioned in 2 Sam. 1:18.
 - B. Smith's Bible Dictionary says: "It was probably written in verse; it has been conjectured that it was a collection of ancient records of honored men and holy deeds. It is wholly lost."
 - C. Inspired men sometimes quoted from uninspired works if they were accurate (Acts 17:28; Tit. 1:12,13).

Conclusion:

- 1. The greatest question of all is: "What must I do to be saved?"
- 2. If one has not obeyed Christ, he must do so (Acts 8:12,13).
- 3. If one has obeyed but sinned, he needs to repent and confess (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7,9).