

Submitted Questions at Snack Shop Box Pt. 2 (thank you Sarah)

On the cross, why did Jesus say “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

- **Matt.27:46;** Jesus was quoting **Ps.22**.
 - Hebrew practice: Kesher – “connection” – Quoting the first line of a text meaning to bring into mind a connection to the rest of the text. Jesus quoted the first line of Psalm 22 which spoke profoundly to what He was experiencing, but the hearer/reader isn’t supposed to stop there. They are supposed to connect this moment in Jesus’ life to the rest of the Psalm too.
 - **Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 14-18, 19, 24** – Foreshadows the cross and answers our question
- **Deut. 6:4, John 10:30:** The Trinity was never divided nor is it divisible. The Father did not separate Himself from the Son. Nor did the Father remove His presence from the Son.
- **What did take place? 2 Cor. 5:21:** Jesus was keenly aware of God’s presence. Jesus experienced horrible distress, agony, and loneliness, which we can’t comprehend, because the Father’s presence which had always (from eternity past) been of infinite loving favor and fellowship toward Him was exchanged for His infinite wrath and hatred. The Son, the 2nd in the Trinity, had never experienced this before.
- Our sin and guiltiness were counted against Him. (**Isaiah 53:5-6**). Jesus, the Son of God, who loved God with such fidelity and passion that He never desired to sin, felt the heart-wrenching guilt, crushing weight, and hellish penalty of all the sin of all the believers throughout the ages. **1 Pet. 2:21-24**
- Justification: Jesus took our punishment. He took our guilt (ex. of serving a sentence), and gave us the merit of His righteousness. We’re not only counted as having not done bad things, but counted as having always and perfectly done the right things.
 - Jesus experienced God’s wrath without mercy, so we could experience God’s mercy without wrath.
- **Why did Jesus do this? John 17:1-2**

How can I tell if I’m truly saved?

- Have you repented, believed Jesus died for you?
 - **John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10, John 5:24**
- Do you trust in God’s promises?
 - **John 5:24, 10:27-28**
- Do you have a growing taste or godliness and obedience?
 - **1 John 2:3-6** – Obedience
 - “If you is what you was, you ain’t.”
- Do you have a growing ‘gag reflex’ for worldliness?
 - **1 John 3:4-10** – Practicing righteousness
 - **James 4:4**
- What do you love? Are you growing in love for God and His people?
 - **Matt. 22:37** – Greatest commandment

- **1 John 4:7-8** – love for His people
- Our salvation isn't based on anything we can do (right), but what Jesus did. Keeping our salvation isn't based on our faithfulness, but His. **John 10:28-29**

What is the most damaging thing to the Christian faith? A lack of fear of the Lord.

- **What is the fear of the Lord?** Fear = Hebrew “yir'ah” – fear; terror. People often undermine this phrase with saying, “it means you respect God a lot.” Let's take a survey of how people in the Bible reacted when they encountered holy, omnipotent YHWH.
 - **Gen. 17:3** - Abram fell on his face.
 - **Ex. 3:6** – When God appeared in the burning bush, Moses hid his face.
 - **Ex. 20:18-21** - *the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off*
 - **Is. 6:1-5** – cried out “*I am a man of unclean lips of a people of unclean lips!*”
 - **Ez. 1:28-2:2** – He fell on his face. The Lord's spirit had to lift him to his feet.
 - **Job 4:14-15,17** (Elephaz) – God visited him in a vision. “*Dread came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake... the hair of my flesh stood up.*”
 - **Dan. 8:17** – Daniel - “I was frightened and fell on my face”
 - **Matt. 17:6** – At the transfiguration they, “fell on their faces & were terrified.”
 - **Rev. 1:17** – John fell down at His feet like a dead man.
 - **These were all suddenly and sharply aware of God's incomprehensible magnitude, eternal power, piercing knowledge, infinite holiness, and just hatred for sin. And there they stood weak, exposed, and sinful.**
 - **Matt.10:28** - *do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. – Jesus*
- Fearing the Lord is far more than respect. It is trembling at the infinite gap between His majesty and our unworthiness, between His power and our frailty, between His all-sufficiency and our desperation.
 - **Define “Fear of the Lord”:**
 - **Heb. 12:28b-29** - *let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.*
 - **Deut. 10:12-13,20-21** - *And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? [...] You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. 21 He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.*
 - **A reverence and awe of God which compels obedience, love, and worship.**
- The fear of the Lord draws us TO Him.
 - **2 Cor. 7:10** – Godly grief to repentance.
 - At the mountain, when the people were cowering, listen to Moses' perspective on fearing God: **Exodus 20:20-21**: Moses' response to His presence was to get closer.

- A believer trembles in awe at the cross of Christ where God's wrath was fully executed but His extravagant love for us was fully displayed. The fear of God brings us to repentance and postures us to receive His forgiveness. Moses knew God's character. Moses knew he belonged to Him. He knew God's love.
 - Remember Jesus' scary verse? Let's keep reading.
- **Matt. 10:29-33**
- There is great blessing in fearing God.
 - **Prov. 9:10** (It's the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom opens her mouth with her first insight: the knowledge of God.) **Prov. 28:14** – "blessed" - happy
- BUT, A lack of the fear of the Lord increases sin
 - **Rom. 3:9-18** – all are sinners. Why? Lack of the fear of the Lord.
 - Without fear of the Lord, we'll say, "There's no judgement; no calling to account. Why should I be obedient, humble, or need to be purified? I'll do whatever I can rationalize or get away with."
 - What's satan's strategy when a believer is struggling with temptation? **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** – "At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real . . . Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God."
- A lack of the fear of the Lord increases the wrath of God –
 - **Rom. 1:18**
- Our enemy, properly titled satan (meaning accuser), can only counterfeit what God has made good twisting it into something anti-god. He takes something honorable like hard work and promotes greed. He takes something beautiful like love and promotes lust. Fearing God moves us to obedience, love, and worship, the proper response to beholding our holy, sovereign Creator. But the accuser has twisted this into something else called the spirit of fear (**2 Tim. 1:7**) which is anti-god. The difference. The spirit of fear screams at us saying, "You're unworthy! Run away because you're unworthy." The fear of the Lord is the Holy Spirit laying His hand on your heart saying, "You're unworthy... so get closer. Press into your Intercessor who purchased you with His own blood. Run to the throne of grace."
 - A healthy fear of the Lord effects our view of scripture, our obedience, whether we pass on our faith, if our worship is genuine, if we'll fight for holiness, and etc.
- **How can we grow in the fear of the Lord?**
 - **Ps. 86:11**
 - Prayer – it must be taught by God, Himself. We can't muster it on our own.
 - Walk (Obedience) – obedience to God's word. Not our own standard but His.
 - When we realize the chasm between our righteousness and His, it humbles us to see we'll never live up to His expectations on our own.
 - Unity with Him – Jesus prayed for this in John 17
 - **Deut. 31:12-13**
 - God's word + Observe (Obedience)

How can we spot false teachers?

- **Matt. 7:15-16a** – *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits.*
 - What fruits?
- **2 Peter. 2:1-3** - *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*
- **2 Peter 2:1** - Does what they teach align with the whole of scripture? Or does the verse they're using simply align with what they're teaching?
 - Are they controlled by scripture or are they controlling scripture?
- **2 Peter 2:2-3** - Who benefits by my devotion to what they are teaching? At the heart of false teaching is the "assumption" that if I do the right things then I will be blessed by God, and if I do the wrong things then I will be cursed by God. God is a way for my personal benefit. He has (wealth/healings) treasures to unlock if you'll do this or that. = Greed/sensuality
 - "Self-ism."
 - Ex. **What are your thoughts on Joel Osteen? Should I be living my best life now?**
 - Jesus is not a means to an end. We exist for God's pleasure and glory. God doesn't exist for ours.
- Do they add anything to the gospel? Jesus only OR Jesus + _____ .
 - **Eph. 2:8-9**

When did eternity start? How can God always have been? Doesn't everything have to start somewhere?

How does God know everything?

- **Genesis 1:1** – At the state of beginning-ness. This is the point where the timeline of our reality began. We can sort-of wrap our minds around something beginning and then lasting forever. But notice, at the beginning, God already was. The bible doesn't limit the word "eternity" to only existing in one direction.
 - **Revelation 4:8** – (The angels have a better view of Him than we do.)
 - **Ps. 90:2** – from everlasting to everlasting
 - **Job 36:26** – He's beyond understanding, and His years are uncountable
- **Isaiah 55:8-9, Job 11:7, Ps. 50:21** (one of the sins of the wicked is thinking God is like us)
 - Our logic is an important tool, but it operates according to the rules of our reality, the physical realm. Because it's all we've known, our understanding is limited to our experience here.
Examples:
 - **Logic** - Nintendo 85' controller trying to connect/function with Ps5 console.
 - **Understanding** - A man born blind trying to help another man born blind understand what light and seeing by it is.
 - **Relatability** - Fish, whose very anatomy is made for water trying to understand living and breathing air.
- What did God create?
 - hendiadys - the expression of a single idea by two words connected with "and."
 - E.g. NY to LA = USA
 - **Col 1:16** - Everything in existence. Spiritual realm, universe, our planet, our DNA, time, space, and matter.