

# Sermon Notes

## Christianity's Greatest Questions

### November 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Christianity's Greatest Questions**
- This series is in the line of apologetics/defending the faith.
  - o Not really about theological differences between Christian groups.
  - o Comes from my experience of going from someone outside the faith to a committed follower.
- Pastor Mike's testimony.
  - o Upbringing/assumptions re religion.
  - o **Matthew 7:7-8**
  - o Overwhelming, evaluate sanity, intellectual angst => Depression => Anger
  - o Holy Spirit baptism.
  - o 12 years in I start in pastoral ministry.
- Set the stage for curiosity.
  - o Not social pressure to conform, but freedom to explore the things of God. **Matt 7:7.**
    - I want Good Hope to be a place where I would be welcome at my various stages.
    - The Bereans, **Acts 17:10-12.**
      - Paul and Silas were not threatened by the Berean's study of Scripture!
      - If what we believe is true, we need not be threatened by questions!!
  - o Three things needed to safely explore the things of God. Significant miss on one of these is bad.
    - 1) Study the Scriptures like the Bereans.
      - Don't just look inward to clarify your opinions. Ground yourself in Scripture.
    - 2) Hear from God/Holy Spirit. **John 16:13**
      - Get this wrong and you are in trouble. Quiet your spirit. Don't have a horse in the race.
    - 3) Align yourself with the right people. Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.
      - **Matthew 7:15-20, Luke 6:39, 2 Peter 3:15-17.**
      - But hey, people are people. Keep them in their rightful place!
- As I've explored with freedom I've gotten more orthodox in my beliefs, so don't get nervous!
  - o I used to really freak Tranette out! I did my research before I opened my mouth.
  - o If you explore earnestly and honestly you get secondary stability. **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- Earnest exploration.
  - o Responses to Intellectual Angst: skepticism, earnest exploration, submission to cognitive dissonance, and walking by faith. (People are complicated, could be all of the above!)
  - o I've progressed along the scale of earnest exploration to walking by faith. But I still explore!
  - o Upcoming topics: Can I trust the Bible?, Science vs Religion, Problem of Evil, Hypocrisy.
- If you have big questions don't worry, you are safe here and I believe God will reveal Himself to you.
- Wherever you are, I implore you to believe **Matthew 5:8.**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!