

We Don't Have to Know EVERYTHING

By Jason Hilburn

Most people are naturally curious. We generally have a desire to learn more about things in which we are interested. Those who believe in the inspiration of the Bible and are interested in spiritual matters will delve into the Scriptures to find the precious words from God that they crave. Jesus said, *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled"* (Matthew 5:6). After one finds the truth, he should obey it to be saved (Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 1:22), but it is essential that we continue to study the Scriptures so that we will grow and be approved by God. Peter wrote, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"* (1 Peter 2:2). Paul instructed Timothy to *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15).

When studying God's Word, it may be easy for some to get caught up wondering about things that God has not revealed, and some may even become frustrated because they cannot discover every little detail. The fact is that there are some things we do not need to know, and there are some things we must know. The following are examples of things we do not have to know to go to Heaven:

We do not have to know what kind of bush the "burning bush" was. *"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed"* (Exodus 3:1-2).

We do not have to know the exact location of Moses' tomb. The book of Deuteronomy reveals that *"...Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulcher unto this day"* (Deuteronomy 34:5-6).

We do not have to know why Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. *"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him"* (John 3:1-2).

We do not have to know what Jesus wrote on the ground. *"This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground"* (John 8:6-8).

We do not have to know what Paul's thorn in the flesh was. *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the*

flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure" (2 Corinthians 12:7).

On the other hand, there are many things we must know to go to Heaven:

We must know about Jesus Christ. Jesus is an eternal member of the Godhead, by whom all things were made: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made"* (John 1:1-3; cf. 8:58; Colossians 2:9). He is the Son of God who became flesh by being born of a virgin: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14; cf. Matthew 1:18-23; Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14). He is the Messiah of whom the prophets spoke (John 1:45; 4:25-26; 5:39; 1 Peter 1:11). He proved that He was the Son of God by His miracles and unparalleled teachings (Acts 2:22; John 7:46). He lived His life on earth without committing even one sin, even though he was tempted in every way that we are (Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11). He humbly gave His life by crucifixion as a sin offering for our sins (Matthew 26:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11). As was foretold, He rose again three days after His death, giving those who obey Him the promise of being raised to eternal life through Him (1 Corinthians 15; Romans 6:3-5; 1 John 2:25). He is the Christian's High Priest, and the only Mediator between God and man (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5). There is no other way to Heaven but through Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

We must know how to be saved through Christ. Our faith in Christ comes from the Word of God: *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17). Without faith we cannot please God: *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"* (Hebrews 11:6). However, our faith must be an obedient faith, or it will avail us nothing: *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love"* (Galatians 5:6; cf. James 2:14-26). We must obey the command to repent: *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"* (Acts 17:30-31). We must obey the command to confess our faith in Christ: *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 10:32). Finally, we must obey the command to be baptized for the remission of our sins: *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"* (Acts 2:36-38).

We must know how to live faithfully in Christ. Once we have been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-5), there are many things that God commands us to do if we wish to serve Him faithfully. As already mentioned, we must continue to study (2 Timothy 2:15), but we must also be people of prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17); we must preserve

our Christian influence to glorify God and keep others from stumbling (Matthew 5:13-16); we must *“abstain from all appearance of evil”* (1 Thessalonians 5:22); we must teach others the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); we must *“visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction”* (James 1:27); we must assemble when the other saints assemble (Hebrews 10:25); we must worship God *“in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:23-24); and we must do anything else the Scriptures instruct us to do, receiving forgiveness for any sins through repentance, confession, and prayer (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-10).

The Scriptures reveal everything we need to know to get to Heaven: *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Timothy 3:15-17; cf. 2 Peter 1:3). Although we are under the Law of Christ rather than the Law of Moses (Colossians 2:14; Galatians 6:2), the principles of Deuteronomy 29:29 still apply: *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”* Let us focus our attention on what God HAS revealed, rather than what He has not revealed.

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