

Answers with The Bishop October 2018

1. Question based on Dan 12:4,9

Yahweh instructed Daniel to “shut up and seal” the book till the time of the end. The meaning of “shut up and to seal” is to keep secret and to hide.

So how can this Word that was commanded to be hidden and kept a secret “TILL THE TIME OF THE END” be taught EFFECTIVELY and INTELLECTUALLY from Daniel (2500 years ago) till now?

And what is this increasing knowledge that had people running to and fro; how can knowledge increase if the Word was sealed up and kept a secret?

Daniel kept what God said a secret until he allowed what he wrote to be read.

The time of the end is determined by certain events that would make sense to those who read the prophecy.

In other words when the time arrives the revelation of Daniel will make sense to the people of that time.

The **running to and fro** refers to the amount of world-wide travel taking place daily and the technological and informational advances that take place.

2. Question based on 1 Corinthians 7:26-39

In these scriptures, it reads as if Paul **is not** encouraging marriage for the unmarried due to the times we're facing and to spare all from everyday troubles that marriages has (GNB).

He (Paul) states, there is not much time left, and married men/women should live as though they were not married, etc. These scriptures read as if married people concern themselves with worldly matters to please their spouse and I disagree.

This doesn't give much hope for singles looking to join in holy matrimony just because we're living in the last days. Please help bring light to these scriptures. Thank you!

This is a great question! The apostle Paul was addressing Christians living during the time of great persecution under Caesar Nero.

He was called the first persecutor of Christians by Tertullian.

They were covered with the hides of wild beasts and chased to death by dogs, nailed to crosses and set fire. Nero even used them as torch lights during the night when the sun went down.

History says he had Paul beheaded and Peter crucified upside down!

It indeed was a difficult time for the church and Paul says a married man had tremendous responsibility to watch out for himself, as well as his family.

A married man had to set aside his own needs to benefit his family.

Not to mention the marriage must be an example of Christ's love for the church and give himself for it!

The married man's response to the world will be different than the unmarried man.

The married man's response to the world affects his wife and children; in the public square his family is judged by his actions and attitude—he can bring great harm to his family by doing certain Christian activities in public.

While the unmarried man can be bolder in his display of faith because if he's thrown in prison he has no wife and children who will suffer!

Paul says there is also a difference between the wife and the virgin!

The wife likewise must concern herself with her husband, how she pleases him, not only in private but her appearance in public, her actions and attitudes in public all reflect on to her husband.

As you can see being married during the time of Caesar Nero magnified the actions and attitudes of Christians; everything they said and did was looked at under a microscope.

And could mean the difference between life and death!

I believe the apostle Paul is **not** telling saints **not** to marry, I believe he is asking them to think about marriage more deeply and completely because of the times they were living in—and so should every generation.

3. **Question:** Is it a sin to drink, I'm assuming alcohol is meant here!

KJV Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Drinking too much wine causes people to talk foolishly and arrogantly, strong drink causes people to argue and brawl. Drinking often and for pleasure can lead people astray!

KJV 1 Timothy 5:23 Drink no longer water but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

The apostle Paul is giving medical advice to Timothy who probably had stomach or digestive problems that **a little wine** would help him with.

Jesus turned water into wine in **John chp 2!** Some places in the world drinking wine was more common than clean water; so drinking alcohol is not a sin in and of itself.

GWN Ephesians 5:18 Don't get drunk on wine, which leads to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit?

4. **Question:** How do you know you've found your soul mate?

First of all, **“soul-mate”** is not a biblical term!

The earliest known use of soul mate is found in an 1822 letter from English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge to "a Young Lady" in which he writes, *"To be happy in Marriage Life, nay ... in order not to be miserable, you must have a Soul-mate as well as a House or a Yoke-mate...!"* Merriam Webster's Dictionary

Definition of *soul mate*:

- 1: a person who is perfectly suited to another in temperament.
- 2: a person who strongly resembles another in attitudes or beliefs.

We must be **careful not to let the world define our world** view of what marriage, family and community should be!

Ungodly and non-biblical expectations of people can be a major reason why people don't have healthy relationships in marriage and otherwise.

Looking for the **perfect person** to marry is a fallacy!

GWN 2 Corinthians 6:15 Can Christ agree with the devil? Can a believer share life with an unbeliever?

Christians are to look for other Christians to marry first, then look at the other qualities a person may or may not have as the foundation of the relationship.

There is no **perfect** mates because there are no **perfect people!**

The person you are when you married may not be the same person 5, 10 or 20 years down the road!

Marriage is more about the spirit than it is the soul!

5. **Question:** How do I sow my seed and keep sowing it until God brings about a harvest or my prayer is answered?

How do I know if the miracle I am praying is asking God for magic or a supplement to my life? How do you know if God is planning to give you a miracle or wants to walk you through until you are delivered?

This is actually several questions, so I'll try to separate and answer them as clearly as possible!

First, how do I know keep sowing seed until harvest?

GWN Genesis 8:22 As long as the earth exists, planting and harvesting, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never stop."

Sowing and reaping will always happen as long as the earth remains!

We just have to wait for harvest time!

Secondly, is your pray magic or not?

Simply put "**magic**" is a form of sorcery and or witchcraft where a person uses natural and supernatural forces to influence things in their favor rather than faith in the One True God.

When you prayed and asked Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins, you did nothing else but pray in faith believing He forgave you and by faith you believed and received forgiveness.

This is the exact same way we pray and receive everything else from God!

KJV Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 Whenever you pray, forgive anything you have against anyone. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your failures."

The first things Jesus says is.... "**Have faith in God.**" I like to say, Have God honoring faith, a faith that responds to God's love by obedience to Him!

And thirdly, How do I know if God is planning to give me a miracle or wants me to walk through my test?

First let's **define** what a miracle is! Some may call things miracles that aren't a biblical miracle.

A miracle is an event that goes contrary to the laws of nature, in other words nothing and no one could possibly made this happen, it was an act of God!

Now let's define a **test**! A **test** is an event designed to prove or determine what we know and who we are!

I suspect if you can walk through your situation (pass the test) you don't need a miracle, you just need faith and patience.

ESV Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*NIV **Hebrews 6:12** We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*