****C3 Questions

*C3 exists to glorify God and edify the body by knowing and delighting in the Father through the joy and love of the Spirit and unity in the Son.*

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

Got Milk?

In what ways are you sometimes tempted to shy away from declaring the whole counsel of God's word? What reason or thoughts lead to this shyness?

Where’s the Beef?

In 2 Tim 3:16-4:1-5, Paul gives a charge specifically to pastors and generally to all believers regarding the Scriptures. In v16-17, how does he motivate us to preach the Word?

* Paul lists several things that are true about Scripture that should be our foundation and confidence for fearlessly proclaiming in:
  1. All Scripture is inspired by God. Literally this means "God-breathed." 2 Peter 1:20-21 says that men were inspired to write the Word because they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
  2. Not only is Scripture a product of God but it is effective for teaching, for reproof (exposing sin), for correction of sin or error, and for training in righteousness (unwavering commitment to uphold and display the value of the name of God)
  3. Finally, the Word if effective to make saints mature (conformed to the image of Christ) and full equipped for every good work. 2 Pet 1:3 says we have everything we need for life and godliness.

What requirements does Paul lay on pastors? In your experience, how has a failure to fulfill this pastoral charge affected a church?

* Paul urges pastors (and saints) to...
  1. Preach the Word - literally this means to herald or proclaim the Scriptures
  2. To be ready to preach the Word at all times and in all situations
  3. To convince - this is a reference to rational and logical arguments
  4. To rebuke - this calls to mind the correction and warning of 3:16
  5. To exhort - to build up or encourage in the truth
  6. To do all of this with patience and continual instruction
  7. Be watchful and sober in the adherence to the Word over fables
  8. To endure suffering - ridicule or persecution for holding to the Truth
  9. Make the gospel known (do the work of an evangelist)
  10. Complete the ministry that God has called to

Read Number 25:1-13. This passage tells the story of Phinehas (a Levite) and God's covenant with him. In your owns words, what is going on in this story? (Hint: use NLT or NET)

* The set up for this passage is that the prophet Balaam was hired to curse the Israelite but God would not allow him to do it, instead turning Balaam's curses into blessing. So Balaam instructs the King of Moab to seduce the Israelites to sin with foreign women to incur God's wrath on them.
* The Israelites fall for the temptation and have sexual relations with Moabite women, leading them to worship their pagan gods as well.
* Because the Israelites bear the name of God, God is zealous that his glory and name not be defiled and so He calls Moses to execute the leaders of this sinful movement.
* In the course of Moses announcing the judgement, a man takes a Moabite woman into his tent in the sight of everyone assembled - an open act of rebellion.
* Phinehas, who is a Levite and descendant of Aaron the priest, executes the Lord's wrath on this couple by thrusting a spear through them. That act ended the plague God had brought on Israel as a result of this sin which killed 24,000 people.
* Finally, God commends Phinehas' zeal for God's glory and makes an eternal covenant of peace with him and the rest of the Levites, promising them the priesthood.

How does Phinehas obey the command of Mal 2:2 to "take it to heart to give glory" to God's name? What is his reward?

* Phinehas obeyed the command to give glory to the name of the Lord by executing those who were blatantly disregarding God's name by sinning. They did not esteem or feel the weight of who God is and so they acted unrighteously. Phinehas on the other hand felt the weight of God's name so heavily that he was willing to kill to uphold and display that value and glory.
* God rewarded Phinehas and his descendants with the priesthood - the lifelong privilege to steward God's Word, God's worship, and God's presence for the people of Israel.
* How does Phinehas' example contrast with the priests we see in Malachi's day?

What does it look like today to be zealous for the name of the Lord and to take it to heart to give glory to His name? (1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:17&23, 1 Pet 4:10-11)

* 1 Cor 10:31 - Do everything to enjoy and magnify the weight and worth of God
* Col 3:17 - Do all things in such a way that they conform to the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks in all things to God the Giver
* Col 3:23 - Do all things passionately (from the soul) as if they were all directly done for the Lord
* 1 Pet 4:10-11 - In everything, rely on the strength the Lord provides (Acts 17:25) so that God's glory is recognized in your weakness and His provision

Are You Satisfied?

How has Covid-19 pandemic helped you to love and cherish God in new ways?