

TOP FIVE QUESTIONS

Based on Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, following are the top 5 questions that college students are asking. Ravi Zacharias has spoken at 100s of colleges around the world addressing these honest questions, including Georgia Tech, Harvard, Ohio State, Cambridge, Colorado State, and Iowa State.

What is the meaning of life?

How can we know that the God exists?

How can God allow evil to occur?

How can we know that the resurrection of Jesus really occurred?

Why is Jesus Christ the only path to salvation?

These questions reflect the **truth** our young people are seeking, in conjunction with their seeking **love** and **security**. I believe these are also questions in the hearts of the boys at the *Boys Home of the South* to whom we have an opportunity to minister each Tuesday evening.

If you are interested in being nurtured to minister truth and hope to young people as they ask these questions, Ravi's CD *The Top Five Questions* is a great equipping tool, and can be obtained at www.rzim.org.

A PERSONAL QUESTION

"Is God leading me to be a disciple-maker as a full-time vocation as I sense is my heart?" To do so would require I enlist a ministry team to support me as a home missionary.

At this time, I just don't have a clear answer. What I do know is that every child of God is already in full-time ministry, because Christ lives in, and ministers through, each of us full time! So, we are to encourage each other in the unique ministries God places us. And I do know that God has given me a job to minister through and to provide for me and Joy. So, I'll continue taking one step at a time.

The number of people to whom I am ministering through discipleship counseling is the most in my 5 years at *Christ Life Ministries*. Referrals are through friends, *In-Touch Ministries*, and a new Yellow Pages ad.



February/March/April 2007

Could it be that questions tell us more than answers ever do?

(song lyrics by Michael Card)

I recently had the opportunity to sit on our front porch with our great nephew. He was full of wonder and questions as he pointed to birds, squirrels, airplanes, clouds, etc. Ravi Zacharias, a Christian apologist, well notes that the pursuit of the meaning of life begins in a young life as **wonder**, then progresses to the need for **truth**, then progresses to the need for **love**, and then finally progresses to the need for **security**. The older you get, the more it takes to fill these God-given needs of your heart.

Jesus Christ alone brings **wonder**, is Himself the **truth**, testifies to us the beauty of pure **love**, and gives us **security** beyond the grave. I am like a little boy every day of my life now as I **wonder** in amazement of His cross and resurrection...and out of that wonder I grow in the **truth** that Christ is alive and I am one with Him...and out of that truth I grow to experience His **love** for, in, and through me...and out of that love I grow to realize how **secure** I am in Him and how free I am to genuinely share Him with others.

I have surrendered my life to simply encourage people *to wonder in the cross and resurrection of Christ*. The genuine meaning of life flows out of that child-like wonder.

This newsletter focuses on questions that come from *wonder*. I believe that transformation comes more from honest questions than pat answers.



Jesus said, "Unless you are converted and become as a little child, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 13: 18).

Gregg Gibbons CHRIST LIFE MINISTRIES PO Box 155 Simpsonville, SC 29681
864.228.HOPE gjeggrace@earthlink.net www.ChristMyHeart.org

COULD IT BE

Song lyrics by Michael Card
Note: "You" and "Man" refers to Jesus.

Could it be You make Your presence know so often by Your absence?
Could it be that questions tell us more than answers ever do?
Could it be that You would really rather die than to live without us?
Could it be the only answer that means anything is You?

It's a question I can't answer, an answer I cannot express...
...that the gentle Man of Sorrow is the source of happiness.
I'll never solve the mystery of this magnetic Man...
...for I must believe to understand.

QUESTIONS REGARDING "END TIMES"

Some Christians claim that the end of this world is near because, in part, there are increases in earthquakes and hurricanes. This claim is based on verses like Matthew 24:7-8 and Luke 21:25, "There will be famines and earthquakes. All these are the beginning of sorrows. And there will be distress of nations, and perplexity, the sea and waves roaring."

However, when I recently checked these claims for myself through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I found the claims misleading. The average number of world-wide tropical storms each year continues to be around 90. And seismographs available since 1900 show the number of earthquakes above a 6 magnitude has not significantly changed. The apparent rise in total number of earthquakes is attributed to the fact there are 8,000 more seismograph stations in the world today with the ability to detect small earthquakes.

I long to teach people not WHAT to believe, but WHO (Jesus) to believe. Transformation in people comes from a personal word from God, and not from some man's interpretation of God's word for them. Following are three questions I am sincerely asking regarding "end times" to fulfill the yearning in my heart to personally hear from God, and to encourage others to do the same.

1. Could it be...that thinking so much about the *end times* can take my gaze off of the indwelling Christ in the *now times*?
2. Could it be...that God does not need a cataclysmic act of judgment to add to the finished work of Christ?
3. Could it be...that the end is not about *man's time* but is about *God's purpose* of all of history which is to reveal His Son?

I have listed 60 more questions on my website www.ChristMyHeart.org.

GRACE LIFE CONFERENCE

In February, I had another opportunity to help teach a 10-hour *Grace Life Conference* in Hendersonville, North Carolina (see photo below).




This was the second opportunity to use the Power Point presentation I developed last summer. Below are two of the Power Point slides that address the important issue of identity.

Identity is through...

BIRTH

You are child of God!




Unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **John 3:3**

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we shall be called **children of God!** **1 John 3:3**

Identity is a...

GIFT



You are righteous!

Those who receive the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through Jesus Christ. By one Man's obedience many will be made **righteous**.
Romans 5:17, 19

But of God you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us...**righteousness**.
1 Corinthians 1:30

Not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that **righteousness** which is through faith in Christ. **Philippians 3:9**

If you are interested in learning more about the *Grace Life Conference*, please contact me. It is a great opportunity for small groups in homes, churches, and retreats. It is also great for large groups; my friend Mark Maulding of *Grace Life International* in Charlotte recently taught the conference to 400 in a church. The truths and the tools from the *Grace Life Conference* are the foundation of Christ-centered counseling ministries such as at *First Baptist Church Atlanta*.