

Tough Questions 2026

Week 1

Fairview Missionary Church | Angola, IN

Scripture: Assorted

Speaker: Joel Greenwood

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All right, so I'm in the hot seat today. All right, that's why that was put up there. The introduction is going to intentionally be short so that I can get to as many questions as possible. Last year, we did this series for the first time called Tough Questions, where you guys could submit your questions to me about Scripture, about life, about faith, and I did my best to answer those questions from a biblical perspective. That was our goal. What does the Bible teach us about these questions that we have?

And we did discuss a variety of topics last time, if you remember, we talked about dinosaurs, we talked about the end times, we talked about cremation and aliens and Mormons. It was a broad spectrum of all the different things that you guys had questions about. And since you appreciated that series, I decided to do it again this year and to tackle your tough questions.

I appreciate this series, although it is difficult for me and kind of scary to be in the hot seat answering these questions, not just in front of all of you, but we do have an online audience, and this is played on the radio, and so I know that what I say, other people will hear, and that's just scary, right? And so, I do enjoy learning, though. I enjoy the ability to maybe debate with others or to answer these questions.

Just the other night when I was at home, I was watching YouTube videos on my phone because of everything that's going on in the world, and I like to learn. So I was watching YouTube videos about enriching uranium, which they might have flagged. I might be in trouble now with the government, just so you know. And I was watching videos about Persia and Iran and everything that's going on. And my middle daughter, Mariah, asked me, "What are you doing?" And I told her, I said, "I like learning." And so I'm trying to learn about what's going on in our world, and she said to me, "Dad, you are the only person that I know who likes learning," okay?

I don't think that's true, all right? I think there's other people that enjoy learning, but I do believe as followers of Jesus, we should be able to talk with people. We should be able to answer life's questions, or at least hold an honest conversation about some of these struggles. And so, let me give you kind of the guideline of how this is going to look and what we're going to do. I've already said it, but you need to know the foundation for the answers to all of the questions that people ask me are from the Bible.

I want to approach this from a biblical perspective. The Bible is going to be my guide, and so if the Bible gives a clear answer and addresses the question, that's where we're going to go first. Now, if the Bible doesn't give a specific answer to the questions that you all have asked, my next goal is to search the whole of Scripture to see if we can get some principles and truths that would help us to answer these questions that come from Scripture.

And if the Bible doesn't talk about it specifically, and it's very difficult to even get some truths or principles from Scripture, then all I can tell you is I will do my best to pray about them, to ask for wisdom as we come to conclusions on some of life's difficult questions. Now, you need to know that I view this entire series. I see it as a conversation between friends, all right?

So I am going to do my best to be faithful to God, to be faithful to His Word, and with all of that said, I have one caveat. I do reserve the right to change my opinion in the future if new information or insight is given to me. You guys all heard that, right? Now, I'm not talking about the ones that have clear biblical guiding. I will not change my opinion on those. I'm talking about the ones where we're just using the best wisdom possible.

I reserve the right to change my opinion if new information or insight is given, so please don't show me this video 20 years from now and say, look what you said, okay? So I reserve the right. Now, just in the one week leading up to this series, there were over 20 questions that were submitted, all right? So a lot of questions just like last time. And what I'm going to do is the same that I did last time, lest you think I'm avoiding a difficult question, all right?

I am not doing that purposefully. I am going to go from the first question that was submitted and go in order that I received them. Does that make sense? So I'm not skipping any, so if I don't get to your question, it's not because it was too hard or I didn't want to address it. I'm going to go in the order that I received them, but there is going to be one exception, all right? The only exception is going to be one of the first questions I received had to do with the idea of gambling in casinos, surprising, right?

Those of you that live in Steuben County, you know this is kind of a hot topic right now, and that's great, and I want to discuss it, but I think it was like the third question I received, and I want to make sure that I get through the whole thing and don't get in the middle of it, and then have to finish next week. So that is going to be my first question I address next week, all right? So if you want to hear my opinion, a biblical perspective on gambling in casinos, come back next week. You can invite your friends and neighbors. We can have a fun discussion, all right?

That will be the first question next week that we will discuss. We will get to it. And that is a perfect segue into my final point before we begin. It is very probable that at some point in the next two weeks, you are going to disagree with me or get angry with me, all right? So I'm just going to warn you of that. I want you to know I can handle it. I'm okay with that. I'm always up for a good debate, and I'm willing to listen and hear from your perspective, that's okay.

I firmly and have always believed that as the body of Christ, we are better together and there is a collective wisdom, all right? Amongst us. And so I enjoy those types of conversations and am willing to discuss if we disagree. I don't think we'll have any today that will be a problem, all right? So let me pray and then we will jump into the very first question that was submitted, all right? Heavenly Father, we do thank you for today and for the opportunity to try to answer some of life's difficult questions.

Some of these are very personal. They're issues that we are dealing with right now, and others of them maybe are more philosophical or trying to understand Scripture better. But I do thank You that You do guide us and lead us and direct us. We pray that in our short time we have here today that You would grant us wisdom and understanding as we read Your Word and as we try to answer these questions. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

All right, the very first question that was submitted to me that was actually submitted before I even announced to the congregation that we were going to be doing this because they knew I was going to be doing it, so they had kind of an in, I apologize, all right? But this is the first question that was submitted. What does it mean to honor your parents as an adult? All right, what does that look like to honor your parents as an adult? Now, obviously we have some Scripture here that I want to read first.

We go back to one of the Ten Commandments, Exodus chapter 20:12, where we read, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." And then the apostle Paul repeats this in Ephesians chapter 6, verses 2 and 3, where he says, "Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on earth." Now, I know the person who's asking this question, it's a more personal question as you think about what does it look like to honor your parents as they're aging and as you continue to get older.

And so here are some more follow-up questions that I think are appropriate to answer. Does honoring your parents as an adult mean that you always take their advice and do what they say, whether it's about money, about jobs, about how to raise your children, or anything else that they consider important? As an adult, are you supposed to take your parents' advice? Second question, does it mean that you must spend a lot of time with them, whether you enjoy their company or not?

Do you have to spend time with them? Is that what it means to honor them? Number three, does it mean that you must let your kids or their grandchildren spend lots of time with them even if the environment in their home is toxic? So maybe you're a believer and your parents that are older than you or elderly maybe are not believers, should you allow your children to spend a lot of time with them, maybe if it's a toxic environment?

And number four, does honoring them require that you have strong feelings of affection for them and you tell other people how great they are, even if you don't feel that way? Is that what it means to honor and respect them? Let me just tell you the answer to all of those questions is no. No, that's not what it means biblically to honor your parents. So what does honoring your elderly parents look like?

Well, when you look at Scripture as a follower of Jesus, I am given very specific commands of how I am to treat others, whether they are my parents or my neighbors or my co-workers, and so I am to treat others, including my parents, with respect, with gratitude, and with kindness, regardless of the past. We are called to do this with everyone. We do not have a license, according to Scripture, to be rude or unkind to our parents.

It doesn't matter what they have done or what they haven't done. We are called to recognize the significance of what they have played the part in our lives, both good and bad. They have shaped us and made us into who we are. We should recognize and offer gratitude that it is because of them that we exist, right? We all have something to offer gratitude for. It means being thankful for all of the good things that they have brought into our lives.

And finally, it means granting grace because no one is perfect, right? No one is perfect. And so it means granting grace. Anybody that has reached the age where you now have your own children, you know that you are not going to be a perfect parent either, right? There are already things that we have probably already done. I don't want any amen from the front row, but our children will grow up and they will probably say, you know, our parents weren't perfect. This is what they did.

You know, everybody has those things. And so it's important that we offer the same grace to our parents that they offer to us. We want to offer that grace. So what does this practically look like? I know this has all been kind of up in the air, so what does this practically look like? Let me just give you some ways that you can honor your parents, your elderly parents, as you're an adult. Number one, make regular phone calls, send messages, check in to show you care.

Check in to show you care. Keep a relationship with them. And I'm not going to give you an exact number of what that looks like. Now, as only God would have it, I didn't know my parents were coming this weekend until a little bit ago, all right? So this is the very first question I get to address, and so I try to stay in contact with them, but I'm not great. They would probably admit that. I'm not great, but I try to stay connected with them. It's letting your parents know you value the relationship. And so you do that by getting together with them, by making contact, phone calls, send messages, check in to show that you care.

The second thing that you can practically do to show respect and honor and kindness to your parents is to assist them with daily needs. If they live close, maybe it looks like running errands or performing household repairs. Maybe it's even preparing meals for them as they get older. And again, only God would have it this way. I had already had this in my message, so I have to say it. But one of the things that often our elderly parents need help with is technology, right?

They need help with computer stuff, and so again, as only God could have it, my parents come this weekend, and my dad comes with two cell phones that they need us to figure out how to get going for them, right? Now, gratefully, I have a 16-year-old son now that does that, so he did that with them yesterday. But that's some of the things that we can do. Just help. Just help whatever way you can, whatever way you are able to do that. We all need those types of things.

Again, the third thing you can practically do, value them individually, and be willing to hear their input, even if you don't always follow it. Be willing to ask the question, "Hey, mom, hey, dad, how would you handle this situation?" Just asking means a lot. All of us would like to be asked what we would do in a situation about somebody that we care about or we love. We certainly live in a culture and in a time where everybody loves to share their opinions, right?

This is the world in which we live with social media, and so it would just be appropriate. It's respectful maybe to ask your parents, what would you do in this situation? It doesn't mean you have to follow their advice or take it 100%, but I'm sure it would mean a lot just to be asked. What would you do in this situation? Finally, a very practical thing you could do, create memories together, if possible, spend quality time together, do things together.

Whether it's just holidays or birthdays or whether you maybe even can vacation together or do things together, show that you value the relationship. Proverbs chapter 23:22 says, "Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old," right? Respect them, honor them. This is from the Book of Proverbs. This is the Book of Wisdom. This is what we are to do. One final note before we move on to the next question.

Because I know that some situations are different. I am very blessed with my family, but I know that not every family is the same. It is okay to set appropriate boundaries to protect your family and your own health by limiting contact with an abusive or toxic parent. All right? There are some of us in here that you might say, "Pastor, that's great.

I get that from your perspective, but I'm a follower of Jesus and my parents are not, or one of them is not, and so because of that, the home is toxic, they believe things, they do things that just cause a lot of problems." I am here to tell you you can still honor and respect your parents and put boundaries on what that looks like.

One very practical thing, I mean, just as an idea, if your parents are not believers and your older parents, and they struggle with alcoholism, and so that is one of the toxic traits that is there, it is totally appropriate to set a boundary to say, you know what, we're probably not going to let our kids come over there and be there by themselves with you because we're just not sure what's going to happen. That would be an appropriate boundary. At the same time, don't use this idea of boundaries as an excuse to disrespect your parents.

These boundaries should be communicated if necessary. Conversations should happen as awkward or as difficult as they may be. I do believe that conversation is appropriate. Now, let me one final thing, because I know this is probably the basis of the question that I received from the person who asked this. If you are overburdened by the help your parents need, you should have an honest conversation with them to look for solutions.

Let them know what you are able to do, physically able to do, and your desire for them to have care and to keep living life how they're living, that you want them to have comfort, but have that honest conversation if that looks in such a way that you can't provide what is needed. Now, I'm kind of beating around the bush here, let's just practically talk about this, right? In our culture today, you often will have elderly parents that want to continue to live in their home. They don't want to move to assisted living.

And of course, as children, they don't want to put them in assisted living, but there could come a point where you say, you know what? You either live further away, or you do live close, but with my job and with my children, with everything we have going on, I can't provide the care that you need. You guys all understand what I'm

saying here, right? This is always a hard conversation. I don't have any wisdom in how to make this conversation any easier, except just be honest. Be honest with that conversation. Let your parent know I want this for you.

I want you to be able to stay in your home. But can we actually do that? Can we provide in a way that you're safe and that you're cared for and that you're looked after? And if not, what does that look like? We have some people in our church that their parents move in with them, and that's fine. We have others that say, you know what, assisted living is the best option. Others say, maybe move to a condo where there's not outside work. There's lots of options, but have the conversation. I would not tell you that following Scripture and honoring your parents means that you-- I'm not even going to say what I'm going to say.

Just love them. Love them well, be honest with them, respect them, have the conversations, and one final thing. I've had way too many conversations with elderly parents and children, just know going into it, not all siblings are going to provide the same level of care, right, and the same level of work. There is almost always going to be one sibling that takes that burden upon themselves and cares for their parents well, and there's almost always going to be one sibling that just seems to do nothing, all right?

That's just the way it works. I don't know why, but remember, we're called to serve, we are called to love, and so have that heart when you are taking care of your parents. That's what it means to honor them and to comfort them. Now you can see why we're not getting through 20 questions, right? That was question number one, all right? Let's just move on, we're going to get through as many as we can. Question number two, how should Christians feel about capital punishment? If you don't know what that is, it's the death penalty. Now, fortunately, there is a lot of Scripture on this, and so we do have a lot of it.

Now I need to make sure that I categorize some of it, all right? For those of you that are biblical scholars, I fully understand that the laws that were given to Israel in the Old Testament were part of what is called the Old Covenant. And you and I are not under the Old Covenant anymore. We do have a new covenant under Jesus Christ, while at the same time it is appropriate for us to understand that if God gave commands under an old covenant, that God does not change, and so the truths about God and about humanity under that old covenant still should teach us something.

Does that make sense what I'm saying? We don't have to follow them. We're no longer under the law, Paul says, but they do give us wisdom. Now, at the same time, we do have some verses in the Old Testament that are before the law, which means they're outside of this Old Covenant just as an understanding about human life. And that's going to be this first one that comes from Genesis chapter 9:6, where we read this. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed." And here is the reasoning for that.

For in the image of God has God made man. It is because of our worth. It is because of our value. It doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman or the color of your skin or anything else. We as human beings have value because we were created in the image of God. And so because of that, there is this idea that if somebody is going to desecrate that and take it upon themselves to take life, then by other men shall their blood be shed.

Let's read some more verses, all right? Exodus, now this is the law that was given to Israel. Exodus chapter 21 verses 12 through 14. Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow kills them is to be put to death. However, if it is not done intentionally, in other words, if it's by accident, but God lets it happen because he's in charge of everything, they are free to flee to the place I will designate. And so we have these cities that they could go to.

But if anyone schemes and kills someone deliberately, intentionally, that person is to be taken from the altar and put to death. Now let's go to the New Testament. Let's go to Romans. This is the Apostle Paul writing to the church in Rome, and he says this, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

So consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who

do wrong. So do you want to be free from the fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. So, this is in the New Testament. This is the Apostle Paul, and he's saying, "Listen, we have authorities, they've been established by God." He uses this phrase that they don't bear the sword for nothing. Now, again, theologians can debate. Some people want to say that just means that there's consequences.

It doesn't necessarily mean the death penalty, but I think as you look at the original Greek, it is fairly clear that the Apostle Paul is saying, "Yes, the sword can also bring death." This is one of the responsibilities of the governing authorities. And then in Acts chapter 25, we have the Apostle Paul, who is being tried before the governor Festus, and he's making his claim against Festus, and he says this, "If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die.

But if the charges brought against me by those Jews are not true, then no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar." Notice that Paul is saying, "If I have done something that by the law requires death, I am willing to die." That would seem that even in his own personal case, Paul is saying, "I'm okay if those are the consequences." And then finally, Deuteronomy chapter 17 verses 6 and 7.

On the testimony of two or three witnesses, a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. The hands of the witnesses must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people, for you must purge the evil from among you." Now, after reading these verses, it seems true to me from a biblical perspective that capital punishment can play a role in justice, which we also understand God is a God of justice.

Now, I recognize there can be a difficult balance between justice and mercy, which we are also taught in Scripture, but I want you to notice that just because we are forgiven before God, Scripture says, "Justified, just as if I never sinned, I am considered holy or righteous before God," doesn't mean that I don't still have to deal with the human consequences here on earth. You guys track what I'm saying, right?

Every single one of us has the opportunity to be seen as holy before God. We can be forgiven of our sins. That's this idea of mercy. It's this idea of grace. But that doesn't mean that I don't still deal with consequences. I think everybody in here could raise their hands and say, "You have dealt with human consequences because of your sin," right? All of us. All of us have dealt with that because there are things that we must deal with. And we see this in Scripture. One example is the thief on the cross next to Jesus.

One of the thieves that's next to Jesus ends up proclaiming Him believing in who He is, so much so that Jesus looks at that thief and says, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Your sins will be forgiven. You are made right before God, but notice what doesn't happen to that thief on the cross next to Jesus. He's not taken off the cross, is he? He still has to pay the consequence for what He has done here on earth.

I believe that God has given the government the authority to decide when capital punishment is due. And as I have said before, I believe we are to serve and live under the rules of the government as long as and up to the point that they don't violate God's rules, right? That's what I'm supposed to do. I like what one person said, let me read this quote.

"The death penalty is warranted and should be implemented only in those cases where evidence is certain in accordance with the biblical standard and where no other punishment can satisfy the demands of justice." I like that phrase. The death penalty is warranted and should be implemented only in those cases where evidence is certain and where no other punishment can satisfy the demands of justice.

One last word before we move on. I would not encourage Christians to rejoice in the death penalty, but rather that we would do our best to hold the tension between justice and mercy. Sometimes justice requires it, but it is

not a celebration. It is not a way to get a revenge or anything like that. There is still sadness even in the death penalty. All right. I've got through two questions.

I need to get through this third to keep up with the first service, all right? So we're going to go through this one fast, and it's a difficult question, all right? But I'm going to move quickly on this one. When a baby dies, do they go to heaven or hell? And what about those who are older, but may be mentally ill or handicapped and unable to understand, all right? The first phrase that I have to define, and before we even answer this question, is this phrase that we call the age of accountability. You've heard this before, right?

Now I want to define what that phrase means, the age of accountability, and then I want to let you know that this is not in Scripture, all right? This is a theological understanding that the church has had in interpreting Scripture. So what is the age of accountability? The age of accountability is the theological concept which suggests children are not held morally responsible by God for their sins until they reach a certain level of maturity and understanding of what is right and wrong.

You guys get that, right? You can't judge somebody before they know the difference between right and wrong. That's basically what they're saying. Now this phrase, age of accountability is not in the Bible, but it's hinted at in various passages concerning this idea of accountability, all right? Different traditions throughout church history have tried to view this as an age, and they ranged it anywhere from 7 to 13, all right?

Most people today, myself included, would not pick an age to define this age of accountability, but instead would define it as the point when a child develops the capacity to know God, recognize sin, and understand the need for repentance. So until they get to that point, I'm not sure how God can judge them. Most people don't pick an age. It's a mental understanding. So let's look at some scripture. Again, I'm sorry this is going to be so fast.

Deuteronomy chapter 1:39, "And the little ones that you said would not be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad, they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it." Here, we're talking about the Israelites when they were traveling through the desert into the wilderness. Before they entered the Promised Land because of their sin, God was going to judge them, and He says, "Listen, this does not apply to your children. They're not going to be held responsible for your sin.

They don't understand yet." And interestingly enough, according to Deuteronomy, does anybody know the age that they said anybody under this age can still enter the land, but anybody over this age can't. Do you remember the age? It's pretty high, it was 20. Anybody over the age of 20, you're going to die in the wilderness. Under the age of 20, you still may enter the Promised Land, so that's just one verse. Go to the New Testament, Romans 1:20.

"For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse." This suggests that accountability is tied to the ability to recognize God. This one, specifically through creation, we're all without excuse. Doesn't matter whether you're in America or Africa or anywhere else, we're all without excuse. We can recognize the need for God.

In a prophecy concerning the Messiah, Isaiah chapter 7 verses 15 and 16, we read, "He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the right or reject the wrong and choose the right. For before he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings that you dread will be laid waste." Again, this idea that there is an age where you begin to understand the difference between right and wrong, and then we have this interesting passage in 2 Samuel concerning David, Bathsheba, and their affair and the resulting pregnancy.

You guys know the story I'm talking about, right? David has an affair with Bathsheba, and so the prophet Nathan is sent by the Lord to David to inform David that because of his sin, the Lord is going to take the child in death. David responds by grieving and by praying for the child, but once the child was taken, once the child dies, David's

mourning ends, and his servants were surprised by this, and they asked him in 2 Samuel chapter 12, "Why are you acting this way?" While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and you eat.

And David answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and I wept because I thought, who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live. But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again?" With the answer being no, but he says, "I will go to him, but he will not return to me." David's words seem to indicate, again, it's not black and white, but they certainly seem to indicate that infants who die are safe in the Lord.

David could have simply been referring, "Well, the child's in the grave, and I'm going to meet that child in the grave," but it seems that it brought him some joy that he was going to see this child again, which you wouldn't have if it just meant that you were going to meet them in the grave. David seems to be acknowledging that I will go and see my child again. The peace that he felt suggests that he would see his baby son again in heaven. So here is my belief based on Scripture.

I believe that God does apply Christ's payment for sin to babies and to those who are maybe mentally handicapped since they are incapable of understanding their sinful state and their need for the Savior. You guys all heard what I said, that's my answer, all right? It's not just based on those Scriptures that I read, but it's also based on the idea of who God is in Scripture. God is loving, He is holy, He is merciful, He is just, and He is gracious.

Whatever God does is always right and it's always good, and you certainly can see from Scripture that God loves children and He defends their rights. You see that in Scripture over and over again. And so he who knows our hearts knows at what stage each of us is ready to receive the freedom to choose our eternal destiny.

I do believe that anything else would seem contrary to what the Bible tells us about God and also at the same time recognize we are finite beings trying to understand an infinite God, right? I get that in some of these questions, they're very difficult, but I do believe based on what Scripture says that if you've lost a child, if you've lost a loved one, if you have somebody that is mentally ill, unable to comprehend the difference between right and wrong, I do believe that the blood of Jesus covers them and that they will spend an eternity with Jesus.

All right, heavy questions, right? These are heavy questions. They're difficult, they're not easy. We look at Scripture to give us some guidance, and so I love that. I know we're going to have the kids come in here in a very little bit. We're going to sing a closing song and we're going to end with a baptism. But before we do that, I just want to clarify, we are answering these questions with Scripture. You guys have noticed that, right? A lot of Scripture in today's message, there'll be a lot next week as we try to address more questions. We did get through three questions.

Sorry, that's not a lot, all right? So we're not going to get to all 20, so here's what I'm going to do. I told us the first service as well. Even if I don't get through all of the questions from the stage, I will send you all of my notes after next week with all of the questions that we don't get to. And so if you have not signed up for Joel's journal, that's probably what I will send them through so that you guys can look through my notes. And one final thing, I have been working with the YMCA here in Steuben County. Many of you know Eric Yoder, I don't know if he's here today. Is Eric back there?

Yes, he is. Eric's been working with the area churches, I love it, just trying to stay connected with the YMCA, and he just asked for ideas. And one of the ideas I had suggested is it might be good to have times where we have what we call ask the pastor, where you can just come and ask questions to the pastor. It's very dangerous for me to say that I'm willing to do that, because I don't have time to do the research or whatever else, but he's been open to that idea, and so we're working through what that would look like, to have a time during the week where it would be free, right? Free to come in. And it wouldn't just be me, there'd be other pastors there as well.

And you can come in with these types of questions, and we would do our best to answer them on the spot. That's truly the hot seat, all right? But I encourage you to look for that. We'll advertise that coming up once we have some dates and times with that. To be able to answer these questions, because I think it's good to answer these questions. All right, let me pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for who you are and for your goodness in our lives.

Again, I know some of these questions are very personal as people are dealing with these situations in their own lives, and they're asking these questions, and they desperately want to know how do they honor their parents as they get older? What about a child that they lost? These are real questions, God. And so, I thank You that Your Word does address them. I thank You that I think we can come to some good conclusions on these.

And Father, it's our desire that we would honor You with these answers and with the questions, and that You would receive the praise from how we live. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.