**‘Confusing’ Questions Made Simple**

While I was fretting today over the idiocy of all these website glitches and sudden issues that constantly pop up with computers, the economic and financial mess that many of us are in, the family struggles, etc., I noticed a ‘small’ but important couple of words in **Colossians 3:1** that really perked me up!

But first, before I get to that special verse, let me say this… Near as I can describe it, all the stress and frustration causing junk that is going on ‘absolutely everywhere’ these days is nothing but a bunch of ‘reprobate’ minds trying to run the ship – and I say that without any doubt or hesitation.

They are more than just being mentally stupid / ignorant / uneducated; they are more than just politically different; they are more than just simple baby pooper snowflake generational millenniums. When you even try to simply reason with anyone with simple common sense or just trying to keep things simple and workable. they seem to have no clue as to what you are talking about... I mean – really. They honestly seem to have NO CLUE – and we can’t give them one no matter how hard we try!

I stand amazed more and more knowing that these glitches, new philosophies and issues really aren’t all that complicated! However, it seems their ‘education’ has made everything so complicated, they can’t even think straight – or sensibly – or even try to listen to reason!

* The difference between heaven and hell is not complicated!
* One single bible authority or many bibles with no final authority is not a complicated issue!
* Rightly divide or profane and vane babblings is a very simple thing to grasp.
* Universal church of believers versus local church social clubs is not a complicated issue!
* Legal or illegal is not a difficult concept!
* Obeying the established laws or disobeying them is not open for discussion!
* Saved or lost – seems simple enough to me, eh!

And I could go on with that list as I am sure you could too!

But the scholars, scientists, politicians, pastors, professors, administrators and teachers in our public AND private educational systems, business owners and business people, bosses, parents and family counselors, our friends and family, etc. have all become ***vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen***

***And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind.***

That’s it, no doubt in my mind! We are watching ‘reprobate’ minds in action! It is a most amazing, even unbelievable, simply stunning thing to observe!

If you want to read the complete description, read **Romans 1:16-32**. Paul, as always, states it all perfectly! And folks hate the KJB? I have to remember that these folks will even reject the true Christ when He returns after the mess the antichrist makes. They will be in the army created by the devil himself! **Revelation 16:14** – ***For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

And as I see it increasing these days, those reprobate minds are in full swing and are running the ship right into eternal shipwreck! This stuff always reminds me of my favorite story which is about Paul’s shipwreck. I read those verses in **Acts 27** and see some great application for great preaching today – I can totally understand the understanding that Paul says we can have from a rightly divided KJB!

***I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.* 27:10-11**

One of these days, the Risen Saviour, through Paul, will not be there to rescue them from that eternal shipwreck. **Romans 11:22** - ***Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.***

Anyway – back onto the trail of my point I want to make today. (Boy, that was one long bunny trail, eh!)

It wasn’t that long ago that Catholics would NEVER call themselves a Christian. They would say, “*I am a Catholic, not a Christian!”* However, today they call themselves Christians. When the news media talks about ‘christians, they are talking about Catholic church people.

Also, more and more people use the word “*believer*” in place of the word “*Christian*” today. That doesn’t work - anybody can be a believer – even the Monkees were believers – but what people ‘*believe’* in can be anything!

The word “*faith*” has become a Walmart word today – people have their own faith in whatever they want it in – even in themselves. However, it is a rare find if you find somebody who knows about or how to receive “***the faith of Jesus.”***

More and more denominations now use the phrase ‘*born again*’ – words we know to be not true if referring to being a Christian – but everyone else uses those words to mean different things – church membership, salvation, etc. but being ’born again’ has become common from anyone anywhere.

And now, it seems now that more and more denominations, etc. use the word ‘*saved’*. Their definitions are all different, of course.

Well, Paul does use the word ‘***saved’*** – and so should we. In fact, we can use any of those words previously mentioned but we always have to make it clear what we mean when we use those words.

For the ‘record,’ the following are the verses that Paul uses the word ‘***saved’*** – in case you do wonder how he used that word.

(skip to the end if you know these verses and want to see the verse that would most definitely speak the obvious truth to someone if you were to ask them this question…or if they ask if you are a Christian, a believer, born-again, have faith, etc. here would be your response.)

**“Saved” as stated by Paul**

**Rom 5:9**

***Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.***

**Rom 5:10**

***For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.***

**Rom 8:24**

***For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?***

**Rom 10:1**

***¶ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.***

**Rom 10:9**

***That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***

**Rom 10:13**

***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.***

**1Co 1:18**

***For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.***

**1Co 10:33**

***Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.***

**1Co 15:2**

***By which also ye are saved, if ye keep1 in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.***

**2Co 2:15**

***For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:***

**Eph 2:5**

***Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)***

**Eph 2:8**

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***

**1Th 2:16**

***Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.***

**2Th 2:10**

***And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***

**1Ti 2:4**

***Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.***

**2Ti 1:9**

***Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,***

**Tit 3:5**

***Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;***

So now you ask, “*What is this great verse you read today that shows me how I can ask others, or answer others, when the question of salvation comes up?”*

**Colossian 3:1**

***If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.***

If you want to ask someone if they are ‘saved’ – just be ready to explain – so actually, it is not really a big problem.

However…

If you want to be especially clear today, ask them, “*Are you risen with Christ!*” That ought to separate the religiously righteous (any denom) from the truth of being saved! Are they risen with Christ?

I would doubt that there would be all that many that would even know what exactly that means.

Just show them **Colossians 2:12** …***risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*** Keep reading to them if they let you – ***And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickended together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses…***

You can quickly cut the red religious tape by simply asking someone, “*Are you risen with Christ?*” “*Have you been quickened?*” “*Have you been ‘made alive’ by Christ*?  *Have you been separated from your sins? Have you been circumcised with the circumcision made without hands? Have you had the operation of God? Have you received the faith OF Jesus?*

That sure beats asking someone if they “…*know they are going to heaven when they die*,” because nowadays, with most pastors deceiving and manipulating their congregation with ‘better words’, etc., many folks will say yes to that question – although their answer would be quite a bit different than what it should be … such as “*I have been baptized*” (in any form, style – public, private, dipped, dunked, before or after, etc.) – *I am a member of a church – I am good giver – I go to confession regularly – I love my pastor…* They are just religious snowflakes who eventually will end up like today’s snowbirds – in a place where it is warm… and boy, do I mean warm!

So, if someone asks you if you are saved, simply respond with, “*Sure thing* - *I am risen with Christ!*” Then you can ask them if they are risen with Christ, too!

And then the door is open for you to discuss what being being *risen with Christ* means. If you have the time, you can show them the rest of **Colossians 3**, thus bringing in Paul, the RISEN Saviour, what the King James Bibles says and how their bible doesn’t say what the KJB says and has always said … and on and on you can go – IF they let you.

Chances are though, they will just say to you, ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad!”***