

PREFACE

Hope Evangelical Free Church in Wilton CT was blessed to have Pastor Alan Christensen as its shepherd for over 25 years. He was a Bible scholar and an intellect that loved his Lord Jesus. God had truly given him the gifts of preaching and teaching and he used them to bring glory to his Lord and Savior.

This book had its genesis in a Sunday morning worship service in 1976 where Pastor Christensen preached a sermon on eternal security. Some of the congregation had sincere questions about the sermon. Pastor realized that there was a great need to teach the congregation the answers that God had provided in the scriptures to the many significant questions of the faith. He made a determination to bring a series of Sunday school lessons/Bible studies covering these questions. The following passage from the first of these lessons, "Can Salvation Be Lost," explains why he set out on the monumental task to provide Biblical answers to many of the questions that all Christians have. "Last Sunday morning a sermon was preached from the pulpit of Hope Church which was drawn from John 10:28 and entitled, **Attempt To Steal A Miracle**. The thrust of that message was to assure believers that there is no possible chance that a sincere and true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior can ever lose his or her salvation. Since that time certain questions have been raised by some who were present regarding the position that was taken in that message. I welcome these questions and am proud to serve a congregation that takes very seriously what is being said from the pulpit front from week to week, even if there is disagreement in a given matter. I wish to use that sermon and the deep concern which has been shown on this subject as a catalyst to begin a new series of Sunday School studies which I am going to call, **Questions We Want Answered**. Long ago the King of Israel was visited by the Queen of Sheba "to prove him with hard questions." Solomon "told her all her questions: there was not anything hid from the King which he told her not." (I Kings 10:1-3) We have no Solomon present but we do have a complete body of Scripture and the Holy Spirit to help us answer the questions which continually besiege our minds and trouble people everywhere. Religious questions often disturb people because they seem so unanswerable or opinionated. But there is a very real way in which a loving God has made this kind of question the most answerable of all and it is with this assumption that we will proceed with this series."

By Pastor Christensen's count there are 83 topics (that we know of). Actually there are 85 topics as this editor discovered that he had numbered two lessons 74 and two lessons 33. The book actually contains 92 topics. The difference being made up of lessons that Pastor Christensen prepared for a new members class. This editor thought the lessons were important enough to be included in this manuscript.

The lessons were originally presented in a random order as the questions occurred to the Pastor. Accordingly, some topics are addressed twice, ie; Baptism. In order for the reader to more quickly find a topic that he has an interest in, this editor decided to publish the lessons in the following topical order; Doctrine, Spiritual Life and Practical Living. The lessons have been renumbered so that they are sequential in this book.

Pastor Christensen hand typed the stencil himself on a portable Smith Corona typewriter and printed them on a mimeograph machine. A short sample lesson, # 45, as Pastor Christensen originally prepared it, is included in the appendix. Each lesson averaged four pages in length, single spaced and typed from edge to edge on 8.5" x 11" paper. He did not intend for these studies to be published, so the finished document was not proof read. Every now and then there is an awkward sentence that obviously resulted from his typing his thoughts as they occurred to him. As the editor, I decided for two reasons to leave most of these sentences just as Pastor wrote them. First, to remain true to the accurate intent of what Pastor wrote and second, they accurately reflect Pastor as I knew him. Two separate instances occurred while editing when I came across sentences that I did not understand. For these two instances I sought the advice and help of Pastor Stanley Allaby, Pastor Christensen's close personal friend and author of the Foreword, in assisting me to make them more understandable.

This editor had saved 62 of the lessons. Betty Moll and Peter Christensen together had 16 of the missing lessons. This means that there are at least six lessons unaccounted for. The subjects of these missing lessons are unknown so their original numbers are listed in the Appendix of the Contents page under "Missing Lessons." If these lessons exist, and I suspect that due to numbering errors they might not exist, I hope in the course of time that they will be found, so this work can be complete.

In this 2nd edition there are included three lessons that Audrey Schmidt found in her files that were not printed in the 1st edition. They are lessons, 12.3, 12.4 and

14. It was also discovered that lesson 10 in edition 1, which was originally added by the editor, was substantially the same as lesson 4. Accordingly, lesson 10 has been removed from edition 2. The newly discovered lesson, **How Do We Know that Jesus Is The Messiah**, has been added as lesson 14. Original lessons 11-14 in edition 1 are renumbered 10-13 in edition 2. New lessons 12.3 and 12.4 are simply added after 12.2. Lessons numbered 15 to the end of the book remain unchanged. The editor is extremely pleased to have these lost lessons included in edition 2.

In all of these studies, Pastor Christensen used the King James version of the Bible for the many quotations that he provides. Italics are reserved for these quotations.

This is a major work of substantial effort and content. Pastor Christensen garners all of the guidance that God has provided throughout the Bible on the subject. He provides specific scripture references so that the reader can have the benefit of the Holy Spirits enlightenment. Where Pastor Christensen expresses his opinion he does so by prefacing the statement with the words, "In my opinion" or "I have satisfied myself that..." On controversial topics where Pastor expresses his opinion he makes it clear that this is his opinion and that the reader will have to make up his own. The mere thickness of this book can be very intimidating to the reader. I want to emphasize that each lesson can stand by itself. It is not necessary to refer to previous lessons except where a subject is covered in multiple lessons/parts. When a question arises about a subject, the reader can locate it on the **CONTENTS** page. This editor feels that these wonderful studies can be individually and corporately used as a guide in Bible Studies, small groups, Sunday schools, sermons and for individual reference. The editors Pastor, David Gish, mentioned that this book would be helpful as a reference for the indigenous African Pastors that he trains.

Information on how to purchase a hard copy of **QUESTIONS WE WANT ANSWERED** and a link to a website that contains a complete electronic copy of this work can be found at www.HopeChurchCT.org. Select the **Home Page**, then click on **Christensen Archive**.

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This work exists because Pastor Alan Christensen felt the need and the importance of providing answers from the Bible to many of the important questions of our faith. I was truly blessed for the many years that Alan Christensen was my Pastor and it is my hope and prayer that these lessons will be a blessing to you..... Editor