

CLARITY

THE ANSWERS

The CREATOR, thinking about God

? **What are the key words in the above passage? And why do you think that they are key words?**

A *The oneness of God; that we are to love God with all that we are because all that we are is down to Him. This is also a command! (Exodus 20)*

? **Why does God 'command' us to love him? Why might that not be a strange thing for God to do?**

A *God commands us to love him – not because he is needy and needs affection, but because when we love God we love that which is ultimate and lasting. Other things we love pass away, but God remains and is totally worthy of praise, worship and love and so he commands us to do this for his glory and our blessing.*

? **Where do we go to learn about God?**

A *1. The Book of God – the Bible. (2 Timothy 3v16,17; 2 Peter 1v21)
2. The Book of nature – the universe (Psalm 19v1).*

? **Why do you think it's important that God is an everlasting family or community?**

A *This is important because it shows that love isn't an invention by God, but that love is part of who God is. It is that loving nature that has reached out to us in Jesus. (John 3v16)*

? **What is the word that Christians use to describe God's three in oneness? T R I N I T Y.** (Luke 3v21-22 is a good example of God in Trinity)

The CREATION, thinking about Creation

? **Why do you think the people of Athens and human beings around the world are 'very religious'?**

A *We are made with a kind of God shaped hole in us that can only be filled by Him. But there is a big difference from being religious and actually loving God. The religious person may want peace, joy or certainty, but the true believer really loves and desires God. (Matt 6v33)*

? **Where does Paul begin his explanation of who God is? And why?**

A *At creation. We all want to know where we came from, and knowing that God is Creator helps us to understand our dependence upon him as creatures.*

? **Who do you think Paul is talking about in v26?**

A *Adam. Human beings are not the product of an evolutionary process but of special creation.*

? **Why did God make people and give them a place to live? (v26-27)**

A *God did this for his glory and so that they would find their hope and joy in him.*

The CRISIS, what's gone wrong?

? **Verses 1-3 – The serpent doesn't say 'Don't believe' but what does he do? He causes them to D O U B T.**

? **Verses 4-5 – but this is not where Satan's plan ends for he then gets them to D E N Y God's word.**

? **Verses 6-7 – then what happens?**

A *The doubt leads to denial and then leads to more sin. They do what God commanded them not to do v3.*

? **What is sin?**

A *Sin is falling short of God's standard. Every one of us has – that's why we need Jesus (Romans 3v23).*

? **Can you think who that might be? It's not hard.....!**

A *It's Jesus!*

? **How did Jesus defeat Satan?**

A *Jesus came over to our side to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. He lived perfectly so that his perfection could be put to our accounts by faith. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He rose to reverse the effects of sin in death. (Romans 3v21-23; 8v3)*

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The CALLING, Clues of things to come

? Why do you think that blood had to be shed for God to save his people?

A *It is because God's justice is as real as his love. Sin had to be paid for, Jesus paid sin's debt for all who come believing in him. (Romans 5v8)*

? Who might the blood be pointing to?

A *The blood is pointing to Jesus' blood which was shed on the cross for us.*

Bible time-line – put the following characters in the correct order.....David – Abraham – Moses – Isaiah –

a Abraham b Moses c David d Isaiah

The CHRIST, God in the Flesh

A Jesus rules! (Put in the number) 4

B Jesus took the blame and opened the way back to God. 2

C When we trust in Jesus his perfect life is credited to us. 1

D Jesus will return. 5

E This important event showed God's power; that Jesus was no fake; that the Bible is true; and brings hope to us. 3

The CHURCH

What is it? What is it for?

1 What was the first thing that we are told the apostles did?

A *The church exists for the glory of God, the building up of God's people and for the proclaiming of the Gospel. (Ephesians 3v10)*

2 What kind of people did they choose? (v3)

A *Those who were "full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6v5).*

3 What did the apostles see as being very important? (v4)

A *The preaching of the word of God v4.*

Three things then happened (fill in the blanks);

"... what they said pleased the whole gathering."
There was **U N I T Y**.

What was the second thing that happened?

There was amazing **G R O W T H** as more people heard and believed in Jesus.

There was **G E N E R O S I T Y** as people gave to the church so that others could be helped.

The CONCLUSION

Jesus is Coming Back

1 Knowing that Jesus will return brings **H O P E**.

2 Why is Paul (the writer here) so confident that Jesus will return? (v14)

A *The promises about him in the Bible regarding his earthly ministry came true – plus he said he'd rise from the dead – and he did! (See v14).*

3 Jesus' return will be **L O U D**. (v16)

4 News of Jesus' return is given to **E N C O U R A G E** us. (v18)