

The process of education in most of the western world involves discovery of information. To determine whether the information has been captured in the minds of students, tests are given with the expectation the students will give correct answers to the questions raised. Let's consider some of the questions life raises.

David Brooks reminds us that the biggest presents graduates are given may be big boxes of nothing (*The Second Mountain*).

1. Empty Box of Freedom.

But what is a graduate supposed to do with his/her freedom?

2. Empty Box of Possibility.

But what if the graduate does not know what he/she wants to do with life?

3. Empty Box of Authenticity.

But what if the graduate has yet to discover who/what he/she is? What is a person supposed to do with his/her life?

4. Empty Box of Autonomy.

But what if a graduate is not ready to be completely on his/her own?

Prior to graduation, many students received encouragement and support. The world beyond school may see graduates as unproven possibilities. If a person wants to find their way in the world of today, they would do well to explore the biblical questions about a meaningful way to live as they find purpose in life. Paul encouraged the early Christians with the words, *test everything. Hold on to the good.* (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Let's allow biblical questions to help us test what we believe.

Questions of the Bible point to the Central Questions of Life.

- *What is truth?* *John 18:38*
Everyone searches for the straight edge of truth.
- *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?* *Matthew 16:26*
Every day we trade one day of our lives for something.
- *Am I my brother's keeper?* *Genesis 4:9*
Every person determines what kind of person he/she will be.
- *Who is my neighbor?* *Luke 10:29*
Every encounter with another person displays the way we choose to relate.
How many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? *Matthew 18:21*
Every individual wrestles with forgiveness, whether the problem is forgiving oneself or someone else.
- *Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?* *Luke 5:22*
Everyone talks more to himself/herself more than to anyone else. What is said and heard in the mind shapes the soul.
- *Where can I go from your Spirit?* *Psalms 139:7*
Everywhere we find ourselves, the Spirit of God is already there.
- *What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?* *Matthew 27:22*
Everyone has an opportunity to experience a living relationship with Jesus Christ.
- *How can anyone be born after having grown old?* *John 3:4*
Everyone would like to enter the land of beginning again but only through Jesus can a person become a new creation.
- *If a man die shall he live again?* *Job 14:14*
Everyone faces the reality of a "limited" time on earth. With Jesus, we cross the river of death to the Promised Land.
- *What shall I do to inherit eternal life?* *Luke 10:25*
Everyone is given the opportunity to live in relationship with Jesus in life, death, and eternity.
- *Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?* *Luke 6:46*
Everyone who responds in faith to Jesus is expected to follow his way, truth, and life.

Your answers to these questions and many more will determine the shape of your faith and the impact of your life. Let the Spirit of Jesus guide you.

The New International Version, 1984 is the Bible translation for today's Bible study.

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