

“WHAT IF?”

I know we all have asked ourselves, “*What If,*” and then moved on to consider other thoughts. Some of these “What ifs” were important and some were not important. This has sadly been witnessed by our own life when we come to the point in life that we realize we made the wrong decision. There are a lot of questions that could be asked: “What if Adolf Hitler had developed the Atomic bomb first?” “What if I had never been born?” “What if I had never learned to walk?” and the questions could go on and on. I would like to ask some questions that are very important to our life?

WHAT IF WE ALL STUDIED LIKE YOU STUDY? I am assuming you are a Christian and know you have a responsibility to study the Bible! According to II Tim. 2:15, each Christian has the responsibility of being a student of the Word of God – “*15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,*” KJV. We should know there is a “**spiritual food,**” and that we need the food for the soul, “*2 As newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow there by unto salvation,*” I Pet. 2:2. Without this spiritual food you cannot go to heaven. The only way you can get this food is by **studying** the New Testament. Have you been studying the book for “**spiritual food,**” that you might grow thereby unto salvation? What if we all studied like you study?

WHAT IF WE ALL LOVED AS YOU LOVE? “*23 If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him,*” Jno. 14:23. How can a man say, “I am a follower of Christ and do not what he says?” If you love God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, you will be a **doer** of the **WORD**. When asked by the Pharisees, “*36 Teacher which is the great commandment in the law?*” Matt. 22:36. Jesus then responded, “*37 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,*” Matt. 22:37. I would understand the Lord to be saying – “keep my commandments!” In verse 39 he says additionally: “*39 And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,*” Matt. 22:39. So, if one loves his neighbor he will act in a beneficial manner to his neighbor. The Lord said, “*40 On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets,*” Matt. 22:40. We realize one must give his full attention to loving God: **body, soul and mind**. One doing this will obey and become a Christian, Rom. 6:17; he will attend all the services, Heb. 10:25, for the purpose of studying and worshiping God, Jno. 4:24.

WHAT IF WE ALL LIVED AS YOU LIVE? When one obeys the Gospel, he arises from baptism to walk in **newness of life!** This means I am not to lie, cheat, steal, murder, curse and all the other things that are listed as “**a work of the flesh.**” The list of sins in Rom. 1 are to be avoided. You see, I have been made free from those sins and should no longer walk therein, “*21 For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the HOLY COMMANDMENT delivered unto them,*” II Pet. 2:21. Once a person obeys the Gospel he is not to turn from it. We are not to be involved in the “**works of darkness,**” Eph. 5:11. We are Christians, Acts 11:26, and have the responsibility of setting a good example before those of the world and the members of the Lord’s church – “**Let you light shine!**”

There are many other areas in which we could ask ourselves the question “*What if;*” but I believe you get the point. Each person should ask himself; or, herself concerning their life – “Am I living the way the Lord would have me live?” Do I need to make changes in my life; if so, I need to start now. Caa

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