

# *Steeple News*

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## **February 2024**

### **We Need to Ask the Right Questions**

One of the things we probably remember from our school days is that we needed to have the right answers to do well on a test or to complete a class we were involved in. One of the things we probably need to learn is that it is just as important to ask the right questions as it is to have the right answers.

The apostle Paul, at the point of his conversion, asked God, "Why are you persecuting me?" Which led him to ask another question of the maker, "What would you like to have me do?" These questions changed his life.

One of the things we might ask ourselves is "How would our life change if we concentrated more on asking the right questions?"

A distinguished teacher did a study on poverty. He came to the conclusion that it made no sense to ask, "What causes poverty?" Rather, he thought the question should be "What causes wealth?" It does very little good to seek to answer questions about what we are trying to avoid. We should concentrate on what we are trying to gain or accomplish.

Think about it, doesn't a good question asked already contain a part of the answer?

I read a story about a small town that was dealing with a problem with their water supply pipe. The pipe crossed a small gully and the children of town loved to balance themselves on it and walk across it on the way to school. This activity would bend and break the pipe. The city fathers suggested that they might wrap the pipe with barbed wire or run an electric charge through it. Or perhaps, they reasoned, we could build a fence to protect it but that would also demand a great expense. After some discussion, an elderly man, perhaps in his eighties asked this question, "Why don't we get a stronger pipe which won't break when the children walk on it?" Problem solved when the right question was asked.

The medical community is now concentrating more on, "What causes a healthy lifestyle?" rather than "How do we give up unhealthy habits?"

Too often we ask, "How can we change others, such as friends and family?", when we probably should be asking ourselves, "How can we change ourselves to be a better influence on others?"

How often do we ask God to fulfill our desires when we should be asking, "Lord, what would you have me do?"

We certainly do need answers to today's problems, but we won't receive the answers until we ask the right questions. It is at that point that we can claim the promise of our Lord, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally...; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

Rev. Hans Lillejord