

## “Who Became His Counselor?”

### Introduction.

1. One of the great questions of the New Testament is “Who became His Counselor?”
2. This question is recorded in Romans 11:33-36.

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Rom 11:34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

Rom 11:35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

Rom 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him {be} the glory forever. Amen.

- a. The NKJV has “Who has become His counselor?” ASV “Who hath been his counsellor?”
- b. The word “counselor” comes from the Greek “sumboulos” [**soom** boo los] meaning “advisor, counselor.”
- c. This word occurs only once in the Greek New Testament.
- d. The Hebrew word “counselor” [a **tsa**] occurs in the Old Testament in reference to God. (Isa. 40:13).

Is 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His **counselor** has informed Him?

- 1) It is foolish to believe the omniscient God can be informed about anything.
  - 2) His omniscient mind knows everything - past, present, future.
3. It is found in a context in which Paul declared that both Jews and Gentiles can have access to God’s salvation if they come to Him and stay with Him by faith. (Rom. 11:20, 32).

Rom 11:20 Quite right, they were **broken off for their unbelief**, but **you stand by your faith**. Do not be conceited, but fear;

Rom 11:32 For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.

- a. God saves all, Jew or Gentile, who trust and obey His Son. (Heb. 5:9).

Heb 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

- b. He cuts off, condemns, all those who reject His Son and refuse to obey Him. (Jn. 3:36).

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

- c. Physical Israel, as a whole, turned their backs on God’s beloved Son sent to redeem man.

d. Because of their unbelief the Jews were rejected and cut off from salvation because they refused to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

4. Another question in this great text is “who has known by the mind of the Lord?”

- a. The answer to this question is that no one [no human] knows the Lord’s mind unless He reveals what He is thinking. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God. (1 Cor. 2:10,11).
- b. Finite minds cannot know or comprehend the mind of the One who is infinite in intelligence and understanding.
- c. As already stressed God knows everything past, present or future.
- d. Nothing is hidden from the infinite sight and mind of God. (Heb. 4:13). Prov. 15:3

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

- e. Everything man knows or ever will know was known by God even before man came into existence by the creative power of the Almighty God.

5. Looking again at the question “Who became His Counselor?”

- a. Many human beings think very highly of their intelligence and even believe they are wiser than God.
- b. They believe God should listen to them and change His plans, instructions and who can or cannot be saved.
- c.. But no human can understand or be wiser than the One who is infinite in knowledge and understanding.
- d. Some feel that the Lord should feel privileged to hear their ideas and even their demands on a variety or all matters.
- e. This is utter foolishness and arrogance on the part of man. (Isa. 55:8-9).

Is 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

Is 55:9 "For {as} the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

- f. As humans, we need to learn **to know our place**.
- g. Our place is not to be God’s instructor, corrector or judge.
  - 1) We are not God’s creator, but we are His creation. (Gen. 1:26-27).
  - 2) We are “a little lower than the angels,” (Psa. 8:4, ASV, NKJV] but we do not even begin to be on the level of our Creator. See “angels” (Heb. 2:7).
  - 3) We have been created not to instruct God or to question Him, but to be submissive to Him and to glorify Him.

h. There are some realities that we need to face and accept.

### **God Does Not Need Us**

1. It is hard for arrogant man to accept, but God does not need us.

a. He is an Eternal Being. (Deut. 33:27).

Deut 33:27 "The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'"

b. He did not have a beginning, but after multiplied trillions of years [eternity] He created man and all life. See Genesis chapters 1 & 2.

2. In describing the God of heaven to the Athenians who did not know Him, Paul made this bold and truthful statement. (Acts 17:25)

Acts 17:25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all {people} life and breath and all things;

a. God needs nothing. He is all-sufficient.

b. He is infinite in every way, and not finite in any way!

c. There is nothing we can do to add to the intelligence, wisdom, wealth of God.

d. Things may be new to us, but they are not new to the all-knowing Supreme Being.

3. **God does not need you or me or any other human, but we are the ones who need Him!**

a. It is in Him we exist and are able to live and carry on life.

b. Paul declared. (Acts 17:28).

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

1) Without God we would not exist.

2) Without God we would not be able to do anything and would have no future or real purpose.

### **God Does Not Need Our Input**

1. Presidents and prime ministers and other important leaders have hand-selected advisors.

a. No person can be an expert on every subject.

b. No person can always make perfect decisions even with the best of advisors.

1) All advisors all fallible - none are always right and some are regularly wrong.

2) All leaders and advisors make mistakes and many make decisions to gain power, wealth, influence, etc.

2. These advisors often wield great influence over national, state and local leaders.
3. Many times the president or other leaders will not make a move until they have consulted with their advisors.
4. In stark contrast to presidents and other important leaders, God does not seek or need advice, suggestions from any human including you and me.
5. Even the angels, as created beings, are only ministering spirits for God's children. (Heb. 1:14).

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

- a. God gives assignments to His angels, but He does not seek their counsel.
- b. They are created beings who have been created to work for God and bring glory to His name.
6. God "got along" extremely well [perfectly] before any human being, including us, came along.
7. He will continue to manage things just fine [perfectly] long after you and I leave this world.
8. It is the height of arrogance to think that my thoughts somehow could be helpful to the Lord.
9. It is blasphemous to think that God somehow would be better off if He would consult you or me or any other human on any particular matter.

### **God Does Not Need Our Permission**

1. God does not need our permission to do whatever He wills to do.
2. He does not need our "okay" in order to declare that something is right, required, wrong, or acceptable.
  - a. God is Sovereign, but He has delegated His authority to Jesus. (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 17:2).
  - b. He is the Potter and we are the clay.
3. If God says that a lying tongue or other evils are an abomination, then that is just what they are. (Prov. 6:16, 17).

Prov 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

Prov 6:17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

- a. We may rationalize lying and other evils, but God does not.
- b. They are an abomination to Him.
- c. He will cast liars and others who practice evil into hell. (Rev. 21:8).

Rev 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part {will be} in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

4. If God says that the purpose of water baptism is to wash away sins, then that is just what it is. (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

- a. Some today want to argue with God and maintain salvation comes before baptism or even without baptism.
- b. God teaches salvation comes after baptism. (Jn. 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21).

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

1 Pet 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

5. If God says His Son is the only way to heaven, then that is just what it is. (Jn. 14:6).

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- a. Many humans do not like or agree with this bold statement of Jesus.
- b. They wish to believe that men can be saved by morality or in a host of other ways.
- c. This does change what the Bible teaches. (Acts 4:12; Heb. 5:9).

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Heb 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

6. If God says receiving or not receiving physical circumcision has nothing to do with a person's salvation, then that is the way it is. (Gal. 5:6).

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

7. If He says that He will judge the world on the day which He has appointed, then that is exactly what will transpire. (Acts 17:30-31).

Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all {people} everywhere should repent,

Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

- a. Many believe there will not be a judgment day or if it comes they will be saved on their terms.
- b. God's word teaches those who have not obeyed God and lived by His requirements will be lost in hell. (Matt. 25:46).

8. Many believe they can earn their way to heaven, but this is not what God teaches. (Rom. 6:23; 11:6; Eph. 2:8-10).

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

a. When we appear before the Lord on Judgment Day all our righteousness will be as filthy rags to God without the blood of His Son.

b. Only those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb will be saved. (Heb. 9:22).

Heb 9:22 And according to the Law, {one may} almost {say,} all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

9. Many believe it does not matter how man worships God, but it matters to God. (Jn. 4:24; Matt. 15:9).

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Matt 15:9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'

10. No, God does not need our permission to speak, act, command or forbid.

## **Conclusion**

1. God's thinking is way above ours, ours leads to spiritual death. (Prov. 4:12).

Prov 14:12 There is a way {which seems} right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

2. He does not need human counselors, never has, never will!

3. It is not our business to try and run God's affairs.

4. Rather, we ought to be concerned about finding God's answer to this question: "What shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 22:10).

Acts 22:10 "And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.'

5. We should spend our lives listening to God, serving and obeying Him, bringing glory to the Supreme Being.

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