

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

# I. Which Number Fits?

Which number  
goes here?

3

4, 8

+

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=

7

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When we look at the problem above, we can see that only one number fits. Only one can be right; they can't both be right.

There are also two ideas about the world and the universe. They can't both be right. One must be right and one must be wrong.

One idea about the universe is that the universe has always been here. The other idea is that it hasn't always been here.

The Bible says that God created everything and that's what we believe - that the universe hasn't always been here.

The other idea is that no one created everything; that it's always been here.

People that don't believe in God no longer say that things have always been here. I want us to see why they don't say that anymore and what they say instead. Because those people still don't want to believe in God.

The reason people no longer say the universe has always been here, is because science tells us that everything is running down. Everything is running down just like a clock that was wound up. That means that something started it. If you don't want to believe in God that's a big problem for you.



So, since those people can no longer say the universe has always been here, they say that what's in our universe came from another universe.

What's wrong with that? Maybe  $3 + 8$  does equal 7! Is what they say true? Let's see if it is by looking at an example:

If I gave each of you a Valentine's Day card like the one below and asked you "Did someone make this card (either by hand or with a machine)?"

What would you say?



Everyone holding their card would say "Yes, someone made this card."

But what if I said "No. This card wasn't made by anyone. It came from Shreveport!" You'd probably say "Mr. Gary's lost his marbles. It still had to be made by someone."

That card HAD to begin somewhere.

That is the problem that people have who don't believe in God. We KNOW from science that things can't create themselves. Things have to come from somewhere. The universe had to come from somewhere because we know from science that the universe had a beginning.

If I say this universe came from another universe, then how did THAT universe start? It had to come from something that isn't a thing. And that's just what the Bible tells us: "In the beginning (The Bible agrees with science that there was a beginning - that things haven't always been here) God (He's not a thing - The Bible tells us he's something else - Spirit) created the Heavens and the earth." We know that anything that is a thing has to have a beginning and the Bible tells us God isn't a thing! He's something else - Spirit! We know that something that's a thing can't have been here forever, so if God is not a thing, there's no problem.

When we know about God, we don't have a problem. The universe is here. Something can't come from nothing and that fits perfectly. SOMEONE (GOD) created everything. And we see that  $3 + 4$  equals 7 like it should.

## II. Ryan's Lunch Buffet



Since we know there's a God who made everything, did He make us and just forget about us? Does He expect something from us? Can't I just do what I want and pick and choose how I'm going to live like I pick and choose what I want at Ryan's?

If Someone created us (and we know He did), then He must have created us with a purpose in mind. You don't make something as awesome as the universe and as awesome as a person without having something in mind.



After all, you don't garden with a fork or eat with a Hoe.

Why not? For one thing, eating with a hoe would be VERY messy and gardening with a fork would be impossible. The reason is that they were not created to do those things.

**So, why were you created?**

## The Bible tells us why we were created



Acts 17:24-31 (God's Word Translation)

“The God who made the universe and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in shrines made by humans, and he isn't served by humans as if he needed anything. He gives everyone life, breath, and everything they have.

From one man he has made every nation of humanity to live all over the earth. He has given them the seasons of the year and the boundaries within which to live. He has done this so that they would look for God, somehow reach for him, and find him. In fact, he is never far from any one of us.

Certainly, we live, move, and exist because of him. As some of your poets have said, ‘We are God's children.’

So if we are God's children, we shouldn't think that the divine being is like an image made from gold, silver, or stone, an image that is the product of human imagination and skill.

God overlooked the times when people didn't know any better. But now he commands everyone everywhere to turn to him and change the way they think and act.

He has set a day when he is going to judge the world with justice, and he will use a man he has appointed to do this. God has given proof to everyone that he will do this by bringing that man back to life.”

Wow! God wanted children. Not just beings who were created to be servants, but children! That's why we're here. And so the longing I have inside for someone is a longing for Him!

One person called it “A God Shaped Hole.” We all have other longings - we all want to be loved by a parent, by a friend and someday by someone we can be married to. But the reason really happy people are only those who are Christians is because we have a longing for God, too! And that longing can only be filled by God!

### III. A Big Problem

We can see in what read from the Bible, that God did something for us and that He also expects something from us. What are those two things?

Let's answer that by first talking about a problem that God had:

God made us in His image (that means we are like Him). That means there is a part of us (our spirit) that's eternal (not made of things) - that means it will last forever just like God.

How is that a problem? Where God lives, nothing that's sinful can live and all of us have sinned! The Bible says in Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;" And the only other place our spirit can go is a place called Hell. It is a problem for God because He doesn't want that to happen to us - we're His Children! And it's a scary problem for us, too, because we don't want to go there, either.



So what did God do about our problem?

God had someone perfect take the punishment for our sin.

WAIT! How can that be when all of us have sinned?

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) but by me."

Why did He say That? Because Jesus who is part of God came and lived a sinless life and died in the place of all who accept Him.

**It makes it as though we HAD NEVER SINNED!**  
(if we accept that gift from God)

But God is not a bully. He doesn't make anyone take His gift!

## IV. How do we get His gift?



Like we said before - God is not a bully. He wants us to choose Him and His gift to us on our own. If we don't want to accept His gift, He won't make us!

You may say that NOT accepting His gift is stupid. I agree!

So how do we accept His gift?

When we're no longer children (usually around 12 years old), God asks us to die to ourselves and live for others. That's what baptism is all about. The Bible in Romans 6:4 tells us "through baptism we were buried with him into his death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we, too, should live an entirely new life." (Internation Standard Version)

He made a simple way to accept His gift



We bury our old life & start a new one living for others like He did



# V. How do we live for others?

1. **Become part of His Church** - The Bible tells us that the new Christians met together to learn more about God and to encourage each other to do good. “Let us continue to hold firmly to the hope that we confess without wavering, for the one who made the promise is faithful. And let us also make it our habit to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. We must not continue to neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some. Instead, we must continue to encourage one another even more as you see the day coming nearer.” (Heb 10:22-25)



2. **Learn about Christ and become like Him** - Jesus served others and not Himself even though He is God. The Book of John is a good place to start. In Galatians 5:19-23 it tells us the fruits of a Christ-like spirit. And in II Peter 1:2-8 it tells us how to grow to be like Him.



3. **Share the Good News that God loves us** - Jesus said “Go the whole world over, and proclaim the Good News to all mankind. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who disbelieves will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)



4. **Thank Him every day.** Tell Him your good news and bad and ask Him for His help in your life.



# THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. You either believe that God created everything or you go against science and believe everything created itself. Don't let fancy words fool you. Those are your only two choices.
2. You are His child and He loves you.
3. We only have two choices in life and God lets us choose - He doesn't force us to believe in Him and follow Him.
4. God doesn't want us to remain spiritual babies all our lives. He wants us to grow. We would look awfully silly as adults still walking around in diapers and drinking from a baby bottle. We look just as silly as Christians if we remain spiritual babies.



The Bible says we put on Christ. In a way, it's kind of like dressing up in Mommy or Daddy's clothes. When we put on Christ, He's way bigger than we are. We grow in Christ, but we don't do it all at once. That's why we have to LEARN to be like Him. The Bible tells us in Galatians 3:26-27 "all of you are God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. Indeed, all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (ISV)