

THE JESUS SURVEY - 1 of 4

“How Are We Doing?”

We get many “How are we doing” surveys these days - - our last visit to the auto repair shop or to the doctor, our tax-preparer and others. They want our opinion so they can serve us better.

Jesus isn't with us physically today to ask him face to face, so let's imagine we send Him a “How are we doing?” questionnaire. It might start like this.



Dear Jesus:

We want to be good Christians. We're doing fairly well at going to church; at avoiding the really bad sins that we know you hate; and at erecting nice church buildings for your glory and to make it easier to worship you. We've developed impressive programs to teach our children and to win the lost, and at my church we believe the whole Bible.

But Jesus, there's a lot of turmoil in our land and it's making us uncomfortable. Those crooked _____'s from the other party in Washington are out of control. We vote, put up signs and complain about the crooked politicians, but it just doesn't seem to make a difference. We fear we're going to lose some of our freedoms.

Also disturbing is that some radicals on the fringe of the church say that troubles are on the horizon and we need to prepare, and that there's indications that you might be returning soon and we need to have oil for our lamps, whatever that means. Others say that an end-time harvest is coming and we must change how we do church. Some even go so far as to say that we need to activate our church altars, and repent.

We'll be surprised if any of that is true because most of us, and even our leaders, don't hear or see anything that causes us concern, but we thought we'd run it by you just in case.

Continued tomorrow.

Ken Stoltzfus
Kidron, OH USA
May 12, 2021

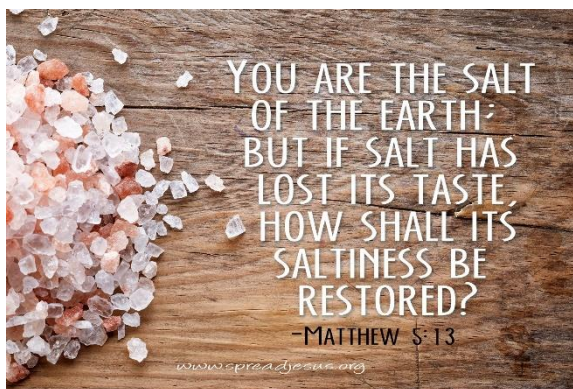
THE JESUS SURVEY - 2 of 4

How Are We Doing? - Cont'd

So, Jesus, on the outside chance that there's some truth to what those fringe folks are saying, we'd like to hear from you via this survey. We'll then have a committee review your response for anomalies; forward it to our financial team to see if it constrains our budget and building plans; and have our leadership screen it to be sure it conforms to our vision statement and the people's expectations after which they will let us know if there's anything we need to take action on.

On a scale of 1 to 10 then, with 1 being total failure and 10 being total success, how do you rate the church in America as compared to what you expect of "The Body of Christ"? We've included scripture references in case you're not sure what we're referring to. How are we doing:

- 1) At blessing those who do ill against us? (Mt. 5:11-12)
1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - Score: _____
- 2) At being salt and light to our community, our nation and the world? (Mt. 5:13-17)
Score: _____
- 3) At forgiving others as you forgive us? (Mt. 6:14-15) Score: _____
- 4) At laying up treasure in heaven instead of on earth? (Mt. 6:19-20) Score: _____
- 5) At seeking first your Kingdom, and trusting you instead of worrying? (Mt. 6:33-34)
Score: _____
- 6) At being on the alert and prepared for your return. (Mt. 24:42-44)
Score: _____
- 7) At obeying the Great Commission? (Mt. 28:18-20) Score: _____
- 8) At loving you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? (Mark 12:30)
Score: _____



Continued tomorrow. (I don't know about Jesus, but that's enough for *me* for one day!)

Ken Stoltzfus
Kidron, OH USA
May 13, 2021

THE JESUS SURVEY - 3 of 4

“How Are We Doing?” - Cont’d

Jesus, we know you are full of love and mercy and we’re hoping for some good scores here.

We’re not sure about folks in other countries, but we American Christians are suffering. Gas prices are going up and you know what that means for our SUV’s and RV’s. And we fear what an economic downturn would do to our 401K’s, CD’s and other retirement investments. Life is getting hard here, Jesus, thanks for cutting us some slack.

Again, on a scale of 1 to 10, how do you rate us as compared to what you expect of “The Body of Christ”? How are we doing - -:

- 9) At proving to the world that you offer release for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed? (Luke 4:18) Score:_____
- 10) At building our life on the deep foundation of your Word? (Luke 6:46-49)
Score:_____
- 11) At being the good soil that produces a hundredfold? (Luke 8:5-15) Score:_____
- 12) At denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily to follow you? (Luke 9:23-26)
Score:_____
- 13) At showing the world what it means to be born of the Spirit and to live in the Kingdom of God? (John 3:5-7) Score:_____
- 14) At being true worshipers who worship the Father in Spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
Score:_____
- 15) At having rivers of living water flow through us to others? (John 7:38) Score:_____
- 16) At loving one another in a way that proves we are your disciples? (John 13:35) Score:_____
- 17) At experiencing the peace you left with us for troubled times? (John 14:27)
Score:_____
- 18) At abiding in you and bearing much fruit? (John 15:1-11) Score:_____
- 19) At receiving the power of the Holy Spirit and being your witnesses? (Acts 1:8) Score:_____



Part 4 tomorrow.

Ken Stoltzfus
Kidron, OH USA
May 14, 2021

THE JESUS SURVEY - 4 of 4

“How Are We Doing?” - Final

Okay Jesus, this is a 10-point, all or none, yes or no question. “Does anything in your Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation, apply to us?” Remember, if you answer “No,” it adds to our overall score in case we need a little boost, and that will make us feel good.

We haven’t felt the need to take those letters personally because we don’t see anything that relates to us. “Too bad” for those who do need to hear them! It sounds ugly. And Jesus, we’re totally with you on that lukewarm thing. We want our Starbucks Frappuccino hot and their Fruit Refresher good and cold. No lukewarm stuff for us American Christians!

Anyway - - sorry to bother you with all those questions. We know you have a lot going, what with trying to reach the lost and needy around us and in the far away jungles. We’d like to help, but you know how busy we are with the kid’s sports, working-out to try to lose some weight (caring for our bodies is a good thing, right?), and getting ready for our Disney World vacation.

We’ll try to send some money to the missionaries if we have extra cash after we get that big LED Full HD Smart TV that we need. Thanks for understanding!

Finally, we think you’d enjoy visiting our churches and listening to our technologically enhanced sermons and joining in our enthusiastic worship, and we know you’d envy our AV systems. Just think how much better you could have communicated with such helps!

We’d be happy to have you say a few words but please understand that we have a carefully planned and anointed six-month preaching schedule, and we’d need to know well in advance if you expected to have the whole 20 to 30-minutes.

In saying that - - we trust you to not say anything that upsets our people. Our pastors already have enough on their hands with our Covid-19 worries, conspiracy theory controversies, and end-times fear-mongers, plus finding enough volunteers to keep our wonderful programs running. Maybe you could send us some workers, or least tell some of our people how important it is to prioritize things in their life.

Sincerely yours,

The church in the USA

PS – We’d prefer that you use the _____ Version if you read from the Bible here.

Ken Stoltzfus
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May 15, 2021

