

Final Answer?

One of the more popular daytime television game shows is called, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Contestants who answer all the questions can win \$1 million. To make it easier, four possible answers are provided. Just pick the right one every time and you win the \$1 million prize. The show even provides lifelines – the opportunity to phone a friend, ask the audience or eliminate half the choices. Sounds easy.



On closer examination, typically two of the answers on the board are very similar, and designed to make the contestant second guess themselves. One is the right answer and the other a deceptive suggestion designed to trip up the contestant.

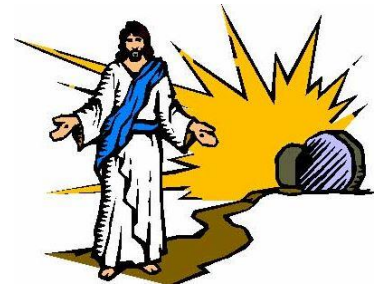
Unlike many other game shows, the contestants are given ample time to select their answers. Contestants start to rationalize their choice as they narrow down their options. After much deliberation, the contestants give their answers. To be sure everyone is clear on the chosen answer, the contestant is asked if that is the “final answer.” Once the contestant says “final answer,” there is no going back. Then, the host makes the contestant squirm a little before revealing if the final answer is right.

Thankfully, we don’t have to answer important questions of life under the bright lights of the television camera, watched by a nationwide viewing audience, second guessing our choices. Not only are the lights intended to illuminate the set, but also to intimidate the contestant.

When facing difficult issues in our lives, we also have lifelines. We live in an environment where we constantly evaluate our choices compared to worldly norms, which is like asking the audience. With a sizeable part of the population unchurched, that could be a recipe for disaster. We have friends we can consult, but if they are not of faith, their answers will be their own worldly opinions rather than God’s answers. Taking away half of the wrong answers still leave us with a choice to make, and only one right answer. You could exhaust all your lifelines and still get the wrong answer. In the end, it depends on who is guiding you and how much you trust their answers. Worldly questions may win you \$1 million. Answering God’s questions correctly means winning much more.

When the Romans nailed Jesus to the cross, they were seeking an end to His ministry. They wanted to silence him who was causing people to look to God for answers instead of the Roman rulers. The Romans were afraid the King of the Jews would lessen their power over their subjects. They didn’t understand the concept of God’s kingdom.

While the Roman rulers thought the crucifixion was the final answer, it wasn't. God's final answer was the Resurrection – Jesus rising from the dead in victory over evil. God's kingdom cannot be won or bought at any human price. Jesus paid the price for us. To reach the final question we have a number of questions to answer. How are we going to show our love for Jesus Christ? Do we believe Jesus is our Lord and Savior? Do we believe He died for our sins? Are we sorry (repent) for our sins? We have to get all of the earlier questions right to reach the final question: what happens to me when I pass from this earth. God will provide the final answer. And it is priceless.



Questions: How do we show our love for Jesus Christ? Do we believe Jesus is our Lord and Savior? Do we believe He died for our sins? Are we sorry and repentant for our sins?

Scripture: *If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).*

Prayer: Lord, there are many people who want to convince us to follow earthly ways. But You provide the truth that salvation comes to those who believe. We pray we will turn to You for the final answer. Amen.