

Study Guide for the ABWE Doctrinal Interview

Congratulations! Your application to serve as a career missionary with ABWE is being processed, and we would like to invite you to the next step. The following are questions that will help you to prepare for your ABWE doctrinal interview. You should be able to clearly articulate your answer **with Scriptural support**. The interview will be open-Bible, but we still recommend intentional study.

BIBLIOLOGY (The Doctrine of Scripture)

1. How does God reveal himself to us?
2. What do you believe about the Bible?
3. What is your view of inspiration? Does this extend to bible translations?
4. What was the process by which we received the Bible?
5. Why do we have only 66 books? Why should we not expect any more?
6. What is the Canon? And how was it determined?
7. Do you believe in Scriptural inerrancy, and what do you mean by the use of that word? How does it impact your teaching and/or preaching?

THEOLOGY PROPER (The Doctrine of God)

1. How would you describe God (attributes, names, etc.)?
2. Do you believe that there is only one God?
3. What is your understanding of the Trinity?
4. What is your view of creation?
5. How is God viewed in the culture in which you are interested? What is that culture's worldview and how does it differ from biblical Christianity?

CHRISTOLOGY (The Doctrine of Christ)

1. What is your position regarding the Virgin Birth? Why is it important?
2. How do you understand the expression "fully God and fully Man" as applied to Christ?
3. For whom did Christ die? What difference does His death make?
4. Why was it necessary?
5. What is the nature of Christ's resurrection and importance of the resurrection? What are evidences of His resurrection?
6. Where is the Lord now and what is He doing in behalf of believers?
7. Did Jesus claim to be God?
8. Does Scripture claim that Jesus is God?

9. In Philippians 2:7-9, of what did Christ empty himself (kenosis – Greek term)?

PNEUMATOLOGY (The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)

1. Can you give three examples of how the Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testament?
2. What is the Spirit's role in relation to the new birth? When and how does an individual exercise faith?
3. What is the baptism in/of the Holy Spirit and when does it take place in reference to the new birth?
4. What is the difference between indwelling and filling of the Spirit?
5. What are outward evidences that a person is filled with the Spirit?
6. How does the Holy Spirit continue to minister in the believer's life after the new birth?
7. What is the sealing of the Spirit?
8. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? When does one get them?
9. What kind of ministry does the Holy Spirit exercise toward non-believers?
10. Can you demonstrate that the Spirit is a Person? God?

ANTHROPOLOGY (The Doctrine of man)

1. How did man come into existence?
2. How was man made in the image of God?
3. What is meant by the fall of man?
4. What effect did the first sin have on Adam and Eve?
5. What does total depravity mean?

HAMARTIOLOGY (The Doctrine of Sin)

1. What is a biblical definition of sin?
2. Who was the originator or author of sin?
3. What is the effect of sin on man and creation?
4. When does one receive the sin nature?
5. What is necessary for the forgiveness of sins?

SOTERIOLOGY (The Doctrine of Salvation)

6. How did God provide a remedy for man's sin?
7. What must someone do to receive salvation?
8. Is the believer assured of his eternal salvation or may it be forfeited?
9. How do "faith" and "works" relate to the believer's salvation?
10. Define:
 - a. Propitiation
 - b. Redemption
 - c. Repentance
 - d. Regeneration

- e. Justification
 - f. Sanctification
 - g. Glorification
11. How do you respond to someone who says you must be baptized to be saved?
 12. What is the role of each Person of the Trinity in salvation?
 13. How were Old Testament saints saved?
 14. Can someone be saved apart from hearing and responding to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

ECCLESIOLOGY (The Doctrine of the Church)

1. What is a local church? What is the purpose and functions of a local church?
2. Who is the head of a New Testament church?
3. What are the biblical offices in the church? What are their qualifications? Who may hold each role?
4. Give us your views on baptism (who, how, and when) and the Lord's Supper.
5. What is the difference between the visible church and the invisible church? Who is in the new covenant?
6. To whom was the Great Commission given?

ANGELOLOGY (The Doctrine of Angels)

1. What is the meaning of "angel" in the Old and New Testaments?
2. What are the two major classifications of angels?
3. Can a believer be possessed by a demon?
4. Can a believer be oppressed by a demon?
5. What are we commanded to do in order to be ready for spiritual battle?

ESCHATOLOGY (The Doctrine of the End Times)

1. Is hell a literal, conscious, eternal place reserved for the unsaved? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe that Christ could potentially return at any moment? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe in a literal new heaven and new earth?
4. What key passages in Scripture deal with the events surrounding Christ's return?
5. Why is it essential that Christ return bodily?
6. What is the nature of the final judgment and general resurrection?
7. Why does Scripture give us prophecy concerning future events? What is the attitude with which we should approach eschatology?