

## Q/A Time May 17 2021

- Church history and historical theology is a passion of Joseph so he began the discussion by seeing how much knowledge they had of the Nicene Council (325 AD). Once describing its importance to Christian history, Joseph asked if anyone knew of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15? That council was known and Joseph explained how that council was vital to church history, just as much (or even more important) as the Nicene Council and its creed. Joseph then briefly described the history of the council and the man Athanasius, who defended the Nicene Creed. (More on this subject next week.)
- The topic shifted to whether or not it is okay for Christians to use the divine name YHWH (Yahweh), since the Jews do not use it. Joseph explained that this was a Jewish tradition found in the intertestamental period and has not biblical bases. Meaning, the divine name YHWH is used throughout the Old Testament and it was never forbidden to use. Nevertheless, it is important to see that development in order to better see the New Testament references to Jesus as being YHWH.
- Lastly, a longer topic on how Christians should (or should not) respect other religious customs and practices. Joseph explained that it was up to each individual of where that 'boundary' may be, but Joseph provide his own personal examples of where he believed a Christian should respect and when to not. For example, Joseph would take off his shoes to enter a mosque while some may not want to. Another, Joseph would not partake in ritual purification practices at a Shinto shrine since that is how one can approach a Kami (Shinto spirit/god) in the shrine/temple. In the end, it is important for Christians to know what other people believe in, so that they can appropriately make God-honoring choices. From that conversation came one last discussion regarding the possibility of others leaving the faith due to learning about other worldviews/religions. Joseph said that it is a great fear and possibility that people may leave the faith, but the key is to remember that 'the sheep hear the voice of God and follow him' (see John 10). That is, true Christians will follow their Shepherd (Jesus Christ) and not follow after any other shepherd.