

ARE YOU GOING TO HEAVEN?

It may surprise you to learn that not everyone is going to heaven. In fact, Jesus tells us that very few will make it (Matt. 7.13,14; 22.14). Heaven is offered to you because of how God feels about you. It was His feelings that moved Him to send Jesus so that through His blood, your sins can be washed away. And He has taught us how to access that blood and accept the invitation to heaven through the gospel. What must we do to reach out and accept this invitation to heaven?

You can go to heaven if you obey the gospel. Paul wrote that the Romans were delivered from sin because “*you obeyed that form of doctrine*” (Rom. 6.17). Obeying the gospel involves obeying the commands of the gospel that bring salvation. These commands include believing in Jesus (Acts 10.43). The gospel also commands that we turn away from our sins and start living the way God wants us to live. The Bible word for this is repentance (Acts 10.43). The gospel tells us that we are to verbally confess the name of Jesus publicly (Rom. 10.9,10). Baptism is also required to obey the gospel and have a home in heaven (1 Pet. 3.21).

You can go to heaven if you call on the name of the Lord. Paul quoted the prophet Joel and wrote, “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Rom. 10.12,13; cf. Joel 2.32). How do you call on the name of the Lord? This is not a verbal entreaty where you pray to God and ask Him to save you. We can learn how to call on the name of the Lord by reading what Ananias told Paul to do in Acts 22.16: “*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” When Paul was baptized, his sins were washed away. Ananias described Paul’s baptism as calling on the name of the Lord.

You can go to heaven if you live a life faithful to God and His teachings. Obeying the gospel and thus calling on the name of the Lord is just the beginning. It is how you begin the preverbal race. But you still are required to run the race. That involves obeying the rules laid out in the Bible (2 Tim. 2.5). That involves staying in the race and running to the finish line (2 Tim. 4.6-8). In others words, we must remain faithful and obedience to God (Rev. 2.10).

Anyone can go to heaven. God did His part to make heaven available. We must do our part in submitting to the Bible. CLP

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

November 5, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

THIS IS NOT DRY-CLEANING

Some clothes are very delicate and will be damaged if put in a conventional washing machine. On the tag, it will read, “dry-cleaning only”. Therefore one would need to clean them by some other method other than immersing in water.

Sin is a stain on the soul that needs to be cleaned (Isa. 1.18). The cleaning agent is the blood of Christ (1 John 1.7). Baptism is the method of cleansing that puts us in contact with the blood of Christ. It is the blood of Christ that acts as the cleansing agent that washes away our sins. It is not a physical washing but an act of obedience (1 Pet. 3.21). This cleansing through a method of dry cleaning. You cannot be cleansed without water. Peter answered the guilty Jewish audience who asked how they could resolve their sin: “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..*” (Acts 2.38)

Some believe and teach that salvation can be obtained without the use of water. They believe that they can be dry-cleaned. They believe that salvation can be received by saying a sinner’s prayer, or by faith only (James 2.24). However, the Bible is clear. One cannot be saved without getting their whole body wet.

It is God who decides the terms of salvation. He is on record as saying that there is no salvation without water. CLP

I AM THANKFUL FOR MY FAMILY

JOHN 16:22

INTRODUCTION:

1. In a day of celebration, the Jews sang and prayed with thanksgiving. (Ezra 3.12; Neh. 12,27,31,38,42)
2. Being thankful “*is the will of God*” (1 Thess. 5.18).
3. In this time of year when thanksgiving is on our minds, we need to remember to be thankful for our families.

I. FAMILY IDENTIFIED

- A. The definition of family.
 1. Genos: “Born, offspring, stock.” It describes a biological relationship. (Acts 7.13; Gen. 46.26)
 2. Patria: “lineage, race, nation” (Acts 3.25)
- B. How do you become a member of a family?
 1. Some are born into the family. (John 16.22; 3.3,6)
 2. Some are adopted into the family. (Rom. 8.15)

II. FAMILY EXEMPLIFIED

- A. Jesus belonged to a family.
 1. He had a biological mother, brothers, and sisters to whom Jesus belonged. (John 19.26,27; Mark 6.3)
 2. The family that Jesus claimed as His own was His spiritual family. (Matt. 12.48,49; cf. Heb. 2.11)
- B. Jesus was thankful for His family.
 1. Jesus chose apostles to “*be with Him*” (Mark 3.14).
 2. His spiritual family was His support system during His most challenging days. (Luke 22.15; Matt. 26.38)

III. FAMILY APPLIED

- A. We value family when we spend time with them.
 1. That’s what Jesus did. (Luke 22.15)
 2. Do you prioritize family time? (Heb. 10.24; 3.13)
- B. We value family when we want what is best for them.
 1. That’s what Jesus did. (John 14.2,3; 17.24)
 2. Do you help your family? (1 John 3.17; Matt. 25.40)
- C. We value family when we communicate our gratitude.
 1. Paul expressed gratitude. (Rom. 1.8; Phil. 1.3; Eph. 1.16)
 2. Do you tell your family you appreciate them?

CONCLUSION: Family is a precious gift. Be thankful for them!

ARE YOU GOING TO HEAVEN?

It is the home of God and the home of Jesus (Col. 3.1). It is the place where you will never grow old, never suffer pain, and never catch a disease (Rev. 21.4). It is a place where you will never be tormented by the evil of this world (2 Pet. 2.7,8; Rev. 21.27). But who gets to go to heaven? Will you be among those who are invited into the realm with mansions prepared by Jesus (John 14.1,2)? How do you know? The Bible gives to us nine reasons why you can know you are going to heaven. They can be divided into two categories: What God has done to make heaven available to us. And what we must do to access our eternal home.

You can go to heaven because of the grace of God. Ephesians 2.10 reminds us that “*by grace you have been saved.*” If you back up into the chapter, you learn that the grace of God is the product of His mercy, love, and kindness. Because of God’s feelings toward us, He offered salvation as a gift. You can live a righteous life. You can be immersed in water. You can love God and love your neighbor as yourself. But none of it will earn you a home in heaven. Heaven is available because God’s feelings for you moved Him to offer it as a gift.

You can go to heaven because of the blood of Jesus. Romans 5.9 explains that “*having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*” It is sin that makes heaven unobtainable. “What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” The only cleansing agent powerful enough to clean the deep stain of sin is the blood of the One who “*know no sin*” so that “*we might become the righteousness of God in Him*” (2 Cor. 5.21).

You can go to heaven because of the gospel. Earlier in the book of Romans, Paul sets forth the theme of the book. He writes that the gospel “is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Rom. 1.16). What makes the gospel so powerful? He goes on to write that “*in it the righteousness of God is revealed*” (Rom. 1.17). In the gospel, God has revealed how to be made right. I can read the Bible and learn what God has done and what I need to do to be righteous and have a home in heaven.

These are the things that God has done so that you and I can go to heaven. Anyone and everyone is offered access to an eternal home in heaven. But it is up to each one of us to reach out and accept the offer of heaven. On the back, we will see how to accept it. CLP