

truthfully say you are doing the best you can? Are there no areas that you could have improved or corrected long ago?" Do you always do the best possible? Of course not. So then, you are not doing the best you can, and I never have met anyone who was always doing the best that he could. So if there is no one alive who is always doing their best, then doing their best will never get anyone to Heaven.

## **NOR WILL A COMBINATION OF ALL THE ABOVE get you to Heaven.**

Perhaps it sounds unbelievable, but a person could do good works, be sincere, religious, join churches, say prayers, be baptized, follow a thousand religious traditions, be a very nice person and still be shut out of Heaven. Jesus predicted that many would appear at the last day saying, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in thy name, and in thy name cast out demons, and in thy name do many mighty works?" And He will say "Depart from me, I never knew you." (Matthew 7: 22-23), and they will depart into an eternity without hope.

You see, Heaven is not reached by saying certain things, or knowing certain things, or doing certain things. Heaven is not reached by following religious traditions, or obeying religious rules or participating in religious ceremonies. We cannot get to Heaven by anything that we can do. The reason is, we are sinners. We do sinful things. We say sinful things. We think sinful things. We hear and see sinful things. We are sinners. God says in the Bible that **"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). **"There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not"** (Ecclesiastes 7:20). All of our good deeds and religious deeds are defiled by sin. God says that **"all our righteousnesses (good deeds) are as filthy rags"** (Isaiah 64:6). Because we are sinners, we do not deserve Heaven and we cannot do anything that will make us good enough for Heaven. So we have a real problem. We are sinners, guilty of breaking God's holy laws and condemned by God's laws to a lost eternity. The Bible says that **the wages of sin is death**, (Romans 6:23) and that **"the soul that sinneth, it shall die"** (Ezekiel 18:20). It also says that **"the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters,**

**and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"** (Revelation 21:8).

### **How then can we ever hope to get to Heaven?**

This looks impossible to us. Many people feel that it is impossible to know that we can go to Heaven. But God has done something to make it possible. God sent His eternal Son, Jesus Christ, down into this world to be born into a human body. He was God with us, in this sinful human family. He lived here for thirty three years. He taught us the truths of God recorded in the Bible. Then He allowed wicked people to kill Him by hanging Him on a cross. He died to be our substitute to pay for our sins. After three days He rose from the dead and showed everyone that He had overcome sin and death and Hell. Jesus Christ offered to give the gift of eternal life in Heaven to everyone who was willing to turn from their sins and believe that His death was enough to pay for their sins. The Bible says that **"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** (John 3:16) If we depend on our sinful abilities to get us to Heaven we will never get there. But if we depend on the death of Christ to pay for our sins, we will have Heaven and eternal life.

Friend, the way to heaven is already paid for you if you will only believe it and receive it as God's gift. **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."** (Ephesians 2: 8-9) As soon as you stop trying to gain Heaven by the good and religious things you do, and by faith receive salvation as an undeserved gift from God, it will be yours.

You can read more about these wonderful truths in the Bible, by looking at the following passages: John 3:18, John 3:36, John 5:24, I Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, I Peter 1:18-21, I Peter 2:24. (Note: the first number after the name of the book is the chapter number. The number after the colon is the number of the verse in that chapter.)

Please understand that there are many who call themselves Christians, but are not really Christians at all. Being a real Christian means that you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You have come to know Him and trust Him as the one who died to pay

for your sins and has given you the gift of eternal life. You then know that God has done a work in your heart and made you a new kind of person. You are then sure that you will be in Heaven some day, not because of what you have done, but because He has reached down to save you and has given you the gift of eternal life and a sure promise of Heaven.

*Don't you wish that you were sure that you were going to be in Heaven some day? You can be sure!* Think about these things. Get a Bible and read the verses that are mentioned. Believe what God says and Heaven can be yours for sure.



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### **Sunday**

Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Service ..... 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday**

Evening Prayer Service ..... 7:00 P.M.

*Nursery provided for all services.*

# HEAVEN

## How do you get there?



# Heaven

## How do you get there?

Most people believe that there is a Heaven. But they don't really know what Heaven will be like, and they aren't really sure how they can get there. If you were going to visit someone in a distant village, you would want to know exactly how to get there. You could not just start down any road and think that you would somehow arrive at the right place. If you did that, you would probably never get to the place you wanted.

Heaven is a place somewhere in the universe where God lives in all of His glory. It is true that God is everywhere, but the center of His kingdom is in heaven. Heaven is a place more wonderful than we can imagine. There is no sin or suffering there. All is beauty and love and peace. Satan is banished from heaven, so he cannot destroy it. In Heaven all of the people who know God will come to know one another and live a real life of eternal joy with bodies which will no longer be subject to sickness or aging. *God wants us to be with Him in Heaven where we can have perfect fellowship with Him forever. God has told us exactly how we can get there in His book, the Holy Bible.* The Bible is the book that God has given us so that we can know Him and His truths. God inspired a number of different writers over the centuries, between about 2,000 BC to 100 AD, to write the things included in the Bible. He inspired them as they wrote so that they wrote exactly what He wanted them to write, without error. Then God watched over that Bible to be sure that it was carefully preserved down through the centuries. No one added to it, no one changed it, and no one took anything out of it. The main message of the Bible was that God loved us in spite of our sin, and sent His eternal Son, to be born into the human family so that He could die to pay the price for our sins. By trusting Him, we can then go to Heaven to be with God forever.

Some people think that the Bible is a Western book and that Christianity is a Western religion. Of course this is not true. The Bible was written in the Eastern world, most of it before Western civilizations had even emerged. The men God used to write the Bible were almost entirely men from the Eastern world. But God

loved the entire world and intended the Bible and its message of how to get to Heaven for all peoples of the world. Everything written in this pamphlet is based on the message found in the Bible. All of the verses referred to are verses that are found in God's Word, the Bible.

*Now, how do you think you will get to Heaven?* What if you are wrong? *Are you willing to just make a guess about this most important matter?* If you make a mistake, you will find yourself in the place the Bible calls "Hell" for all eternity. Here is a list of some of the mistaken ideas people have, about how they can get to Heaven.

### YOUR RELIGION will not get you to Heaven.

Most people assume that if they seriously follow some religion, join a church or regularly visit a religious place, they will certainly gain access to Heaven. Don't let this idea fool you. You could go to a church, a mosque, a synagogue and a temple every day of the week, then die and go straight to a lost eternity. Spending a lot of time in a religious building won't get a person to Heaven any more than sitting in a hospital will make someone healthy. Don't you know outright scoundrels and hypocrites who are very religious but surely will not be going to Heaven? Evidently then, just being part of a certain religion is no certain guarantee of Heaven.

### YOUR RELATIVES will not save you.

Many folk assume they will get into Heaven because they have relatives who are holy and religious. "After all, if my father is religious and my grandmother is very holy, doesn't that surround me with enough religion to be safe?"

But the Bible tells us about a man named Absalom. He was a wicked man until the day of his death but he was the son of godly King David. We also read that the half brothers of Jesus Christ, living with, and related to the very Savior Himself, were unbelievers. (John 7:5) Indeed, Scripture tells us that *"everyone shall give account of himself to God"* (Romans 14:12). No matter how religious your relatives may be, what they do will not get you into Heaven.

### SINCERITY will not save you.

Most folk feel that a person who is sincere in his religion will surely gain eternal happiness. But several times while traveling I have

taken the wrong highway, sincerely convinced that it would take me to the right destination, but it never did. The wrong road will not take you to the right place, just because you think that it is going to. A few years ago in America, many people began wearing copper bracelets, convinced that this would make their rheumatism go away. I noticed that eventually the bracelets were gone but the rheumatism stayed. If a person drank poison from a bottle, really thinking that it was good medicine, it would still kill them. Friend, sincerity is dangerous unless it is sincerely depending on the right thing.

### GOOD DEEDS will not get you to Heaven.

Most people think that if a person's life is filled with good deeds: being a good neighbor, helping the poor, teaching little children, being kind to older people, and always ready to help others, God will have to look on their good works and reward them with eternal life. But this is not true. God says salvation is *"not by works of righteousness which we have done,"* (Titus 3:5) and the prophet declares that all our righteous deeds are as filthy rags in His sight (Isaiah 64:6). God knows that all of our thoughts and all of our deeds are contaminated by our sin. How, then, could they possibly save us? God says that our deeds will not earn us eternal life.

### PRAYERS will not earn us a place in Heaven.

Many assume that if they say many prayers, holy enough, often enough, long enough or loudly enough, God will have to reward these efforts with eternal life. But the Bible tells us about a man named Cornelius who was a devout man, one that feared God with all his house, gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always (Acts 10:2). Still he was lost and needed God's messenger to show him the way of salvation. There are many people who say many prayers every day, but still do not feel assurance that they will get to heaven. Clearly, then, saying prayers is not enough to get us into Heaven.

### RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES will not give anyone a place in Heaven.

Many people think that Christian baptism will get them into Heaven. They are not sure if it is the words or the water that does it, but they assume that such a holy ceremony must do something.

But if baptism saves then why did a man in the Bible named John the Baptist tell the people they needed to turn away from their sins before he would baptize them? (Matthew 3:6-8). We read in the Bible that Jesus told a dying thief that he would be in Heaven that very day, but the thief was never baptized. (Matthew 23:42-43) If the religious ceremony of baptism saved people, then that thief would have had to be baptized. Evidently baptism is not a guaranteed passport to eternal life, nor is any other religious ceremony. Some think that a sacrament, or an anointing or a pilgrimage, or fasting will somehow open the door of Heaven for us, but this is not true. Nowhere in all of the Bible is there any ceremony mentioned that will get us into Heaven.

### IGNORANCE does not bring salvation.

Some folk feel that if they will just stay absolutely ignorant on religion by avoiding the entire subject, God will be obligated to open Heaven's gate for them. After all, how could God condemn them if they didn't know anything about religion? But I notice the person who breaks the law and says "I didn't know" is arrested anyway. The Bible tells about a rich man who gave no thought to spiritual matters and when he died he found himself in the torments of Hell (Luke 16: 19-31). Ignorance may result in an eternity in Hell, but it will not give us an excuse to get into Heaven.

### RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS are not sufficient to gain eternal life.

The Pharisees of Jesus day had traditions for every segment of daily life; for washing hands, eating food, wearing clothes and many others. Yet Christ rebuked them, saying they worshipped in vain, rejecting the commands of God to keep the traditions of men (Mark 7: 7-9). Following every religious tradition in the country will get a person no nearer heaven than looking at pictures of food will keep you from starving to death.

### DOING THE BEST YOU CAN sounds like the most certain way of reaching Heaven to many.

"Surely," you say, "God will not refuse me if I do the best I can." But I would look you straight in the eye and ask, "Friend, can you