

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?