

Chapter 8

Appendix: How to Know You'll Go to Heaven

I will explain how you can know for sure you will get to go to Heaven when you die. You do not have to hope, wish, or pray you will get to go to heaven, but instead, you can be 100% positive.

The first thing to know is that God loves us all, desires for us all to be with Him in Heaven one day. He did not make us to die and spend eternity away from him. Our sins separate us from Him, and yet, He made a way back to Him. The verses bolded in this chapter are the “Romans Road” verses which show you the biblical way to be saved.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Knowing that God loves us is the beginning of faith. However, the beginning of faith in Jesus Christ and salvation comes from first realizing that we are wicked sinners and need a savior.

Do you believe you are a good person or do enough good deeds to get to Heaven? Do you believe that your good outweighs your bad? Salvation is far simpler than that and far more than that. First of all, we can never do enough good to get to Heaven. That would mean we can earn our way or God needs our help to get us there. That is not the case. Unlike other religions or cults, being a Christian is all about faith, not works. The word Christian means “follower of Christ or Christlike.” To follow Christ, you must first believe in Him and be saved, then live your life as He teaches us to do. To get saved and to be a Christian is an easy task that most people will never choose to do. Here is how you can be saved.

First, you must realize that you are a sinner and need a savior.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10).

We may consider ourselves to be good people and try to do the right thing, but it is not about what we think and consider. It is about what God considers, and He says none of us are worthy. The God who created the heavens and the earth is a just and holy God and demands perfection. This may seem impossible, and it is for us to do in our own power, but through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses for the people back around 1450–1410 B.C. A small sin is still a violation of God’s laws. Committing these crimes against God is sin and condemns us to hell. The good news is that now you realize that you are a sinner and need a savior. This saving grace is a free gift from God to everyone. Just like any gift, you must accept it, or it is not officially yours.

Why is sin a big deal?

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

We all know that everyone dies eventually, but this is talking about our eternal death or separation from God in Hell after our earthly death. When we die, our bodies cease to live, but our souls are eternal beings, and we will either go to Heaven or Hell.

When the Bible says “the wages of sin,” it is talking about any sin, any broken law. God has

shown us His laws in the Bible. We have national, state, and local laws; we have laws or rules at school, work, and in our communities. God has also given us internal laws of our hearts. This is called our conscience. This is not the same as the Holy Spirit. However, whenever you commit the crime of violating one of these laws, it is called sin.

Sin is also when you do not do what you know to be right. For example, you are at work or home and see a piece of trash on the floor and you do not pick it up. This is a sin of omission. You know you should have had some integrity and picked up the piece of trash and thrown it in the waste basket, and yet, you left it on the floor for another person. It may seem frivolous, but all sin is the same, all worthy of eternal death.

You may think, Well, I will just obey God's laws and not man's law. This, however, is a grave mistake. God commands us to obey His commands and laws first and foremost but, also, the government's laws and rules.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. (1 Peter 2:13–15)

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. (Romans 13:1–3, 7)

When we disobey God's law, we are sinning, and partial obedience is still disobedience. To truly believe in the Word of God and trust in Jesus is to do His will. To be Christian is to be Christlike. If you are not actively seeking God's face and following Him, you are just a believer. The very sad thing is lots of people will say they are believers, not realizing what they are saying. Satan himself and his followers or demons/devils also believe in Jesus. That does not mean they follow Him nor will they go to Heaven.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (James 2:19).

Why would God take our place of death and pay that price with his own death?

“For 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).

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

While we were deep in our sins, God the father sent His son Jesus to manifest in human form to be born a baby from a virgin. He came to die for our sins, taking on the sins of the world and separating Himself from His father for a time. He paid the holy price of our sin debt so we wouldn't have to, nor could we.

In the Old Testament, before Christ was born, God had given the people a way for forgiveness

of their sins. This was done by their own sacrifice of spreading of the blood of pure, spotless animals; for only pure, sinless blood can pay the price of forgiveness. This is the reason Jesus had to pay our debt. He was the only person to live His life sinless, as he was 100 percent human and 100 percent God. Even the great Job, who was blameless, and King David, the man after God's own heart, had sin. Jesus alone could pay our sin debt with His blood.

Only in true belief of Jesus Christ can you be saved. You must repent from your sins and ask Him to forgive you and come into your heart.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9–10)

We must truly be sorry for our sins and not just be sorry because we have been caught. God knows our heart and knows if we are only saying a prayer to please our friends, family, or others or if we are earnestly praying with true belief, sorrow, and repentance. Paul wrote, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). As we hear the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will convict us of our sins. It is up to us to choose or not choose to believe God.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13)

If you need to know what comes next, I would urge you to get in the Word and read your Bible daily, as well as find a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church to plug into. After salvation comes a biblical baptism by full immersion in water by an authorized person of the local New Testament church.

And Jesus answering said unto him, "Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. (Matthew 3:15–16)

Jesus leads as our example that we are to be baptized. Baptism is not a way to salvation; it is simply just an act of obedience.

"Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me'" (John 14:6).

This means the only way to Heaven is to follow Christ, become His disciple, and grow in your new faith. Also remember that once you are saved, you are always saved. There is no sin that can make you lose your salvation. Once you are saved, you are always saved. In John 3:16 it says, "everlasting life," meaning forever.

Jesus said:

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of *my* Father's hand. I and *my* Father are one. (John 10:28–30)

Our salvation is never-ending. In this, you can have complete security of your salvation. Think about it like this, if you can do something to lose your salvation, that means that you can do something to earn your salvation. Since you cannot do anything in your own power to earn salvation, as it is a free gift from God by believing in Jesus, then neither can you do anything to lose your salvation.

As you learn this, you now have the knowledge to help anyone else get saved. You do not have to be a preacher or be a Christian for a long time to witness to someone to help them get saved. All you need to know is what you already know.

How did you get saved? You tell others that information and that is it. You do not have to be very eloquent with your speech or knowledgeable of scriptures or even have many verses memorized. Just simply tell them about being a sinner, needing a savior, believing He died and rose again to save them from their sins, confessing their sins and asking Jesus to save them. If they pray and mean it in their hearts, they will be saved.