What Must I Do to Go to Heaven?

A Message of Eternal Hope

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When parentheses are used while presenting Scripture, these are the author's added emphasis.

How can I go to Heaven?

Salvation (the way to Heaven) is found in faith (belief or trust) alone in Jesus Christ alone. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"* [Acts 16:31]. If you believe in Him - trust in Him only - you will go to Heaven! Jesus said, *"I am the way* (to Heaven), *and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father* (goes to Heaven) *but through Me"* John 14:6.

Jesus takes care of our sin problem

God's righteousness requires that sin be judged and condemned, while His justice carries out that judgment. Sin must be atoned for with blood, which requires death: *"Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness"* [Hebrews 9:22]. God's justice carried out judgment for sin. *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* [Rom. 5:8]. He took our place.

Christ's sacrificial work is the only way to Heaven

When Christ's payment for our sins was accepted by God the Father, Jesus said *"Tetelestai,"* meaning *"It is finished"* in the Greek [John 19:30]. All the work of salvation had been completed.

In a business context, *"Tetelestai"* was written on receipts to indicate that a debt had been paid in full. It was also used in court documents given to criminals who had fully served their jail sentences once and for all. This indicated that the individual was free and could not be held liable (accountable) for that particular crime again. Jesus paid the debt for your sin in full and proclaimed,
"Tetelestai" — it is finished.

Christ's resurrection is the proof of justification

Christ's resurrection from death was proof that God accepted His payment for sin. Hence, anyone who places his faith (believes) in Him is

justified (declared righteous) for Heaven by God. *"… Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."* [1 Cor. 15:3-4]. *"He…was delivered over because of our transgressions and was raised because of our justification"* [Rom. 4:25]. "…if Christ has not been raised…your faith also is vain" [1 Cor. 15:14]. After God the Father accepted Christ's payment for your sin, Jesus became the dividing line between Heaven and Hell.

Christ is the difference between Heaven and Hell

Christ does all the work; we contribute nothing. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God* (salvation is the gift of God)*; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast"* [Eph. 2:8-9].

Eternal life is given to those who believe in Jesus. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son* (Jesus Christ), *that whoever believes or trust in Him shall not perish* (the condemned to the Lake of Fire), *but have eternal life"* [John 3:16]. *"He who believes in the Son* (Jesus Christ) *has eternal life"* [John 3:36].

If you genuinely believe in the privacy of your mind that Jesus is the Christ (Son of God) and that His death on the cross paid for your sins, then you are saved. You have eternal life and will be in Heaven. *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life"* [1 John 5:13].

If you have trusted in Jesus, I sincerely congratulate and welcome you into the family of the living God. *"As many as received Him* (Jesus), *to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name"* [John 1:12].

Be sure to nurture your newfound faith

As a new believer, I encourage you to attend a church where the Bible is taught, remember to keep your sins confessed per 1 John 1:9, develop a daily habit of reading the Bible, and pray regularly so your newfound faith can be well-nurtured. *"Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word* (of God), *so that by it you may grow in respect to* (your) *salvation."* [1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18].

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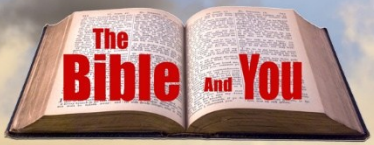
“This is real love —
not that we loved God, but that
He loved us and sent His Son
[Jesus] as a sacrifice to take
away our sins.
(1 John 4:10 NLT)



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