

How to Get to Heaven

This Study will cover the most important decision you will ever make in your life ... more important than what vocation you choose, where you will live and even whom you will marry, for its consequence will determine where you will spend eternity ... and there is a life after this one! So if you want to know your eternal future and have a hand in determining it, study on!

The Bible teaches that ...

"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

Proverbs 16:25

Some claim that there are many ways to heaven and that it does not really matter which way you choose. But a study of the world's religions shows that most claim to be THE Way. Both cannot be true. Therefore, how can you know which way is right? By examining the claims of each one! But we will not be doing that here.

We will be examining what one way claims ... what the Bible teaches. After completing the study, you will then decide if what the Bible says is true or not, and whether you wish to believe it or not. God Himself enjoins us to, "Come now, and let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18

So let us begin, and the best place to start is at the very beginning! The very first verse in the Bible states ...

1.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

The first thing the Bible wants us to know and believe is that God created everything around us, visible or invisible, living or non living, from the largest galaxy to the smallest atomic particle. It goes on to say that God made the first man and the first woman, whom He named Adam and Eve, in His image in order to have a relationship with them. He placed them with all the animals and fruit bearing trees in the Garden of Eden, a place of indescribable beauty and abundance, for them to enjoy and take care of.

In the beginning, God's Plan and Purpose for them was clear:

- Fulfill His Plan and Purpose for their lives.
- Enjoy His fellowship and love forever.

If they would do this, they would live in this Paradise on earth indefinitely. If they chose not to, then they would die and lose all that God had planned and purposed for them.

2.

"...through one man sin entered into the world,
and death through sin,
and so death spread to all men,
because all sinned"

Romans 5:12

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve did not. They were tempted and deceived by satan, a high ranking angel who once served God but who became proud in his beauty and desired to be like God himself! Unable to fulfill his initial plan, satan decided to undermine God's Plan by first persuading Eve to disobey God, and through her, Adam. The moment they disobeyed God and abandon His Plan and Purpose for their lives, their spirits, which gave them life, died and their fellowship with God was extinguished. Sin entered this world and Paradise was lost.

As descendants of the first man and woman, we have all been born in this same spiritual state: Spiritually dead to God and sinners at birth. It is now part of our very nature to sin! Haven't you ever wondered why it is so difficult to do the right things and so easy to do the wrong? It is essential to know and believe two things at this point, for unless you do, the rest will not be relevant.

First, that God created you and has a Purpose and Plan for your life. You are not a result of Evolution with no intrinsic purpose for your life as some would have you believe, nor are you the result of a continuous cycle of life energy that recycles according to how you lived your present existence. No, you are unique because God made only one of you. And because you are, He loves you and has the perfect Plan and Purpose for you, just as He had for Adam and Eve.

Second, as a descendant of Adam and Eve, you have been born in sin and therefore, will die. However, physical death is not the end of life, but the door through which we enter into the after life. The Bible teaches that you will continue to exist, either in eternal fellowship with God in Heaven or eternally out of fellowship with Him in torment. Sin results in broken fellowship with God, and everyone who sins and dies physically will experience eternal suffering and separation from God. There is no exemption, not even for small sins. The only way to Heaven, a perfect place created by a perfect God, is to be perfect yourself! But as already stated, even one small sin will keep you out of Heaven, for that one sin makes you imperfect.

That is the dilemma you face. How can you get into Heaven, a perfect place, while being an imperfect sinner? Some schools of psychology teach that it's okay to be imperfect or even to sin. That kind of thinking may alleviate guilt, but it will do nothing to appease a Perfect God. If you examine other religions, you will find most will teach that you can overcome sin by striving to be good or by following an established law or standard. But again, as already stated, even one mistake, one miss-step, one falter, and your goodness in the eyes of a perfect God is tarnished. You cannot erase an error once committed. You cannot undo a mistake once made. All the good deeds after that will never be able to out do, out weigh or compensate for even one sin!

We are doomed and without hope ... except that *'nothing is impossible with God!*

3.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

"For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

"For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves,
it is the gift of God not as a result of works, t
hat no one should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

We may be helpless in our sin, but God isn't. Maybe we can't do anything to save our selves, but God can ... and did!

The Bible states that God sent His Perfect Son into this world two thousand years ago in order to communicate His Plan and Purpose for us, and to demonstrate His unconditional Love for even sinners. Jesus Christ displayed God's Love for us through His healings, miracles, teachings, and through His death on the cross for our sins.

In Jesus, we have Someone who was willing to pay the penalty for us! He was willing to die so that we might live! And through faith in the payment of His death for our sins, we can receive the 'free gift' of 'eternal life'!

God reversed what satan had initiated and opened a way to Heaven based, not on our goodness, but on the perfect goodness of His Son. In fact, the Bible teaches that God credits, or bestows, the righteousness of Jesus Christ to everyone who believes in Him.

But how can we be certain Jesus is the true way to Heaven?

4.

Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life.
No one comes to the Father by through Me."

John 14:6

"For I delivered to you ... what I also received that Christ died for our sins ...
that He was buried ... that He was raised on the third day ...
and that He appeared to (Peter), then to the twelve.

After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time,
most of whom remain until now ..."

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

I remember the first time I heard John 14:6 it made me angry. Until I began reading what Jesus did. No one died in my place for my sins as He did. No one!

And as proof that His payment was complete, God raised Him from the dead! He was seen by hundreds of people, many of whom were martyred for their testimony of the risen Christ. Would you die for a lie? Neither would I! That is what makes their testimony all the more true! The Christian faith stands or falls on this one fact of history, that Jesus Christ was raised to life after dying for our sins on the cross. Many have tried to refute it, but have been convinced of its truth instead.

How about you? Don't you want to be certain that when you die, you will open your eyes in God's presence in Heaven? Don't you want to be free of the weight of sins committed and guilt incurred? Jesus is the Way! Eternal Life can be yours right now!

5.

"But as many as received (Jesus Christ),
to them He gave the right to become children of God,
even to those who believe in His name,"

John 1:12

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Eternal Life, the forgiveness of sins, a new life and the fulfillment of God's Purpose and Plan for your life can be yours right now if you will simply and sincerely believe in your heart that:

- God created you unique and special, loves you truly, and has a beautiful Plan and Purpose for your life.
- You are a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.
- Jesus Christ died for your sins, once and for all, and was raised to life by God as proof that your sins have been 'Paid in Full'.

The following prayer is one way of expressing your faith in God. Pray this prayer to God right now as an expression of your faith in Him.

"Dear God, thank you for making me and loving me. I want to experience your Purpose and Plan for my life. I know I have sinned against You, and have done and said things that are wrong. I need your forgiveness. Please forgive me for my sins and wash away my guilt. Cleanse and renew my heart that I might love and serve You. I believe Jesus Christ, Your Son, died for me on the cross and that You raised Him from the dead as proof that all my sins have been Paid in Full. I receive Jesus Christ into my life to be my Lord and my Savior. Teach me to follow You and to please You in every way. I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen."

If you prayed this prayer by faith and really meant it, congratulations! You are now a child of God destined to live in Heaven forever! And no one can take that away from you!

The Bible says that the moment a person believes in Jesus Christ, he is 'born again' with a new life as a child of God. But as a new born child, you are also very vulnerable to satan who wants to destroy you through his lies. In order to keep from being deceived by satan, please ...

- Find a Bible centered Christian church to attend where you can receive Bible instruction, meet with other Christians who will encourage and pray with you, and become involved with others in worshipping and serving God.
- Download the lessons in the Discipleship Lessons section of this web site and, starting with Spiritual Growth, complete each lesson to learn how to live and grow in your new life as a Christian.
- Contact us with any questions you might have, and let us know if you just prayed to trust in Christ that we might pray for you.

May God continue to draw you to Himself that you might experience all that He has for you,
and that you may glorify His Name with your life!

May God bless you!