

Am I going to Heaven? – This is a question in which most people would like to know a definite answer. So let's start at the very beginning. The word Heaven, we must admit, first originated in God's word the Bible. So, if Heaven was created by God, (the first mention of it is the first sentence in the Bible – Geneses 1:1 "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.") then we need to go to the King James Bible to find everything we could know about it; makes sense so far? Just like we would go to the inventor to find out how his invention works properly. The Bible says, Romans 10:17 "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". 2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight". So far, we can say: we need to live by faith and this faith comes from the word of God, the Bible. Now, if I were to ask you "Are you going to Heaven", what would your answer be and what would it be based on? You see, many people believe that if they are good enough, they are going to Heaven. But going back to the Creator's source, the Bible, God says in Romans 3:12, "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one". This then, leaves out our goodness, as a way to Heaven.

Being uncertain of how to get to Heaven comes from a

misunderstanding of what is involved in obtaining eternal life and thus going to Heaven. If you were to ask people, "what must one do to have eternal life?", their answer would probably include one or more of the following:

- Live a good life and turn from sin
- Obey the Ten Commandments
- Go to church
- Be baptized and/or confirmed
- Follow the life and teachings of Christ.

All of these represent something that people do or try to do. They reflect the popular idea that eternal life in Heaven is a reward to be earned. But Heaven is not a reward, it is a gift, a gift that cannot be earned or purchased. Ephesians. 2:8-9, "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". Titus 3:5-7 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, ... That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life".

As long as we think we must earn our way into the presence of God, we can never be certain that we have done enough to deserve eternal life in Heaven.

The only sure answer is what the Bible, our Creator's instructions, says on how it all works. You see, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins by His death on the cross. Sin is that which keeps us out of Heaven. But Jesus has completely paid for our sins by His death. Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" this is the gospel of grace. **Believing this gospel is what saves us from our sins and gets us to Heaven. There is no other way, but God's way.**

By simply recognizing our need of a Savior, and by accepting Christ's payment for our sins and our salvation, the matter of our eternal destiny is immediately resolved. Today you can believe and put your trust in Jesus Christ to know you will be in Heaven. This is the way—*the only way*—to know for sure that you have eternal life. Galatians 3:22 "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

So, how do you get to Heaven? Believe you are a sinner and that Jesus Christ died to save you from your sins and put your trust in the finished work of Jesus' death on the cross. Then read the Bible. Start at the book of Romans.

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