

The Parable of the Sower

Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. - Matthew 13:3b-9

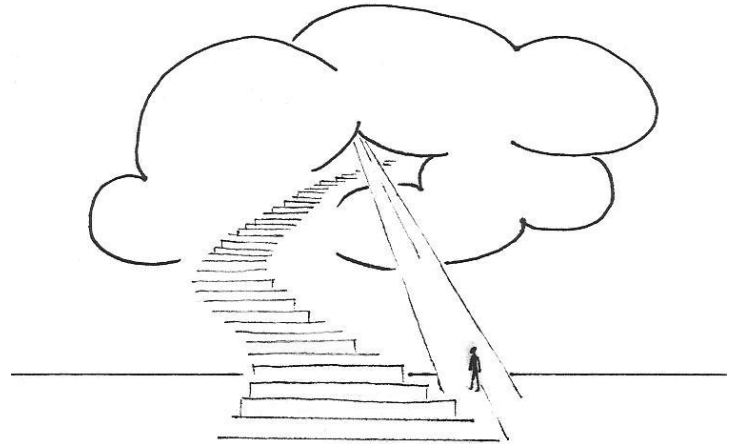
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Where Will You Spend Eternity?



Discover the Answer With Two Questions!

Question 1

Where do you believe you will spend eternity?

- I am going to Heaven
- I hope I am going to Heaven

Continue to page 2

- I'm not sure where we go when we die
- I am not going anywhere when I die

Turn to page 3

Answers on Question 2

Why don't you believe you will go to Heaven?

- 1. I'm an atheist

... because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being under-stood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools. Romans 1:19-22

- 2. I'm an agnostic (we can't know)

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30-31

Read the Gospel of John; if you are seeking the truth, and if it is the Word of God, you will know.

- 3. I do not know what God expects of me
- 4. I'm not sure that I'm good enough for Heaven

This pamphlet will show you what God expects, and what to do.

- 5. I do not believe in Heaven

And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:11-12

What will you do? With so much at stake...

Explanations to

Why do you believe you will go to Heaven?

- I attend church regularly

While it is good to go to church, Jesus was often angry with the religious leaders. It appears that he expected more from them.

- I have been water baptized

Jesus did command us to be baptized, But He says we must do something else to be saved. (See page 10)

- I believe in God

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble! - James 2:19

- I am trying to keep The Ten Commandments

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. - James 2:10

- I'm a good person

- I've done the best I could

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." - Romans 3:10-12

But Jesus did not commit Himself to [the people], because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. - John 2:24-25

Question 2

Why do you believe you are going to Heaven?

- I attend church regularly

- I have been water baptized

- I believe in God

- I am trying to keep The Ten Commandments

- I am a good person

- I've done the best I could

- Other reason: _____

Continue to page 4

Begin Walking with Jesus

Question 2

Why do you believe this?

- 1. I'm an atheist
- 2. I'm an agnostic
(we can't know the answer)
- 3. I do not know what God expects of me
- 4. I'm not sure that I'm good enough for Heaven
- 5. I do not believe in Heaven
- 6. Other reason: _____

➤ **Pray**

You should spend time each day in prayer talking to and listening to God.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. - 1 Thes 5:16-17

➤ **Fellowship with other Christians**

If you are a child of God, you will want to fellowship with other Christians. If you hang out with unbelievers, and are not lifting them up, they will bring you down.

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. - Act 4:32-33

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hebrews 10:25

➤ **There are no fence-sitters**

[Jesus said:] He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathers not with me scatters. - Luke 11:23

Some Final Points as You

➤ **You are the temple of God**

This means that the Holy Spirit now dwells in you and your fellowship with God is restored. He will never forsake you.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
- Romans 8:9

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." - John 14:23

➤ **Read the Bible**

The Bible, as God's word, is our final authority on all matters of faith and doctrine.

Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."
- Matthew 22:29

They erred because they did not read the Bible. Do not expect to do any better, if you don't read it either.

➤ **Beware of cults**

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
- Matthew 7:15

Test results

This may surprise you, but according to the Bible, none of the answers printed on the previous two pages will get a person into Heaven.

Explanations for page 2 are on page 17

Explanations for page 3 are on page 18

End of test

May I briefly share with you the amazing way that the Bible describes how you can get to Heaven?

First, a Couple of Questions.

1. Are you a good person?

Yes No Sort of

2. Have you ever lied?

3. Have you ever stolen anything?

4. Have you ever used the Lord's name in vain? *

5. Have you ever disobeyed your parents?

6. Have you ever been envious or jealous of a friend? **

Most of us using our own standard (question 1) will measure okay. However, when we use God's standard (questions 2 - 6) we see that our score is not as good. And those are only five of the Ten Commandments.

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. - James 2:10

* *And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. Leviticus 24:16a*

***The tenth commandment is "You shall not covet ..."*


Suggested Bible Reading


Matthew 5 - 7 The Sermon on the Mount


Matthew 24 - 25 Jesus' prophecies of the Last Days

John 13 - 17 Jesus at the Last Supper

A little over 400 years ago, William Tyndale was martyred for translating the Bible into English. At that time, this was a crime punishable by death. After finishing the New Testament, a friend turned him into the authorities, who strangled him and then burned his body on a stake.

 William Tyndale was willing to die to translate the Bible. What is in the Bible that he thought was so important for us to know?

 The authorities murdered William Tyndale because he translated the Bible. What is in the Bible that they didn't want us to read?

 The attack on the Bible continues to this day. The Bible is forbidden in our schools, courtrooms, and other public places. What is in the Bible that they are trying to keep you from finding out?

A Suggested Prayer

Lord Jesus . . .

Thank you for your love toward me, and for the sacrifice you made to pay for my sins.

Forgive me for my sins, and help me to repent and turn away from everything that offends you.

Help me to submit to you, and to allow you to take your rightful place as Lord.

Lead and guide me into all truth.

Help me to be worthy to enter your Kingdom on the Day of Judgment.

Amen

Have you given your life to Jesus?

Signed commitment: _____

Date: _____

We have three problems:

➤ **First, our sins have separated us from God.**

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear. - Isaiah 59:2

In fact, the just punishment for sin is death. *

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

➤ **Second, God will not lower His standard.**

Have you ever been with someone who boasted about how great he was? If God lowered his standard, only the self-righteous would get in. That would not be Heaven. In fact, the self-righteous were Jesus' greatest adversaries, that's why Jesus said:

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Luke 5:32

➤ **Third, a just God cannot overlook our sins.**

A moral judge cannot just let criminals go free, even when they say they are sorry.

God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. Psalms 7:11

* For Scripture verses about hell, see Matthew 12:36-37, Mark 9:44-49, Luke 12:47-48 and Revelation 14:9-11

God's Solution you to live a life worthy of Him.

Who is Jesus?

➤ Son of God

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

➤ Creator

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. - John 1:3

➤ The promised Messiah

I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. - Deuteronomy 18:18-19

➤ Lord

*And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. - "Matthew 28:18
... at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth. - Philippians 2:10*

Forgiving those who have hurt us is not easy, but Jesus set an example for while He was on the cross:

Then Jesus said, Father forgive them, for they know not what they do. - Luke 23:34

➤ God expects you to proclaim His son Jesus

[Jesus said,] Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 10:32-33

➤ Become water baptized

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

While water baptism may not be necessary for salvation, it is an act of obedience. Going down into the water by faith represents that you have died to your sins; rising out of the water represents newness of life in Christ.

(See Romans 6:5-11)

Baptism is more than a ritual to become a member of some particular denomination; it is a public declaration of your faith in Jesus.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. - Acts 2:41a

If you are thankful, God expects was to Send Jesus

Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. Luke 21:36

➤ God expects you to repent from your sins

*Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Act 2:38b*

John 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

God can deliver us from sin. And being freed from sin is an important part of the Christian walk. Watch out for those who teach that repentance is not necessary for salvation.

(See also Titus 1:16 and 1st Corinthians 6:9-10)

➤ God expects you to forgive others

[Jesus taught that] If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15

(See also Matthew 18:21-35)

What did Jesus do for us?

He took upon Himself the punishment of death that we deserve by dying on the cross in our place.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the [atonement] for our sins. 1 John 4:10

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5-6

In order to take our place, Jesus had to lead a perfect life without sin.

[Jesus asked,] Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? John 8:46

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2nd Corinthians 5:21

For we have not a high priest which cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Why did Jesus die for us?

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:13

Jesus died to save us by His ultimate love.

Only the cross can solve all three of our problems:

➤ **First, our relationship to God is restored.**

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. - Romans 5:10

➤ **Second, God did not have to lower His standard.**

Those who ignore His offer of salvation will see how high that standard is on the Judgment Day.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

No one will boast, rather everyone will be grateful.

➤ **Third, God did not have to overlook our sins.**

[Jesus speaking] "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to each according as his work is. - Revelation 22:12

The Way into Heaven

[Jesus speaking] "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." - John 5:24

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

Do you believe this?

If you do believe, your response should be thankfulness.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18