

Am I Going to Heaven?

God is my Creator and my Judge and He requires me to have faith and obey Him.

Genesis 1:1; "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, "Now let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole *duty* of man."

The reason I need to make a conscious effort to obey God is because I am lost in my present condition. All of us are lost eternally because we are all sinners. We have all been separated from God by our sins.

Genesis 3:15-17, "Then the Lord God took the man [Adam] and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"

Romans 5:12-21, "Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..."

Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you."

Romans 3:23-24, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

I John 1:8, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." The only way for me to be redeemed from my sins is to obey God.

In addition, God's Word will judge me on Judgment Day, and the Bible is God's Word (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21).

In John 12:48, Jesus says, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

II Timothy 4:1, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom."

II Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

Romans 14:10, 12, "...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

Obedience to God's Word is essential to going to Heaven.

II Thessalonians 1:7-9, "...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction..."

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

What is involved in doing the will of God?

Become a Christian

1. Hear the Word of God (The Bible).

Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

2. Believe in God and His Word (The Bible).

Mark 16:15-16, "And He (Jesus) said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

3. Repent of my sins and decide to change my life and follow Jesus.

Acts 2:38, "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...'"

Acts 17:30, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness..."

Luke 13:3 Jesus says, "I tell you no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Matthew 16:24, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me...For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'"

4. Confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

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

5. Be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins and be added to the church by God.

Mark 16:15-16, "And He [Jesus] said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"

I Peter 3:21, "There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of

the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 22:16, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Acts 18:8, “And many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized.”

Acts 2:47, “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

John 3:5 Jesus said, “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Acts 10:48, “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.”

Live a Faithful Christian Life

- Continue to assemble with Christians regularly (attend church).

Many think this is not important. Christ died for the church (church is not the building we go to, it is the group of Christians, followers of Christ). Acts 20:38, “...to shepherd the church of God [Christ] which He purchased with His own blood.” Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.” God and Jesus established the church because They know we are not strong enough to be Christians by ourselves. Christians need each other for strength and support and to be able to get together as God’s family for the purposes of edification, evangelism and benevolence. Every time I do not attend worship services, I am saying that it is not important and Christ died for nothing.

The Hebrew writer wrote to the Hebrew Christians in Hebrews 10:25, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves [Christians] together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting each other, and so much more as you see the Day approaching.”

- Sing psalms and hymns with Christians.

Paul wrote to the church in Colossae in Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Paul also wrote to the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

- Partake in the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week.

The first day of the week is Sunday (Matthew 28:1).

Acts 20:7 describes the church in Troas by saying, "Now on the first day of the week [Sunday], when the disciples came together to break bread."

Some have a problem with this example of the New Testament church. Some think it is only necessary to partake the Lord's Supper every quarter or just once a year. The Israelites in the Old Testament were commanded to keep the Sabbath day holy. Did that mean only one Sabbath a quarter or one Sabbath a year? Of course not. It meant every Sabbath. In I Corinthians when it teaches Christians to give upon the first day of the week, does it mean only once a quarter or once a year? Of course not. Most denominations would even agree with that. These denominations want their members to give money every week but only remember our Savior dying for us once a quarter/year? Is not Jesus Christ more important than that? Every week has a first day of the week, therefore we should remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross every week.

Read about Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19,20; I Corinthians 11:23-26.

- Give money to support the church and give liberally and with a good heart.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth in I Corinthians 16:1-2, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week [Sunday], let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collection when I come."

Paul also wrote in another letter in II Corinthians 9:1,6-7, "Now concerning the ministering to the saints...But this I say; He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

- Pray every day.

I Thessalonians 5:17, "pray without ceasing."

Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 18:1, "Then He [Jesus] spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,"

- Teach others the Word of God.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The same account in Mark 16:15-16 reads, "And He [Jesus] said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"

- Study the Bible every day.

Acts 17:11 describes the early New Testament church by saying, "they received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." In I Timothy 4:13, Paul encourages Timothy by saying, "Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

Paul also tells Timothy in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

- Do good works unto others.

Paul encourages the church in Galatia by saying in Galatians 6:9-10, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith [Christians]."

Paul also writes to the church in Thessalonica in II Thessalonians 3:13, "But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good."

- Grow spiritually.

II Peter 1:5-11

Galatians 5:22-25

- Remain faithful even unto death.

In Revelation 2:10, Jesus tells the church in Smyrna, "...Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life."

These are only key verses from God's Word. The Bible emphasizes and reemphasizes these points hundreds of times throughout. The Bible should be studied thoroughly, and be used as a pattern for my life. In Psalms 119:105, David says to God, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 10:23, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." The Bible teaches me everything I need to know about life, death, after death, how to live the Christian life, right from wrong, etc. Peter says in II Peter 1:3, "as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness..." It uplifts me when I am down. Philippians 4:7, "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." It is all I need. Acts 2 is an excellent book for new Christians to read. It is the beginning and establishment of Christ's church and when Christians multiplied. I cannot go to

Heaven without knowing God's Word and actively working as a Christian and obeying God (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).