



## THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

### Realize That God Loves You.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*  
(John 3:16).

### The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*  
(Romans 3:23).

### God’s Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).

### The Good News Is That Jesus Christ Paid for Your Sins.

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8).

### You Must Personally Call on Jesus Christ to Save You.

The Bible Says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13).

**COLLEGIANS FOR CHRIST**

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# When Good Doesn't Mean Better

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## Memory Verse - John 14:21

*“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:  
and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him,  
and will manifest myself to him.”*

## Study Aim

- To understand why behaving in a good moral way does not mean we are better than someone who is not.
- To learn the dangers of having the wrong motivation behind our moral duty to God.
- Read Luke 15:25-32

## Set the Stage

- The older brother represents two types of people:
  1. The religious person who tries to work their way to God and Heaven.
  2. The Christian who prides themselves on their moral behavior.
- In this parable, Jesus reveals that such a good person was ultimately bad!

### Take it to the Next Level

1. **He was Angry.**
  - He was furious at the cost, the injustice of the father, and that his father was so extravagant with his love.
2. **He Refused to go into the Feast.**
  - He would not forgive his brother or his father.
3. **He Misunderstood Himself.**
  - He misunderstood why he obeyed his father and the true nature of sin.
4. **He Disowned his Brother.**
  - He should have gone after the younger brother himself to bring him back to the father.
5. **He Mistreated his Father.**
  - The older brother was no different than the younger. They both only wanted the father for what they could get from him. Both rebelled against the father. One by being really bad and the other by being really good.

### Take Your Next Step

- **Check your motivation behind your moral behavior.**
  - We can serve God and live good lives out of fear, not out of joy and love.
- **Check your pride in your moral behavior.**
  - It creates a dangerous superiority complex.
  - It creates a self-righteous attitude.
  - It creates a judgmental spirit.
  - It creates prejudice, discrimination, and racism.
- **Check your rights because of your moral behavior.**
  - We feel that God owes us because of the way we have lived.
  - We obey because of “**what**” we will get, not “**who**” we will get. This is completely self-centered.

### Taking it Further

- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What does it mean that eternal life is a gift? What place does moral behavior or works have in eternal life? What should we do as a result of receiving eternal life?
- Think honestly on these questions: Do you ever feel that God should do certain things for you because you have served Him? Do you feel that God owes you a good life because you are a good moral person? What can you do to change this attitude?