

ARE YOU GOING TO HEAVEN? YOU CAN KNOW FOR SURE!

By D. Wes Daughenbaugh



BEST NEWS EVER!

I began reading the Bible out of curiosity when I was in sixth grade. I believed what I read - of Christ's virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death, and resurrection. I believed what Christ said about the reality of hell. When I read John 3:3 & 5 (NIV) I was stunned! Jesus said, **"No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again"** and **"No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."**

I knew I had never been born again. That meant if I'd die - I'd go to hell! - For a year I prayed and sought God. What I discovered will help you get born again!

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13, NIV).

The day I received eternal life I was flooded with joy! I knew I was born again! **May I share with you how you can know for sure that you have eternal life?**

HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT

It's not earned or deserved. For one year I had prayed God would receive me. Most religions are like that. They give people a series of works and sacraments and the people hope that God will receive them in the end. But when I was born again God reversed all that. He made me know he'd made provision for my sin and that I was to accept him and his gift of eternal life - right then! He even gave me the faith to accept him with! I just made the choice and did it. So can you! **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23, NIV).**



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For love, acceptance, and nurturing in your new life in Christ, contact your friends at:
Read your Bible daily. It is food for your born again spirit.
It's your spiritual weapon!
Pray daily — casting all your cares on Him.
Attend a good Bible-believing church.
Join a small group for accountability.
Be baptized as a step of obedience to Christ.

WHAT NOW?

PRAY: "Dear Father, forgive my sins. I believe in Jesus, God's Son. I open my heart's door. Come in Lord Jesus. I receive you. Thank you for eternal life."
"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9, NIV).

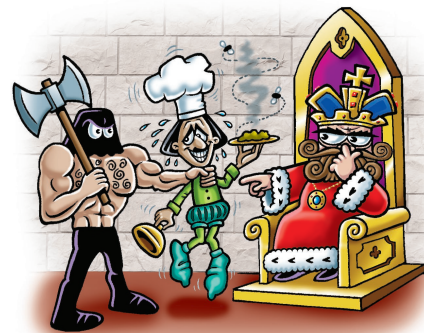
YOU OPEN THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART WITH YOUR MOUTH!

WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE FREE? CAN'T WE EARN IT BY WORKS?

You failed to earn righteousness the first time you sinned. We all failed.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23, NIV).

Suppose a chef made a meal for a king using 80% fresh food and 20% rancid, maggot-infested left overs. Would the king accept it? Never! Our life is like that.



We're foolish if we believe our good works can offset our sin. Sin, like rancid food, ruins everything else!

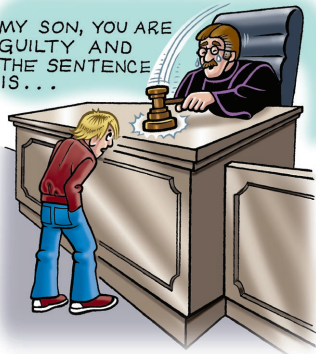
"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6, NIV).

"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins" (Ecc. 7:20, NIV).

(open up)

MAN'S PREDICAMENT IS VERY SERIOUS BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY!

MY SON, YOU ARE GUILTY AND THE SENTENCE IS...



The Bible declares that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged.

"And books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:12 & 15, NIV).

The Book of Life is a roll book containing the names of those who received God's free gift of righteousness. The other books contain accounts of the lives of people who trusted in their own good works. The lake of fire is the second death!

God's holiness and justice are frightening.

"Our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29, NIV).

But God is also a God of love.

"The Lord is full of compassion and mercy" (James 5:11, NIV).

Consider the story of a judge who had a reputation for justice. His own son is brought before him on charges of reckless driving. A just sentence would be a \$1,000 fine. That would satisfy the judge's sense of justice, but not his love for his son. Suppose he sentenced his son to the \$1,000 fine and then gave him the \$1,000 to pay the fine with? That would satisfy his love and justice!

This is what God did. But our sins deserve a death sentence!

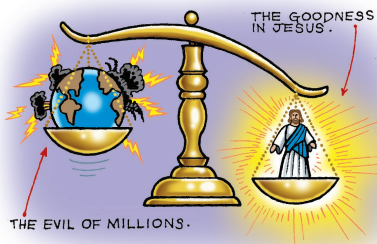
"The soul who sins is the one who will die" (Eze. 18:4, NIV).

God satisfied his justice by sentencing us to death. Then, God the Son took upon himself the form of man, came to Earth, and died for our sins!

Jesus Christ is God's answer. He satisfied both divine justice and divine love!

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8, NIV)

HOW COULD ONE MAN DIE FOR SO MANY AND HAVE THAT SATISFY DIVINE JUSTICE?



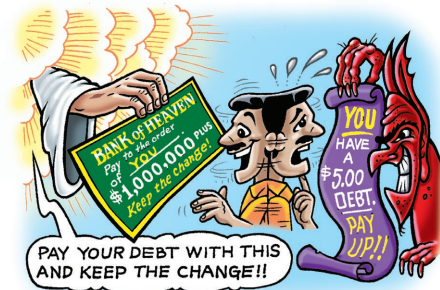
Jesus didn't have to die once for each of us because he was not just a man but God in human form.

"For in Christ the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form!" (Col 2:9, NIV)

How much goodness does God have? An infinite amount! Our sins, though many, can be numbered. They are finite. They have a limit. All the sins of the world are a terrible weight. But the goodness in Jesus outweighed them all! So much goodness was left over it justified raising Christ from the dead!

IT'S AS IF GOD GIVES YOU \$1,000,000 TO PAY A \$5.00 DEBT AND SAYS "KEEP THE CHANGE."

The blood of Jesus has purchased for us righteousness, Holy Spirit infilling, healing, peace, love, joy, etc. This grace removes sin but also removes excuses for living in sin because we can freely receive wisdom, love, and power to overcome sin.



WE RECEIVE BY FAITH

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8-9, NIV).

Saving faith is not just mental assent. Even demons mentally believe in Jesus! **Saving faith is the kind of believing that involves total commitment to your belief. It is believing in Jesus, totally trusting him to take you to heaven — on his merits, not your own.** It is a faith that has corresponding action. We don't just say we believe, we act like we believe! Saving faith confesses Christ as Lord — and lives in submission to him and dependency on him.

DOES THIS MAKE SENSE TO YOU? WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE NOW? HERE'S HOW!

REPENT. "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy" (Prov. 28:13, NIV).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 NIV).

"Unless you repent you too will all perish" (Luke 13:3, NIV).

OPEN THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART

Jesus says, **"Be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me"** (Rev. 3:19-20, NIV).

