

Are You Going to Heaven?

By William MacDonald & David Hupp

Mouse click (finger tap if using a tablet or SMART device) items below you feel are the best basis for reaching Heaven. Each click will take you to a Holy Bible based answer.

Note: On a PC computer, the keyboard combination *Alt+Left Arrow*, takes you back to the previous view. You can also right click the computer mouse on a page and choose *Previous View*.

1. [Keeping the Ten Commandments](#)
2. [Gifts to charity](#)
3. [Doing one's best](#)
4. [Leading a good life](#)
5. [Good works](#)
6. [Trying to obey the Golden Rule](#)
7. [Tithing or giving to the church](#)
8. [Church membership](#)
9. [Regular church attendance](#)
10. [Prayers](#)
11. [Fasting](#)
12. [Baptism](#)
13. [Holy Communion](#)
14. [Born of Christian parents](#)
15. [Confirmation](#)
16. [Penance](#)
17. [Extreme unction](#)

The summation of the answers to the above activities is that, while good works and living a moral life are activities God wants us to do as children of God, they do not make us a child of God or put us on the road to Heaven. These seventeen popular myths about how to reach Heaven are proven false by God's Word the Holy Bible.

How, then, if [we can't earn access to Heaven by works we do](#), is one made right with God and ready for Heaven?

[God wants everyone to spend eternity in Heaven with Him](#), and [He desires that no one perish or be lost](#). There is one thing (not on this list) that we can do. [Click here](#) to find out what that is.

We are made right with God by Jesus Christ dying on a cross in our place for our sins. ([1 Corinthians 15:3](#)) In exchange, He gives us His goodness or right standing with God as the only Man who was ever good enough to keep all God's commandments and be eligible for Heaven. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#) Living Bible)

So what is God's only way of salvation? The Bible gives [a definite answer](#). The one and only means of spending eternity with God in heaven is [faith \(trust\) in the Lord Jesus Christ alone](#).

Because we cannot save ourselves by good works, good character, personal effort, or merit of any kind, God sent His Son to die as a substitute for sinners like you and me. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day, He finished the work necessary for salvation. Now all God requires of you is to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior: ([Acts 16:31](#)).

So when you trust in Jesus you are saved and are destined to spend eternity in Heaven. ([John 5:24 AMP](#))

Will you accept God's way of salvation? [The choice is yours](#). You may continue to trust in the seventeen things on the list. If so, you will go to the grave without Christ and wake up facing [God's eternal punishment](#). Or, you can believe in Jesus Christ and be saved.

Be wise! Choose Christ! Pray this *World's Most Important Prayer* aloud, and from your heart.

Dear Jesus, come into my heart, forgive all my sins, wash me in Your blood, write my name in the Book of Life, and fill me with the Holy Spirit so I can serve and obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Our only hope for Heaven is based completely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. When you prayed, [God's Bible promises](#) became your assurance that you are His child, He now lives in you, and you will spend eternity with Him.

What do I do now that [I am a child of God](#). When you called on Jesus to be your spiritual Lord or Master, it is implied that you will try to obey Him. A few basic suggestions from the Bible are:

- 1) Seek to put Jesus Christ (God's will) first place in your life, and live in a manner that pleases God. ([Titus 2:11](#))
- 2) Pray daily to God the Father in Jesus' name. Believe you receive the answer to your requests from the moment you pray, and God will see to it that you will have them. (See [Mark 11:23-24](#) and [I John 5:14-15](#))
- 3) Read the Holy Bible each day. You may want to start with the Book of John. ([Psalm 1:2-3](#)) With an internet connection, you can read the Bible for free in several languages and translations at www.biblegateway.com
- 4) Find and attend a church that believes that the Bible is the Word of God, a place where Christians love & help one another. ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
- 5) Share your faith in Jesus as God's way to eternal life. You will be blessed by God if you do. ([Daniel 12:2-3](#)). A good internet resource for becoming an effective soul winner is: <http://www.wayofthemaster.com> or <http://www.livingwaters.com>

Document *bookmarks* for clickable links (blue text):

1–The Ten Commandments are God's absolute rules for living. No man has ever perfectly kept all of God's laws—except for God's only Son, Jesus. A person will never reach Heaven through his or her own efforts. The Bible says:

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His [God's] sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

"For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die." (Galatians 2:16 NLT)

"Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone." (Hebrews 2:9b NLT)

2, 3, or 4—Gifts to charity, doing one's best, and leading a good life are commendable acts, but according to the Bible, they will not save anyone:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

"All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." (Romans 3:12 NLT)

5, 6, or 7—Neither good works, trying to obey the Golden Rule, or giving to the church will get you to Heaven. God's Word says,

"For by grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

8 through 11—Church membership, regular church attendance, prayers, and fasting are good in themselves, but they can never justify sinners before a holy God:

"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. " (Isaiah 64:6 NLT).

12 or 13—Without trusting in Jesus Christ, baptism and Communion cannot help. The Bible shows clearly that these are of spiritual value only when one believes in Jesus Christ. See Acts 8:12; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 23-32.

14—Children born into Christian homes need to be saved just like anyone else.

"As many as received Him [Christ], to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood [not of one's parentage], nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

15 through 17—Neither Confirmation, penances, or extreme unction are the basis for going to Heaven. God has provided only one way of salvation. Jesus Christ said,

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
(John 14:6).

"...we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Jesus Christ, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." (Galatians 2:16 NLT)

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." (Galatians 3:24)

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26)

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."
(I John 5:11-13)

Jesus said, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*
(Revelation 3:20)

*"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes **a brand new person inside**. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17 Living Bible)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23 Living Bible)

"But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them." (John 1:12 Living Bible)

*"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, **even** eternal life."* (1 John 2:25)

Jesus died on the cross for our sins — I Corinthians 15:3 *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"*

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Living Bible - Receiving God's offer of eternal life, compliments of Jesus Christ, is our free will choice - *"All these things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's*

ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:21 Living Bible - *"For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!"*

The Finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross - Hebrews 10:12 - *" But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"*

God's eternal punishment:

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:11-15)

"Click here" answer: Acts 16:31 NLT *They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."*

Jesus said, *"I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (**possesses now**) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life." (John 5:24 AMP).*

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Not by works we do:

*"Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But—"When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, **He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.** He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Because of His grace He declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.**" (Titus 3:3-7 NLT)*

"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." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Definite answer - John 20:30-31 "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

*"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

(1 John 5:11-13)

What to do now that [you are a child of God](#).

Mark 11:22-24 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours."

1 John 5:14-15 NLT *And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him. And since we know He hears us when we make our requests, we also know that He will give us what we ask for.*

Psalms 1:2-3 NLT *But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.*

Daniel 12:2-3 NLT *Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.*

Titus 2:11 Living Bible *For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone; and along with this gift comes the realization that God wants us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures and to live good, God-fearing lives day after day,*

...God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

(1 Timothy 2:3b-4 NLT)

He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.
(2 Peter 3:b NLT)

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26)

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