

Neither Roller Skates nor Shirrtails

Do you plan on going to heaven? A friend boasted of his afterlife confidence. A likeable, smooth-talking salesman, he's based his assurance on his golden tongue. He forgot that the Lord will know his tactics before he opens his mouth.

When I was a boy, we sang a song on long trips that went, "O you can't get to heaven on roller skates." Has it been updated to roller-blades? I don't know. I haven't been on any long trips with children recently. I'm not aware of what they sing now. The few times I've been around youngsters, they either played with their iPhones or had their ears plugged with buds.

Many adults I know base their heaven-confidence on affiliation. They assume heaven as a given for them because their spouses are good people. Or their parents lived by faith. Some feel assured because they go to the "right church." All of the above expect to go to heaven riding someone's shirrtails. They'd have a better chance on roller-skates.

Why do I say this? I base it on Bible teachings and examples. In *Ezekiel 14:20*, the Lord warned about punishment for the land of Israel: "Even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness," said the Lord. There's no room to grab shirrtails here. Job and the others were good persons, but they couldn't save anyone else. The *Book of Romans* says, "There is none righteous." Everyone dead or alive (except Jesus) stands perpetually in the debit column. If you are not personally depending on Christ's righteousness and honoring God through him, not even space rocket roller-blades can hurtle you to heaven.

Robert Blair
PO Box 304
Marcus, IA 51035

www.robertblairbooks.com