

# Why Not Many People Are Going to Heaven

Opinion polls conducted in this country reveal that a majority of us believe in heaven. Major portions of those who think heaven exists assume they have an excellent chance of entry once their lives end here.

Hollywood films frequently depict angels with varying human qualities who help us complete our unfinished earth business. Those extra-mortal agents supposedly guarantee our heavenly fitness when the time comes to “shuffle off this mortal coil,” as Shakespeare so eloquently phrased the event. Those who promote such notions resemble unqualified medics who serve toasted marshmallows to the dying, telling them that the sweet puffs will cure them.

Our afterlife prospects might not be as bright as we like to imagine. Two types of evidence confirm what I'm saying. First, “The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide,” said the only person who ever came from heaven to earth. “But the Gateway to Life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it,” (*Matthew 7:13,14* - Living Bible). “Few” indicates a small percentage.

Second, no Biblical evidence supports the belief in second chances. “Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God,” says *Hebrews 9:27*. Many folks carry long-term anger over the offences of others. Jesus’ *Matthew 18* parable about our need to forgive teaches that we shall not receive God's forgiveness unless we practice the act of pardoning. If we carry grudges and animosity after sundown, we may be in bigger trouble than the guy who went to Tijuana for a head transplant. Forgive in Christ today. You'll feel free. God will forgive you. And you won't be starting your afterlife path on a charcoal-lined gurney.