

# Dressing up Death

There are many different belief systems when it comes to death and achieving eternal life. Almost every funeral service or celebration of life service puts the deceased in a happy, carefree, pain-free, peaceful eternal existence up in Heaven. The idea of an all-inclusive Heaven for everyone who was a “good loving person” who did good things and cared for their loved ones is promoted throughout not only the Church world, but throughout the secular world as well.

The idea of being automatically reunited with that favorite teacher, who helped you so much, or that coach that helped shape you into the person you are today, or parents, grandparents and other family members, although comforting to us now, is this really what is going to happen? People have been dressing up death to seem like some automatic rite of passage from this earthly existence into that Eternal Heavenly Realm.

Everyone is entitled to their own ideologies and beliefs when it comes to the concepts of the afterlife and achieving everlasting life. Our objective in this study is to present the true answer to the question, “What must I do to live forever?”

Nobody likes to talk about the finality of death. It is a subject that we just avoid or don't think about or discuss because it is diving into the unknown. Hollywood speculates what it will be like; other religions speculate what it will be like, even many Christian Churches speculate what it will be like. The only sure record that we have about how to attain forever in our lives has been preserved for us in the Book we call the Bible.

What sets the Bible apart from all other religious books, is that it is the only Book that claims to be the actual Word of God. **(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:20-21)**

This is proven to every one of us who begin to believe and obey what we read in its pages. We begin to see the results in our lives that the Lord promises to give to those who believe and obey. It only makes perfect logical sense that if we want to live forever in that Eternal Heavenly Realm, should we not consult the Word of God that has been preserved for us? Within its pages, we can read what the clear path is to eternal life.

The first thing that becomes obvious is the fact that it takes more than just simple believism to be saved. There are many Churches that promote this doctrine that all you must do is believe. Although this is very important and necessary, according to Jesus, this is just the starting point. Notice what Jesus said in **Mark 16:16**. He that believeth **AND is baptized** shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned. Believing is the starting point and the ending point, but there are other steps to take in between.

Notice what Jesus said in **John 3:3,5,7**. Here we find out that we must be born again of the water and of the Spirit. These are the words of Jesus, our Savior. Jesus says that there are definite steps that we must take to enter or even see the Kingdom of God. That's the whole point; it is the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of God, and what is commonly referred to as Heaven are all the same things.

According to the Word of God, it takes more than just believism to be saved. Why are so many Churches preaching to their congregation's faith only? Jesus made this point very clear during His Earthly ministry. (**Matthew 7:21-23**) In **John 8:30-32**, Jesus makes it very plain that faith or believing is just a starting point. Jesus admonishes those believing Jews to continue in His Word. By continuing in His Word, they would become true disciples and find Truth and the Truth would make them free.

From what does the Word of God make us free? The Word of God tells us how to become free from our sins that we are all born with. It is sin that brings death. In the Word of God, we read about the way to get forever in our lives. If we remain in the sin we are born with, we are dead in the eyes of God. (**Ephesians 2:1,5, Colossians 2:13, Romans 5:12**) Sin has been judged from the beginning. (**Ezra 18:4**) We have the space of our earthly existence to search for Truth that will make us Spiritually alive in the eyes of God.

This is why God was manifest in the flesh and by His own arm, He brought us salvation. (**1 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 63:5**) **John 3:16-18** tells us that Jesus came to save us from the condemnation of sin. If we die in our sins, we will perish. To perish means to cease to exist forever. There is no life in the word "**perish**". Eternal life only comes through the Name of Jesus. (**Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:12**) If I want forever in my life, I must get the Name of Jesus in my life and the Spirit of Jesus in my life.

How in the world do I do that you might ask? They asked this exact same question on the Day of Pentecost. They too wanted to be saved from the sin that stained their very souls. They asked Peter and the rest of the Apostles: "**What must we do?**" The same question is being asked today by millions of people. Unfortunately, the answer that is being given today is quite different than the answer that the Apostle Peter gave them on that day. Let's read what the Apostle Peter told them on the Day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2:37-41**) Notice that after true repentance comes baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. There it is! Remission means complete release from the guilt and penalty of sin. Jesus said in **Matthew 26:28** – "***For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sin.***"

In **Acts 2:39**, we read about a promise that God will give us after true repentance and baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ. This promise is the gift of the Holy Spirit just as they received on the Day of Pentecost. This experience is the event that was "**noised abroad**" and gathered the crowd around that day to investigate what was going on.

So, there we have it, the Good News of the Gospel message; the ONLY Gospel message that we find throughout the whole Bible. It is echoed by the Apostles throughout the Book of Acts and expounded upon throughout the Epistles.

There is no other Gospel message found anywhere that will open Heaven's doors for Eternal Life. The Apostle Paul made a very strong statement in **Galatians 1:6-9**. There is NO other Gospel.

Why is it today that many Churches across the world have changed the one true Gospel message that we find in the Bible? Absolutely nowhere in the Bible do we find "the sinner's prayer" as a way to receive remission of sin.

Nowhere in the Bible do we find the words "Accept Jesus as your personal Savior and you shall be saved" as a way to get remission of sins. So why are many preachers and teachers telling their congregations today?

## Conclusion

The Bible gives us a very clear precise simple detailed plan of how to become born again of the water and of the Spirit. If we were born into sin the first time, then common sense tells us that we must be born again to get rid of the sin factor. If we remain in the sin that we were born with, we will perish. Sin has already been judged. No sin will enter the Kingdom of God. **(Revelation 21:27)**

There is only one way to receive remission of sin through believing and obeying the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. This means there is only one way to be saved: the Bible way.

Many people today, secular and Christians alike, are dressing up death. This means many are actually putting their loved ones, friends, and acquaintances into God's Heaven without coming God's way.

They say all the right things and even pray the right prayers, but if the sin factor has not been removed, the results are sin death or to perish. Don't base your faith on what is being said or believed by many; but rather put your faith and trust in the Word of God. Eternity is too long to be wrong.

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