

## **If you died today, would you go to Heaven?**

**By Miguel A. Canete**

If you die today, are you sure you will go to Heaven? Do you sometimes wonder? Can you even know for sure? Contrary to popular belief the answer is “Yes!”

The apostle John wrote, “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 Jn. 5:13, NIV). Notice that he clearly says that we can “know” whether we “have eternal life.” Who can know this? The answer is, “you who believe.” In other words, those who have believed in Jesus can know for sure that when they die they will go to Heaven.

But this begs the question, “What does it mean to believe in Jesus?” For one thing we know that it isn’t simple intellectual knowledge because even “the demons believe” and “they tremble in terror,” the Bible says (James 2:19, NLT). So just *knowing* that Christ died for my sins and that He rose from the dead will not get me there. There’s got to be more!

It is also clear that believing in Jesus isn’t about being a good person and about doing good things for others, because the Bible clearly says that eternal life “is not a reward for the good things we have done” (Eph. 2:9, NLT). We need to keep looking...

The answer is found in the meaning of the Greek word πιστεύω (pisteuō) which in 1 John 5:13 is translated as “believe.” This carries the idea of believing “to the extent of complete trust.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, you believe in Jesus when you put your complete trust on the fact that He paid for your sins on the cross, that He rose again, and that by submitting your life to Him you can have the eternal life He bought for you at Calvary. Believing in Jesus is banking your eternal destiny in Him by making Him your Lord. According to John, if you do that, you can *know* that you have eternal life.

Of course, this also works the other way. If you have not banked your eternal destiny in Christ, if you have not believed in Him, then, you can *know* that you do *not* have eternal life and you need to run to Jesus in order to receive it—before it’s too late (see John 3:18). How? Just get on your knees and say, “*Lord, Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner; Forgive me! Come into my life and give me eternal life. I trust you completely! Amen.*”

If you have placed your complete trust in Jesus, then, you can be certain that you will never be condemned for your sins, because you have *already* passed from death into life (Jn. 5:24). So relax and enjoy the ride. Final destination: Heaven!

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<sup>1</sup>Swanson, James: *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)*. S. GJK4409

