

Newsletter October 2020

From Heaven's Heart

“Can I Be Sure I'll Get Into Heaven?”

I was reading a devotional today and the subject was on being sure, absolutely sure, that we know we are going to Heaven.

The truth is, God set up His plan for Heaven in a simple and perfect way according to God. Jesus said this about Heaven. It answers the “How” question. John 5:24 “Those who hear my words and believe in Him who sent Me have eternal life.” And He adds this very important thing. *“And they will not be judged.”*

So we know by Jesus' words, “Believe in Me (Jesus) and you will have eternal life.”

Why do some people still doubt it? Maybe some doubt it because it is so simple and nothing else is required by us to have the promise of eternal life in Heaven. But that's what Jesus said...Just believe.

You may imagine a day of judgement where you're standing just outside the entrance to heaven in a long, slow moving line waiting to get in. As you get a little closer to the gates, you are thinking and wondering about judgement and maybe still wondering if you are getting in? Am I going to make it? Is God going to be reviewing my life on a TV screen showing every wrong thing I've ever done? Will my every sin be exposed?

I have some really good news for you. It's the promise of Jesus Christ. The Bible says in John 3:18 that those who believe in Jesus...his death and resurrection will not be judged.

Here's the real picture. You're standing in line waiting for the judgement. Jesus sees you and says; “I know you. We've been friends for years. You put your trust in me one year during Easter in 2002. Come with me. Get in the express lane. You get the fast track. You get to bypass the judgement.” Is that good news? You bet it is.

I remember a Sunday school teacher who said that God is sitting in Heaven writing down every bad thing we ever did. It scared me to death because the older I got, the longer my list was getting.

Is that the way God treats us when we come and put our faith in Christ? No way! In fact, God is erasing, erasing, and erasing all the time. Forgiving, forgiving, forgiving all the time. He's sitting in heaven, hitting the delete button.

Why? Because the bible says, "God is love" 1 John 4:8 and "love keeps no record of wrongs" 1 Corinthians 13:5. If you put your trust in the love of Jesus Christ, your sins are wiped out and no judgement awaits you when you arrive in Heaven.

"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" Romans 8:1

There will be a day of judgement, but it will be for those who refused to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This should give us all, as believers, complete confidence that we are going to Heaven one day and the penalty/judgement for all our sins has been paid in full by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

If God doesn't keep a record of our wrongs, why is it still important for us to try to do the right thing? The simple answer is out of our love for Him, what He did for us. Think about how grateful you would be if a fireman gave his or her own life for you by rushing into your home that was in flames and rescued you from certain death. They died so you could live. You'd be eternally grateful. That's what Jesus did for you and me. And that kind of love for us should motivate us to do good things, right things.

John 5:24 "Those who hear my words and believe in Him who sent Me have eternal life and they will not be judged."

I am so, so thankful for God's plan for Heaven and judgement...aren't you!

With my deepest love for you and our Savior Jesus,

Pastor Steve

PS Thank you for your faithfulness during this mess Covid has caused.

PPS God is in the process of cleaning it up.