

***Do You Want to  
Go to Heaven?***

**(A Gospel Tract for Children)**

## ***Do you know what Heaven is?***

Heaven is a very beautiful and wonderful place that's high up in the sky, where you can't see it. It's a place where some people go after they die. And it's a place where there is nothing but happiness. There is nothing bad in Heaven. Everything is good and perfect there. Most importantly, Heaven is where GOD lives.

## ***Do you know who GOD is?***

There is so much to know about GOD that I can't tell you everything about Him. We can't even know everything about Him. But I can tell you some of the most important things. He has written a book called the Bible that tells us about Him and much more. Who is GOD?

### **GOD is our Creator** (Jer. 32:17)

First, He is the One who created or made you and everything and everyone else. He made the world and everything in it, like animals, plants, oceans, mountains, and much more. And if you look up, you can see what else GOD made – the sun, moon, stars, and all the other things in the sky. Isn't that amazing? GOD did all that without any help. He just spoke, and all those things were made.

### **GOD is Eternal** (Ps. 90:2)

Since GOD created everything, that means He was here before anything else was made. GOD is eternal. That means He has always been here and will always be here forever. He has no beginning or end. He was never born, and He will never die.

### **GOD is a Spirit** (John 4:24)

This means GOD does not have a body like us. He is invisible, and you can't see Him. We have spirits inside us, too,

that you can't see. But GOD's Spirit is very different than our spirit. Though you can't see Him, He can see you and everyone else in the world, because He can be everywhere at the same time.

### **GOD is Infinite** (1 Kings 8:27)

GOD is infinite or bigger than anything else. He is so big that He goes on forever in all directions. He is bigger than the world and all the other planets in the sky. GOD is so big that our world is just like a tiny speck of sand compared to Him.

### **GOD is All-Knowing** (Ps. 147:5)

GOD is perfectly wise. He knows everything. He knows what will happen tomorrow, the next day and every day after that. He knows what we are thinking and feeling. Nothing can be hidden from Him. He knows everything about you, including all your secrets. He sees everything that you do, good or bad, even if others don't see. GOD knows and sees all things.

### **GOD is All-Powerful** (1 Chron. 29:11-12)

GOD is stronger and more powerful than anyone. He can do anything He wants. What He does is always good. He has power to stop the wind and the waves. He has power over thunder and lightning. He can make the sky light or dark. He can make the earth shake. And yes, He even has power over life and death. Nothing is too hard for GOD.

### **GOD is Sovereign** (Ps. 47:2,8)

Sovereign is a big word, but it just means GOD rules over everything and everyone. GOD is a great King – greater than all the other kings and rulers. He decides everything that happens in the world, in Heaven, and beyond. He controls both big and little things – from the planets in the sky to how many hairs are on your head. When He made you,

He decided what you would be like – the color of your hair and eyes, how tall you would be, how strong or fast you would be, and much more. He also decided what family you would be born into and where you would live and who your friends would be. GOD decided all that even before you were born. GOD controls everything that happens in our lives. (This does not mean, though, that GOD causes us to do what's wrong. We choose to do that.)

### **GOD is Three in One** (Matt. 3:16-17)

Though there is only *one* GOD, He is also *three* persons in one. This is hard to understand, but GOD's Word says it is true. There is GOD the Father, GOD the Son, and GOD the Holy Spirit. Though they are separate persons, they are joined together as one GOD. They love each other very much and agree on everything. They are all eternal, infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect, etc. Though they are all GOD and share these things, they have different roles or jobs.

### **GOD is Truth** (John 17:17)

GOD is truthful. He always tells the truth and never lies. He can always be trusted to keep His promises. He has written down His truth for us in a book called the Bible. We can read it and learn more about GOD and about ourselves. The Bible tells us many important things, like how and why GOD made us, the story of mankind, where good and bad came from, what is right and wrong, how we can know GOD and please Him, how we can go to Heaven, and much more.

### **GOD is Just** (Deut. 32:4)

GOD is just. This means He is fair and always does what's right. He is a good Judge that punishes those who are bad and rewards those who are good. He doesn't treat some

people better just because they're rich or powerful. And He doesn't treat others badly just because they're poor or weak. Being just also means that GOD *must* punish those who are bad or do what's wrong, because that's the fair and right thing to do. Punishing the guilty (bad) also stops people from doing more bad things and hurting others.

### **GOD is Love** (1 John 4:8)

Though GOD is just, He is also loving and merciful. He is very patient and forgiving. He is very kind and giving. And He cares about us and wants what's best for us. One way He shows His love is by taking care of us and giving us the things we need. All that we have is a gift from Him – our life, family, home, food, clothing, and everything else. GOD also shares His beautiful world with us to enjoy – flowers, butterflies, animals, sunshine, mountains, oceans, forests, and much more. We have so much to be thankful for. GOD shows His love best, though, through the gift of His only Son Jesus Christ. GOD sent Jesus from Heaven to earth to become a man and take our punishment for our sins (wrong doing) by dying on a cross. "GOD demonstrates [shows] His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners [those who disobey GOD], Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). And if we believe this, we can have eternal life or live forever in Heaven. No one loves us more than GOD.

### **GOD is Holy** (Is. 6:1-3)

GOD is very holy. That means He is perfect and never does anything bad or wrong. There is no one like Him. All that He does is good and right. One way GOD shows us He is holy is through His laws or rules. He wants us to obey His laws, which are holy, perfect, and good (Rom. 7:12). He commands us to be perfect and keep all of his laws. "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is per-

fect" (Matt. 5:48). He wants us to be holy like Him. "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:16). Since He created everything and is perfectly holy, He can make the laws, and we should obey them. Can you keep all of GOD's laws perfectly? Here are some of them. See if you can obey each one...

## ***The Most Important Commandments***

The most important commandment is, "You shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The next most important commandment is, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). This means we are to put GOD first and love Him more than anyone else. And we are to love others and treat them the way we want to be treated. Do you do this? What are some more of GOD's commandments?

## ***The Ten Commandments*** (Ex. 20:2-17)

- 1. Worship GOD only.** There is only one GOD, and we should worship Him alone. To worship GOD means to show love and honor to GOD above everyone and everything else. GOD should be the most important Person to us. Worship also means to give GOD the glory or praise He deserves. We can do this by telling GOD and others how great and wonderful He is. We also worship GOD when we sing to Him and tell Him how much we love Him. And we give glory to GOD when we thank Him and obey Him. When we do these things, it shows others that GOD is worth a lot. And that gives Him glory. We were made to give glory to GOD and worship Him. That's why we are here. Do you worship GOD?
- 2. Don't make or worship idols.** Since GOD is the only GOD, we should not worship anyone or anything else. That

would be called worshipping idols. GOD commands us not to make or worship any idols. An idol is anyone or anything we love, trust, or honor more than GOD. It can be anything that takes the place of GOD in our heart. Idols can be other people, toys, TV, money, or even ourselves. Idols can also be statues or pictures of anything we might worship, pray (talk) to, or bow down to. GOD also tells us not to make any pictures or statues of Him. This greatly dishonors Him. GOD is a Spirit, and no one knows what He looks like. And since GOD is perfect, nothing we make could truly look like Him. Worshipping idols is very evil, and GOD hates it. Do you have any idols?

**3. Don't dishonor GOD's name.** GOD's name is very holy. We should treat it with great respect. We don't honor GOD's name when we use it in a bad way – in swearing, in anger, or making fun of it. We also dishonor GOD if we say bad or untrue things about His Word, the Bible, or His people, Christians. And when we say we are Christians but we don't act like it, we dishonor GOD's name. Do you honor GOD's name?

**4. Keep the Sabbath.** GOD commands us to rest on the Sabbath or the seventh day of the week. This is when GOD rested from making the earth and everything else. He wants us to treat this day as a special and holy day to worship and serve (do things for) Him. GOD gives us all the other days of the week to do other things. But we are to set this day aside to remember GOD and thank Him for all He has done. We should not work or do other things on this day that would take the place of GOD. He should be first. But we can do things that are really needed or things that help others. The Sabbath is a day to be happy and rest as we remember how good GOD has been to us. Do you honor the Sabbath?

- 5. Honor your parents.** GOD commands us to honor and obey our parents. GOD has given us parents to take care of us and teach us. We should be thankful and show respect to them in what we say and do. We should do everything they tell us to do, unless it goes against GOD's Word. And when they get older and can't take care of themselves, we should help them. GOD promises to bless and reward us with a long life if we do these things. Do you honor your parents?
- 6. Don't kill.** GOD commands us not to kill or murder anyone. This also includes hurting people in other ways, such as hating, saying mean or angry words, hitting, or doing other unkind things. GOD loves us very much, even when we're bad. And He wants us to love others as He loves us. He even tells us to love our enemies. Do you love others?
- 7. Don't commit adultery.** GOD commands husbands and wives to be satisfied or happy with each other. Their relationship is very special. They should love each other and stay together. They should not want or treat someone else as their husband or wife.
- 8. Don't steal.** GOD commands us not to steal or take something that doesn't belong to us. This includes even little things. Whether it's big or small, it's still stealing in GOD's eyes. Just as we would not want someone to steal from us, we should not do that to others. If we've stolen something, we should return it or pay for it. Do you steal?
- 9. Don't lie.** GOD commands us not to lie, but to always tell the truth. He loves the truth, but hates lies. The devil, GOD's worst enemy, is the father of lies. When we lie, we're being like the devil. Lying includes little lies, big lies, half lies, and full lies. Even if we think it is for a "good" reason, it is still a lie. Lying is also tricking people, cheating, making up excuses that aren't true, and covering up

or hiding things we've done wrong. It is also a lie when we make things seem much greater or worse than they really are, so that others believe the wrong thing. If you lie, no one will trust you or believe you. Do you lie?

**10. Don't covet.** GOD commands us to not covet or want things that belong to someone else or that we really don't need. We should be happy with what GOD has given us. He did not have to give us anything, but He was kind to us and gave us all that we have. When we want other people's things or things we really don't need, it shows GOD we're unthankful and greedy. Also when we covet things and want them too much, we are treating them like idols. Do you covet?

## ***GOD's Law is Important***

Did you pass the test? Were you able to keep all the commandments perfectly? If you thought this was hard, these are just *some* of GOD's commandments. You can read about more of them in GOD's Word, the Bible. It is very important to know what GOD's law says so we know what GOD expects of us or what He wants us to do. Though we cannot go to Heaven by keeping GOD's law, since we cannot keep it perfectly, we should still obey it. Why?

First, we should obey GOD's law simply because GOD commands it. GOD made us, and He is the King over all of creation. So, He should be able to tell us what to do. Should you question your parents, teacher, or others over you when they tell you to do something (if it's not bad)? How much more should we obey GOD who rules over everyone and everything?

Another reason we should obey GOD's law is that if we do it for the right reason (not to show off or because we think it will get us to Heaven), it can bring us much happiness (Ps. 119:2). How? Obeying GOD's law means loving each other and treating others the way we want to be treated. It means telling the truth instead of lying, sharing instead of stealing, forgiving instead of getting angry, and being kind instead of hurting others. If we obeyed GOD's law, there would be much more peace and joy in our lives. And think of how much better our world would be if we all obeyed GOD. This is how obeying GOD's law can bring us happiness.

GOD's law is good for us and can help us in other ways too (Deut. 6:24). GOD's law teaches us the truth, so we know what's right and wrong. GOD's law can also make us wise (Ps.119:98,99). The Bible says those who obey GOD's law are wise, while those who don't are foolish (not wise). GOD's law shows us how to be holy like Him. Though we will fail and cannot be perfect like GOD, He is pleased when we *try* to obey His law. He promises to bless and reward us if we obey Him (Ps. 119:11). He also promises to answer the prayers of those who obey Him (if they ask for the right reason). "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22). GOD's law also warns us not to do bad things so we won't hurt ourselves or others, and so we won't be punished. Probably the most important thing GOD's law does, though, is that it shows us our sin (Rom. 7:7, 3:20). What is sin?

## ***What is Sin?***

The Bible says, "Sin is the transgression [breaking] of the law" (1 John 3:4). Sin is when we disobey GOD by breaking His law. It's when we do wrong or bad things. Sin causes lots of problems, and it hurts many people. Do you like it when someone sins against you by hitting you, saying mean words, or stealing your things? And would someone like it if you did that to him? We should not sin. Sin is very evil, and it makes people very unhappy.

Sin also makes GOD very unhappy. He is so kind to us and gives us so much, even though we don't deserve it. He shares His world with us and keeps us alive every day. We should be thankful and show it by obeying Him. But when we sin, we show that we are not thankful. GOD is also our King, and we should obey and honor Him. But when we sin, we do not honor or respect GOD. Our sin shows that we do not care what He says. By sinning, we are acting like GOD's enemies.

## ***How Can We Know if We've Sinned?***

Reading GOD's law can show us our sin. That's one reason the law is so important. It tells us what sin is, so that we know if we're sinning. When we read in GOD's law, "Thou [you] shalt not steal," we know that if we've stolen something that we've sinned. And if we know that we've sinned, we can ask GOD to forgive us and change our hearts so that we won't want to sin. Without the law to show us our sin, we might not find out how bad and sinful we are. And if we didn't know about our sin, we might just keep sinning and hurting ourselves and others. More important, we would not see our need to be saved or rescued from sin by GOD, who alone can help us. It's like someone who is very sick and

dying, but doesn't know it. If the doctor doesn't tell him how sick he is, he won't try to find a cure so he can be made well. But if he knows he has a deadly disease (sickness), he can try to get help. In the same way, knowing about our sin is very important, so we can seek help from GOD, who alone can save us from the deadly spiritual disease called sin. Why is sin so deadly?

## ***Sin Brings Death***

Not only is sin so bad because it makes everyone so unhappy, but because it also leads to death. How? Because GOD is holy and fair, He must punish sin. If a judge did not punish bad people who break the law, he would not be a good judge. And bad people would be free to hurt more people. GOD is not like that. He is a perfect Judge, who always does what's good and right. So, He punishes sin. Because sin is so evil, the punishment for sin is death. "For the wages [punishment] of sin is *death*, but the gift of GOD is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). "The soul who sins shall die" (Ez. 18:4).

This means physical and spiritual death. Some day, our physical bodies that we can see and touch will die. And our spiritual bodies inside, which we can't see or touch and that live forever, will either go to Heaven or to a horrible and scary place called hell. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget GOD" (Ps. 9:17). Hell is a place of punishment, where it is completely dark, and there is nothing but lots of pain and crying. "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just [good], and cast [throw] them into the furnace [big oven] of fire. There will be wailing [very loud crying] and gnashing [grinding] of teeth" (Matt.

13:49-50). And people who go to hell stay there forever. There is no break and no escape once they go there. Who will go to hell? GOD's Word, the Bible, says everyone who *sins* will go to hell...unless (keep reading to find out!)

## ***Who Sins?***

Who are the ones that sin? Before I answer this, let me ask, were you able to pass the test when you read GOD's commandments? Did you keep all of GOD's law perfectly? If you were honest, you would have to say no. No one can pass the test, because no one can keep GOD's law perfectly. Even if you kept all the commandments but one, you would still be guilty of sin. You just need to disobey one commandment to be guilty of breaking GOD's law (James 2:10).

So, then, who sins? The Bible says we *all* sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of GOD" (Rom. 3:23). Not one person is good in GOD's eyes. "There is none who does good, no, not one" (Rom. 3:12). "For there is not a just [good] man on earth who does good and does not sin" (Eccl. 7:20). Though sometimes people may say we're "good" when we obey our parents, do well in school, or give to others, this is not the kind of good GOD is talking about. To do good in GOD's eyes means to do something perfectly and for the right reason – to give glory or praise to GOD, because we love Him and out of true love for others. If we only do good to show off, feel proud about ourselves, or to keep from being punished, this is not true good in GOD's eyes. Unless GOD changes our sinful hearts to new hearts that want to truly love and obey Him, we cannot do *true* good. Any good that we do looks spiritually dirty to GOD, because we do it for the wrong reasons. "But we are like an unclean

thing, and all our righteousnesses [good deeds] are like filthy [very dirty] rags..." (Is. 64:6).

## ***Where Did Sin Come From?***

So, why do we all sin? Where did sin come from? Sin started when the first man and woman (Adam and Eve) that GOD created sinned. Though GOD gave them the whole world, they decided to rebel (go against GOD) and disobey Him. The devil (a very bad angel and the worst enemy of GOD) lied to them and tricked them. And they believed him instead of GOD. Part of the punishment was that their sin got passed down to all of us. That's why we sin, because we are all *born* sinners. "I was brought forth [born] in iniquity [sin], and in sin my mother conceived me" (Ps. 51:5). We are not born good, like some people think. We are born sinful. Even little babies and little children can sin when they get angry, scream, hit, or won't share. No one has to teach them these things. They do it on their own; because sin is already in their hearts from the time they're born. Like them, we were all born sinful.

## ***What Does it Mean to be Born in Sin?***

To be born in sin is to be born spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3). First, this means that we are very sinful. How sinful are we? Our hearts are very black and dirty with sin (Gen. 6:5). And they are filled with evil, though we may not even know it. "The heart is deceitful [lying, tricky] above all things, and desperately [very, very] wicked; who can know [see, understand] it?" (Jer. 17:9). We are so sinful and wicked that we often love what is bad and hate what is good. That's why we don't want to be close to GOD, because He is perfectly good. We do not truly want to know, love, or obey Him (Ps. 14:1-3, Rom. 8:7). And we're so evil that we sometimes want to do what we're told not to do, just because we're told not to

do it (Rom. 7:8). Isn't that crazy? "Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness [craziness] is in their hearts while they live..." (Eccl. 9:3).

Second, to be spiritually dead means that our sin separates or keeps us from GOD. Because GOD is so holy and we are so sinful, we cannot be near Him (Hab. 1:13). GOD hates sin very much (Ps. 5:4-6, Prov. 15:9). So, our sin acts like a wall that divides us from GOD. And our rebellion (going against GOD by sinning) makes us His enemies. GOD wants to make peace with us and be friends, but we will not give up our sin or come to Him. We run away from GOD, even though He loves us more than anyone else.

Third, to be spiritually dead means that we are spiritually blind (Eph. 4:17-19). We cannot see or understand GOD's truth (1 Cor 2:14). Instead, we believe the lies of the devil (2 Tim. 2:26, Rev. 12:9). Deceived (tricked) by the devil, we see GOD as our enemy, though He is our best Friend. We think we're good when we're really bad (Prov. 16:2). We're so blind that sometimes we even think good things are bad and bad things are good. And we enjoy sin even though it is our worst enemy. We also choose the things of this world, which will be gone some day, over the things of Heaven, which will last forever. Being spiritually blind means being foolish or not wise.

Fourth, being spiritually dead means that we are slaves of the devil and sin (John 8:34, Rom. 6:16, 1 John 5:19). It's like we're in a spiritual prison and we can't get out. Sin controls us completely – our thoughts, feelings, words, and actions. And when the devil tempts us (tries to get us to sin), we listen and obey. We can't stop sinning – not even one

day. That's how bad we are. Just try to not sin in your thoughts, words, or actions for one day. Can you love GOD and others perfectly all day? Can you think and say only good and kind things for a whole day, without any complaining or whining at all? You'll see that it's impossible. Sin controls us so much and so completely that we're like puppets on a string. Though sin will destroy (hurt, kill) us, we love our sin and don't want to give it up. And we can't get free from sin. Why? Because we are slaves to sin, and slaves cannot free themselves. Only GOD can set us free.

Fifth, to be spiritually dead means that we cannot do any good on our own. Like a dead person, we are *totally* helpless. We cannot stop sinning on our own. We cannot change ourselves or make ourselves better (Jer. 13:23, Rom. 8:7,8). We cannot even do good things, like believing in GOD or repenting (turning away from our sin), unless GOD first makes us "born again" spiritually. "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of GOD" (John 3:3). What does it mean to be born again?

## ***What Does "Born Again" Mean?***

To be born again means GOD makes us spiritually alive from the dead. He gives us spiritual life by giving us a new spiritual heart with His law written on it so that we want to obey it (Jer. 31:33). He washes away our sins (spiritually) and forgives us. He also puts His Spirit in us to guide (lead) and help us (Ez. 36:26-27). All this changes us a lot! We're no longer spiritually blind and slaves to sin and the devil. We become new people spiritually. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). We think, feel, speak, and act very differently. Unlike before, we

want to be with GOD and not run away from Him. And we want to love and obey Him, because we no longer see Him as our enemy but as our best Friend.

Only GOD can make us "born again". Since we are dead spiritually, we can do *nothing* to save or change ourselves. Can a dead person raise himself from the dead? Can a dead person hear GOD's call or believe in Him? No, GOD, in His mercy, must *act first* and raise us from the dead spiritually *before* we can hear GOD and come to Him (John 6:44,65). He must also give us the gifts of faith (belief) and repentance (turning away from sin) before we can even believe or repent (Acts 11:18, 13:48, Eph. 2:8-9, 2 Tim 2:25). And He must open our spiritual eyes and hearts so we will want to come to Him to be saved (Acts 16:14). We cannot save ourselves at all, because we are born totally in sin and cannot do any good. Only GOD can save us - all by His grace (undeserved mercy). So, GOD should receive all the glory (1 Cor. 1:31)!

## ***Is There Any Hope?***

But until this new birth happens, we are dead in our sins and heading toward death – physical death for our bodies and eternal death (hell forever) for our spirits. That's where death comes from, and that's why we all die – because of sin (Rom. 5:12). You see why sin is such a terrible thing? It kills and destroys!

If we have all sinned and we are all heading toward eternal death, is there any hope? Is there some way of escape – some way to be saved from sin and eternal punishment? Yes! GOD is so merciful and kind that He is willing to forgive all our sins and not punish us in hell. But there is only ONE

way we can be saved – through *JESUS CHRIST* (*John 14:6, Acts 4:12*). Who is He?

## ***Who Is Jesus?***

Jesus is GOD's only Son (*John 3:16, Heb. 1:5*), whom GOD sent from Heaven to earth to save us. Before He came to the earth, Jesus, who is GOD the Son, lived in Heaven with GOD the Father and GOD the Spirit (*John 1:1-3*). He was very happy there. He was loved and worshipped by all those in Heaven. And He lived like a king with all His riches and splendor (greatness, glory). But because of His love for us, Jesus decided to leave all this to become a poor, rejected (unwanted) man on earth (*Phil. 2:5-8, Isa. 53:3*). Though He became a man, He did not stop being GOD (*Col. 2:9, Heb. 1:3, Titus 2:13*). Jesus was and still is both fully GOD and fully man (*John 1:14*). He is the GOD-Man (*1 Cor. 15:47*). He became a man by being born from a virgin, which means that He was not made the normal way babies are made, but by a miracle of GOD (*Isa. 7:14*). (A miracle is when GOD does something beyond normal, human power in a very special way.) And Jesus grew up and lived on the earth for over 30 years.

While Jesus was on the earth, He did many great and wonderful things. The things He did not only showed that He was GOD, but they also brought glory to GOD the Father. Jesus showed that He had the power of GOD by doing many miracles. He healed many sick people, took demons (bad angels) out of people, and even made dead people come back to life again. He also showed His great power by feeding thousands of people with just a little food, turning water into wine, walking on the sea, stopping a storm with just a word, and many other amazing things. Not only this, He showed He

was GOD by being perfectly holy and never once sinning, though the devil tried many times to tempt Him or get him to sin. Jesus also showed He had GOD's perfect knowledge. He could read people's minds and tell the future. He also taught GOD's truth. He explained what GOD's law meant and that it is important to obey GOD's law from the heart and not just on the outside. He also told people how they could go to Heaven – by believing in Him and repenting (turning away from sin). Finally, Jesus showed GOD's great love for us. First, He did this by helping many people and caring for them. He even showed love and mercy toward those that others rejected (didn't want) or didn't like – the poor, lepers (people with a very bad sickness that spreads), foreigners (people from other countries), and people who had done very bad things. But the way Jesus showed GOD's love the most was by giving up His life for us so we could live. What do I mean?

## ***How Did Jesus Save Us?***

Jesus came to the earth to save us from sin and judgment (punishment in hell). He did this by taking our punishment (death) for us that we deserve. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit" (1 Pet. 3:18). Our sins deserve both death and hell. And for GOD to be holy and just, the punishment for our sins needed to be paid. His justice needed to be upheld or fulfilled. So, either we could all suffer (have great pain) forever in hell paying for our sin, or Jesus could take our place and pay the penalty (punishment).

Thankfully, because of GOD's great mercy, Jesus paid the penalty for us, so that we would not have to. GOD did not

have to give up Jesus for us. But it was part of GOD's plan made before the world began (1 Pet. 1:19-20, Acts 2:22-23, 2 Tim. 1:9, Rev. 13:8), to show us just how much He loves us. GOD gave us His only precious Son Jesus to die for our sins, so that we could be forgiven, set free from sin and hell, and go to Heaven. The Bible says, "For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish [go to hell] but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Though Jesus was perfectly innocent (good, sinless) (1 John 3:5), He willingly suffered and died in our place by being nailed to a cross by His enemies. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

He did not stay in the grave though, because nothing, not even death, can hold GOD. As planned, He raised Himself from the dead three days later by His own power (1 Cor. 15:3-4,20). And after many people saw Him alive, He returned to Heaven. He is still in Heaven today, ruling at the right hand of GOD the Father (Col. 3:1, Heb. 1:3). And some day He will return to the earth in the clouds with all His angels to conquer (take over) the earth, destroy the wicked (those who reject or don't want Jesus), and to gather His people from the earth so they can live with Him forever (Matt. 13:41-42, 24:30-31). Will you be ready when He returns?

# ***How Can I Go to Heaven?***

## **Trust in Jesus As Your Savior**

If you truly believe this about Jesus – that He is both GOD and man, that He died for your sins, and was resurrected (came back to life) on the third day to return some day, you can be saved and go to Heaven. But you must *truly* believe this in your *heart* and not just in your *head*. Believing in Jesus also means trusting in Him alone – and not anything else – to save you. “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Your good works or anything or anyone else cannot save you. “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ” (Gal. 2:16). The Bible says you are saved only by GOD’s grace (mercy) through faith (belief) in Jesus’ death on the cross for your sins (Rom. 3:24-25). “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of GOD, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). It’s not Jesus *and* your good works or Jesus *and* belonging to a church that saves you. Only Jesus alone saves you. Do you believe that Jesus alone is your Savior (the one who saves you)?

## **Repent of Your Sins**

If you really believe in Jesus, you will also repent of your sins. This means that you must first believe that your sin is very bad and that it deserves punishment in hell forever. GOD will not accept a prayer from someone who is proud, who thinks highly of himself, or believes that he’s pretty good. You must be humble and think lower thoughts of yourself and see yourself as very sinful. If you don’t see yourself this way, ask GOD to show you your sin and He will,

if you really mean it. You must also feel very sorry for your sin and hate it so much that you want to repent of your sin or turn away from it. This is not easy to do and impossible without GOD's help. We naturally love our sin and want to hold onto it. But if GOD helps you to understand that your sin is like a deadly disease (sickness) that's killing you, you will want to give up all your sin and not hold onto any of it.

Sin is also like a fire that can easily destroy you. Would you play with fire knowing it could destroy you? Even if it looked fun to play with, should you try it? If you were smart, you wouldn't care what it looked like. You would just get away from it as soon as possible before it destroyed you. Like this, sin can sometimes seem fun, but it is really very bad and deceptive (tricky). Don't be fooled (tricked). Sin is dangerous and is not something you should play with. Stay away from sin, before it burns you and destroys you.

## **Let Go of This World**

If you really want to be saved, you need to also be willing to let go of the things of this world, if GOD asks you to, even if they're people or things you love very much. GOD must be first above everything and everyone. If you were told you would lose your money, toys, or other things you like if you followed Jesus, would you choose Jesus or your stuff? If your best friend said he would not like you anymore if you followed Jesus, who would you choose – Jesus or your friend? If you choose your stuff over Jesus, you will just lose all of it some day when you die, because you cannot take it with you. And if you choose your friend instead of God, you may end up in hell forever. Is it worth it? But if you choose GOD, you will end up in Heaven forever. Which is better?

To give up this world is very hard to do. We're so used to it, and it's all we know. And we can see and touch things in the world, but we cannot see and touch things yet in Heaven. It takes faith (belief) in GOD to choose GOD and Heaven over the things of this world. The only way you can do this is if GOD first opens your spiritual eyes and shows you the great glory (beauty) and worth of Jesus and how valuable His gift of eternal life is. If you really see and understand that Jesus is a precious Treasure, worth more than anything, you will be willing to give up all the worthless things of this world to have Him instead. Would you trade a toy ring for a real diamond ring worth thousands of dollars, or would you keep the toy ring? Wanting this world over Jesus is like wanting the toy ring over a real diamond ring. Which is better – the world or Jesus? Our sin or Jesus? Sin brings death. And the things of this world will all be gone some day (Matt. 24:35). But Jesus gives you eternal life and great joy that lasts forever! Which do you choose?

## **Follow Jesus as Lord**

If you truly believe that Jesus is your Savior, you will also be willing to follow and obey Him as your Lord and Master. This means doing whatever He tells you to do, even if it means giving up things in this life that are important to you. "If anyone desires [wants] to come after Me, let him deny [say no to] himself, and take up his cross [be willing to suffer] daily, and follow [obey] Me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus should be the King ruling on the throne of your heart, not you. After all, He knows what's best for you. This is very important to understand. Some people think you can be saved without having to obey Jesus as your Lord. They think you can just keep sinning and disobeying GOD the same way you did before and still be saved. But that's not true. Jesus said, "Not

everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who *does the will of* [obeys] My Father in Heaven" (Matt. 7:21 emphasis added). If someone is truly saved, he will be willing to follow and obey Jesus as his Lord, even though it's sometimes hard, or else he's not really saved.

## **Pray to GOD to Save You**

If you truly believe from your heart, your actions will show it. You will pray (talk) to GOD and tell Him you believe His Word and that you want to be saved. There are no exact words that you must pray to be saved. But in your prayer, you might say in your own words that you believe you're a sinner that deserves GOD's judgment (hell). And then confess or tell GOD *what* your sins are, that you're really sorry for them, and that you want to stop sinning. Also say that you believe Jesus died to save you from your sins, and that He is the only one who can save you. And tell GOD that you want to trust and obey Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Finally, beg GOD to show you His grace (mercy) and forgive you so that you can be saved. Be careful. It's not just *saying* the prayer that saves you. Some people think if they just say the words out loud, they will be saved, even if they don't really mean it in their heart. You must not just say the words, but really, really mean it. GOD will know if you're telling the truth, because He knows what's in your heart. If you *really mean* what you say in your prayer, then GOD's Word says you will be saved. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that GOD has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9). "For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

## ***How Can You Know if You're Truly Saved?***

If you're truly saved, you will produce (make) good spiritual fruit or good deeds. "Every good tree bears [grows] good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit" (Matt. 7:17). Good spiritual fruit or goodness is the sign or mark that shows you're truly a child of GOD. If you're really saved, there will be clear proof that people can see - your righteousness (obedience to GOD's Word, holiness) and your love toward others (1 John 3:10). Be careful. It's important to understand the order of things. Producing good spiritual fruit does not mean that doing good deeds *before* you're saved will save you. You can *never* be saved by your good works, only by GOD's grace. Instead, spiritual fruit means that *after* you're saved, good deeds will *prove or show* that you're truly saved. If you're saved, do you try your best in GOD's power to be holy and to show love to others?

Also, if you're truly saved, GOD's Spirit will come live in you, teach you, and help you (John 14:16-17; Rom. 8:9). You will know that He is with you, because He will let you know, and you will see a big change in your life (Rom. 8:16). If GOD's Spirit has made you born again and has given you a new heart, you will be like a new person. Though you won't *look* different, you will think, feel, speak, and act differently. Most importantly, you won't see GOD, others, and yourself in the same way as before.

You'll see GOD as your best *Friend* instead of your *enemy*. You will love GOD and want to make Him happy. One way you'll show your love and please Him is to *be holy like Him* by obeying His commandments. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). The reason for your

obedience is very important. True Christians want to obey GOD to show Him their *love and thanks*, and not just because they have to or for fear of punishment. Another way you'll want to please GOD is to love what He loves (good things) and hate what He hates (bad things). Because you love GOD, you will also want to *pray* or talk to Him a lot. You will want to *read His Word*, the Bible, so you can know Him better and know how to please Him. You will want to *serve GOD*, doing the things that bring Him glory (praise). And you will want to *worship GOD* together with other true Christians who also love GOD.

Another way you'll know you're saved is by how you see and treat others. True Christians try to love others – even their enemies – as themselves. And they have a special love for other Christians. If you're truly saved, you will try to think of others first and not yourself. You will look for ways to show love to others, like giving to the poor or helping sick or older people. And if you love others, you will also want them to go to Heaven. So, you will tell them about GOD and how they can be saved.

Finally, if you're truly saved, you will see yourself differently. You won't think so highly of yourself as you may have before. Instead, you will become more humble and less proud. And if you think less of yourself, you will also become less selfish. You will begin to put GOD and others before yourself. You'll spend more time thinking of ways to please GOD and others than to please yourself. And the longer you're saved, the more humble you will become, as you see more and more of your sins and weaknesses. And when you sin, you will feel sorry for it and ask GOD and others to forgive

you. More importantly, you will repent of your sin, since you know sin destroys and it separates you from GOD.

You will also grow spiritually. This means you won't stay the same but get better by GOD's grace over time. The more you pray, study the Bible, and do what it says, you will become holier and less sinful, by GOD's power. It won't happen right away. It may take a very long time. But you should want to become more and more like Jesus, who is perfect. Though you won't become perfect until you reach Heaven, you should see some spiritual growth in your life, or else you're not truly saved. Lastly, the more you become like Jesus, the more important the things of Heaven will become to you, and the less important the things of this world will become. All this will happen because *GOD* will be changing you to get you ready for Heaven. Are you ready for Heaven?

## ***Do You Want to Go to Heaven?***

I began this little booklet by asking if you wanted to go to Heaven. I described how wonderful Heaven is. And I told you who GOD is and how great He is. Then I told you how you can go to Heaven. I said it's not easy, but hard. First, GOD has to make you born again, something you cannot do at all. Then you not only have to put all your trust in Jesus alone to save you, but you also must be willing to give up your sin, your idols, this world, and your trust in yourself. Do you still want to go to Heaven? If so, ask yourself: Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior with all your heart? Are you willing to give up your sin and this world to have Jesus? And are you willing to follow Jesus in whatever He tells you to do? If so, pray to GOD now and beg Him to forgive you, to change your heart, and to save you. If you

really mean it from your heart, GOD promises you can go to Heaven. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of GOD, to those who believe in His name..." (John 1:12).

This is the most important decision you will ever make. It is a matter of life and death – eternal life and eternal death. How you choose will determine (decide) where you go for eternity (forever). I'm not pretending or playing when I say these things. I'm being very serious. Though you're young, you don't know when your last day on this earth will be. It may be today. GOD controls whether you live or die. Do you know where you will go after you die? And are you prepared to meet GOD at His throne of judgment? Once you die, it is too late to change your mind and believe in Him. This life is your only chance to believe and be saved. I pray that GOD in His mercy will soften your heart and allow you to believe His truth, so that you will not perish but spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Is that what you want? If so, don't wait too long or it may be too late. I leave you with the same question I asked you at the very beginning. Please, for your own soul and for your own happiness, think about it seriously...

## *Do You Want to Go to Heaven?*

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Thank you for reading this tract. We hope that you were blessed by it.  
If you have any questions, or would like a free New Testament please contact:  
**freegiftofgrace@gmail.com**

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Words in brackets [...] were added to help make the meaning clear.