

On what basis do you hope to go to heaven?

Some people base their hopes of going to heaven on their moral character:

“I am a good moral person. I am not wicked like many people are. In fact, I am better than some who go to church every Sunday. I love my fellowman. I make regular contributions to charity. I pay my taxes. I do my job and provide for my family.”

Others might offer a spiritual defense based on a past religious experience:

“I believe in God and I try to live a good life. I believe in Jesus Christ; in fact, I was saved in a revival many years ago and though I don’t go to church like I should, I know I’m saved because I asked the Lord to come into my life and save my soul.”

These are not trustworthy grounds for assurance because:

All of us have sinned against God and are condemned by His law.

- All of us are accountable to the law of God.

We are born into the world innocent of wrong doing and incapable of understanding our responsibility to God; but as we grow older we develop the capability to know God’s law. This law, which God has revealed from the beginning, confronts our innocence and

demands our perfect obedience to remain righteous in God’s eyes (Rom. 7:9-11).

- All of us have violated this law of God.

In Romans 1:18-32 Paul reveals the reasons why God’s wrath was revealed against the people of his own day. When we read it honestly, we must all admit that we too have been guilty of at least some of these things (Rom. 3:23).

- All of us stand condemned by law.

Because all of us have violated this law we are condemned by it to eternal death (Rom. 6:23). It testifies to our sinfulness and removes any chance of boasting of righteousness by works (Rom. 3:27-28). Thus, none of us can hope to enter heaven on the basis of works (Rom. 3:19-20).

Only God’s grace can save us from the wrath to come.

This hope of salvation by grace is revealed in the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17). The “good news” is that there is a way out of sin provided for us by Jesus Christ. God makes us righteous by faith in Him. Because Jesus fulfilled the law and gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, we can be forgiven, released from the debt the law has placed upon us. His plan of salvation offers forgiveness to all who believe in Him (Rom. 3:22-26).

Through faith we must respond to God’s conditions of forgiveness to become a Christian.

Our faith response to the gospel involves several more specific attitudes and actions clearly set forth in the gospel:

1. We must acknowledge our accountability, sin, and worthiness of death (Rom. 3:23).
2. We must acknowledge God’s own provision for our salvation through Jesus’ sacrifice for us (Rom. 5:8-9).
3. We must be genuinely sorry for our transgressions against God’s law and repent (Rom. 2:4).
4. Turning to the Lord, we must confess Him as God’s Son and our Savior and Lord (Rom. 10:9-10).
5. Putting our trust in the sacrifice of Christ, we must be baptized into His death, calling upon His name (Rom. 6:1-4; 10:13).

Upon these conditions God has agreed to cleanse us and make us His children, heirs of eternal life (Gal. 3:26-27). Only in this way can we have hope at the judgment. For only those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and whose names have been

written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:27; 22:14).

Now examine your own life honestly and seriously. Take a moment to go over this salvation "checklist". Where do you stand with God? Have you completely obeyed the gospel?

Personal checklist

- I have acknowledged my accountability, my sin, and my worthiness of death as a sinner.
- I have acknowledged and trust in God's provision for my salvation through Jesus' sacrifice.
- I have been genuinely sorry for my transgressions against God's law and have repented of my sins.
- I have confessed Him before others as God's Son and my Savior and Lord.
- I have been baptized for the remission of sins, calling on His name.

If you are ready to obey the gospel, we hope you will let us help you. If you need to study more, give us the opportunity to talk with you about this tract. We are eager to serve you in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ!

This tract is a brief digest of a sermon delivered by Johnny Felker. If you would like a cassette tape of the full sermon, we will be glad to make a copy for you.



We would be honored to have you visit with us at Perry Heights at any of our services.

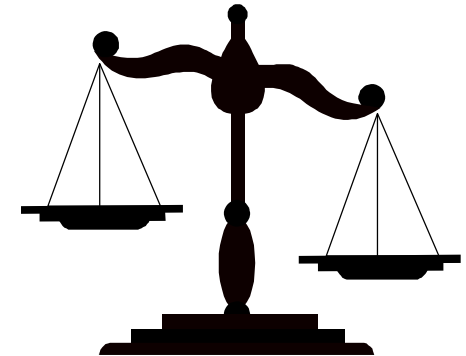
**Sun. 9:00 a.m. (Bible class)
9:55 a.m. (Worship service)**

6:00 p.m. (Worship service)

Wed. 7:00 p.m. (Bible class)

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Preparing for the Judgment



When Jesus comes, all of us will stand before him and give an account of our lives to him. We will either be welcomed by the Lord into the new Jerusalem or we will be separated from the presence of the Lord forever. What assurance do you have that when you face the Lord in judgment you will be accepted into God's heavenly kingdom?