

There are only two paths that people may take into eternity. One leads to heaven, and the other leads to hell.

Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction [hell], and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life [heaven], and few there be that find it.”

Since we want to get to *heaven*, let’s follow the path that is mentioned in the scriptures:

■ Everyone has sinned.

Romans 3:10,23: “... *There is none righteous, no, not one ... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*”

Normally, people try to be good (obey the law, go to church each week, pay their bills on time, treat people kindly, etc.). But the Bible says that to a perfect and holy God, something as common as *lying* is viewed as a wicked sin. And like everyone else in the world, you’ve probably committed that sin—and many others.

I’m sure you’ll agree ... we have all sinned.

■ Sin is punished by death and hell.

Romans 5:12: “Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death ...”

God created Adam, placed him in the Garden of Eden, and told him not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He *did* eat from that tree, and his disobedience had far-reaching effects. Because of that one sin, the curse of death is being passed on to all of his descendants (the entire human race).

People have various opinions of hell. Some deny it exists; others believe hell is the grave. But the Bible warns that physical death is followed by judgment and a second death, which takes place in the lake of fire.

(Note: The lake of fire is similar to hell—only worse!)

Revelation 20:12-14: “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God [in heaven]; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Many people insist that a loving God would never send us to hell. Others think that for those who go there, it will be “party time.” But they’re wrong! Luke 16:19-31 describes what happened to an unsaved man after he died. He could see, hear, and speak, and he felt thirsty and tormented in the flames. Despite the fact that the man was rich, his money couldn’t save him or his brothers from hell. **Unfortunately, it’s possible that—good or bad, rich or poor, believing there’s a hell or not—someday you will join them there!**

Revelation 21:8: “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Revelation: 20:15: “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Have you ever wondered what hell is like? Picture a lake of molten lava, or imagine that you’re hopelessly trapped in a fire. Flames severely burn your skin, darkness blinds you, smoke fills your lungs, and although you scream from fear and pain, “death” never comes. **Hell is a horrible place, and its TORMENT CONTINUES FOREVER.**

The Bible says ... hell *does* exist, and it definitely *isn’t* fun!

■ Jesus died to pay for our sins.

Romans 5:8: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

So that God wouldn’t be forced to send us to hell, his Son lovingly agreed to pay our debt. While on earth, Jesus was tempted by Satan numerous times, but *he never sinned* (Hebrews 4:15) and certainly didn’t deserve to die on a cross.

Before being crucified, Jesus was humiliated and tortured. Soldiers mocked and slapped him, spit upon him, beat him with a whip, plucked out his beard, and pounded a crown of thorns into his head. The abuse was so cruel, Jesus was said to be “*marred more than any man*” (Isaiah 52:14). Then he was taken to Golgotha, stripped of his clothes, and nailed to a cross.

During the crucifixion, God placed upon Jesus the sins of the world, and though he loved his Son dearly and was well pleased with him, he’s also holy and hates sin. As a result, Jesus was forsaken by his Father while he bore *our* sins and suffered *our* punishment as he hung on the cross. He died and was buried. After three days, he triumphantly rose from the dead. Forty days later, he ascended up to heaven and sat on the right hand of God.

We should be glad that God loves us so much, he permitted his Son to die for our sins.

■ Heaven was created by Almighty God, so he has decided how we get in.

John 14:6: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 3:3: “... *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

The Lord is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3: 9), so the plan of salvation isn’t complicated. Even children can be saved. Sadly, most people procrastinate, or else they disregard God’s plan because Satan blinds them to the truth and makes them believe that they’ll get to heaven by doing good deeds. The fact is ...

■ Eternal life is a gift. It can’t be earned.

Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace are ye saved through faith [plus NOTHING!]; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.”

According to the Bible, **we can’t work our way to heaven.** Church attendance and membership, Bible study, prayer, baptism, good works, etc., are fine things, but they’ll never get us to heaven, for in God’s eyes, “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

1 Peter 1:18-19: "... **ye were not redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, ... **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Romans 6:23: "... **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**"

Jesus loves us so much, he willingly suffered and died on the cross so we could have eternal life. It comes in the form of a gift—purchased with his own precious blood. As you know, when offered a gift, you are forced to either accept or reject it. That's true in this case, too, for ... **although eternal life is free, in order to have it, you must accept it.**

■ How do you accept God's gift?

Revelation 3:20: "*Behold, I [Jesus Christ] stand at the door [to your heart], and knock: **if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.***"

Romans 10:9-10: "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***"

Romans 10:13: "*For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.***"

To have eternal life, **you must ask Jesus to come into your heart and save you so you can go to heaven when you die.**

Why not do it now? *You can repeat the following prayer or say it in your own words.* No one can do this for you.

Jesus, I know

I'm a sinner and can't save myself.

Please forgive me and come into my heart.

Help me do things that are pleasing

to you. Thank you, dear Lord,

for saving my soul.

Amen.

If you prayed that prayer **and really meant it**, you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are now, in biblical terms, *born again* (spiritually) and *saved* (from hell), and **your name has been written in the book of life.** Consequently, you will never have to go to hell, and you can look forward to living forever in the beautiful mansion that awaits you in *heaven*—a marvelous paradise of incredible beauty, joy, and peace.

1 Corinthians 2:9: "*But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.***"

Revelation 21:4: "*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.***"

Congratulations on making this very important decision!

P.S. Because we're "born again" when we get saved, some Christians refer to the occasion as their "spiritual birthday." To help remember when you got saved, you should record the date somewhere, such as here or in your Bible.

Date I was saved: _____

(Verses quoted are from the King James Version of the Bible)

GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU A MANSION IN HEAVEN!



Jesus told his disciples: "***In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***" (John 14:2-3)

By Linda O'Donnell

Web site:

www.mansioninheaven.com

E-mail:

lindaodonnell@inbox.com

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