

## How Do You KNOW that You're Right With God?

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, *Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*

Mark 10:17

**Nicodemus saith unto him, *How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*** John 3:4

**And brought them out, and said, *Sirs, what must I do to be saved?***

Acts 16:30

The most important question one could ever ask is probably, "*What must I do to have peace with God?*" We have to ask ourselves the question, "*What happens after death? What's going to happen to me? Where am I going to go once I die?*" In our society, we plan for our family's future in education, health care, and retirement. We even go as far as to have a will drawn up and plan which cemetery we're going to be buried in. We do everything we can to make sure we have taken care of all details for the natural world.

Unfortunately, many dear people pay no attention or have little interest in their future life once they leave this earth. But, the three individuals in the preceding scriptures inquired what they must do to be saved and right with God. You want to ask yourself the question, "*If I were to die today, would I go to heaven?*"

As a child, I grew up in church. Once I started attending, I never missed a Sunday service unless I was ill. One time, even after I had worked a 24-hour shift from Friday to Sunday morning, I still made it to church. I was hoping that my attendance record would cause God to smile in my direction. I was very religious, but I didn't know God personally. One day at work, two men whom I didn't know asked me, "*If you died today, would you go to heaven?*" All I could say was, "*I go to church*", and tell them that I did good deeds.

Some people think that as long as they're good, they'll get to go to heaven. But Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Titus 3:5 inform us that all our good deeds and works and our righteousness can not save us.

**(For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast ; Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*)**

No matter how many good deeds you do, you still fall short, for Romans 3:23 says, **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God** . And Isaiah 64:6 says, **But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...**

When I was a teenager, I wanted to be a state trooper. There was a trooper who lived down the street from me when I was growing up. His name was Mr. Dawson. He was a very high-ranking trooper. In fact, he was the head of a post. Any time I saw him getting out of his car, I'd go over and talk to him. He would show me his car and handcuffs, he'd turn on his lights and siren, and he even allowed me to

look at his revolver (he just made sure that he held it). He told me stories of people he'd arrested and I was so infatuated with the idea of being a trooper.

Then one day, Mr. Dawson told me, "*Jesse, I'll do everything I can to get you in, but there's one requirement that they're very strict on and will not compromise. I'm concerned that you might not be able to meet it — you have to be a certain height.*"

So every day when I got home from school, I'd put marks on the doorjamb of my bedroom. But by the time I graduated from high school, I was so disheartened to find out that I still wasn't tall enough. I came up short to qualify to be a state trooper.

All the good things that we can do in this life are things that probably should be done, such as feeding and clothing the poor, caring for the elderly, helping orphans, and attending church. All these can be a blessing and a help to all those whom we assist, but we still fall short to enter into the kingdom of God.

The day that those men asked me the question, "*If you died today, would you go to heaven?*" got me thinking. They kept asking me, "*What about Jesus? What have you done with Him?*" I believed in Jesus all my life, but I just didn't know Him personally. I prayed to God every day religiously. I slept with a Bible by my bed, but I didn't have Jesus in my heart. Some people think that they're right with God because they keep the Ten Commandments and observe the Sabbath. ***But Galatians 3:1-4 and 19-29 say,***

**<sup>1</sup>O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? <sup>2</sup>This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? <sup>3</sup>Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain.**

**<sup>19</sup>Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.**

**<sup>20</sup>Now a mediator is not *a mediator* of one, but God is one. <sup>21</sup>*Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. <sup>22</sup>But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. <sup>23</sup>But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.**

**<sup>24</sup>Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. <sup>26</sup>For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Some people think that because they've been water baptized that it's enough in itself to get them into heaven. ***But 1 Corinthians 1:11-18 says ,***

**<sup>11</sup>For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house of* Chloe, that there are contentions among you. <sup>12</sup>Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; <sup>15</sup>Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.**

<sup>16</sup>And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. <sup>17</sup>For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. <sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Some people think that by partaking of Holy Communion, it's enough to get them to heaven. ***But, according to 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, you can partake of it unworthy.***

<sup>27</sup>Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. <sup>29</sup>For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Nicodemus wanted to know how he could be born again when he was old, for he said, "***How can a man be born when he is old?***" (John 3:4 ) And, Jesus' response was "***Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again***"

(John 5-7).

When the jailer asked Paul and Silas, "***...what must I do to be saved?***", they said, "***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house***"

(Acts 16:30, 31 ).

Religion has made people confused about spiritual matters, and Satan wants people confused and deceived, for he doesn't want anybody to be saved, according to 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4: ***But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***

In witnessing to others about salvation, they need to know first of all, that **God loves them**:

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

John 3:16

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

And to prove His love, they need to know that **He gave His only begotten Son**, as we see in John 3:15-18:

**That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Finally, they need to know that **there's one God and one Savior**: For ***there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

1 Timothy 2:5

So, to answer the question, What must the person do to be saved?, and for them to have a **one hundred percent guarantee** that when they die, they go to heaven, the answer is found all through the New Testament:

**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. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Romans 10:9-13

**And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** Acts 2:21

**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.** Acts 4:12

**And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** Acts 8:37

**Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** Philippians 2:9-11

**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.** Revelation 3:5

For one to receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, as we read in Romans 6:23 (*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*) and John 1:12 (*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name*), they must believe in their heart that Jesus Christ came to this world and never sinned and that He was crucified as prophesied by the prophets of old (in the Old Testament) and as we read in Isaiah 53:

**<sup>1</sup>Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

**<sup>4</sup>Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

**<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.**

<sup>8</sup>He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. <sup>9</sup>And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup>He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore will I divide him a *portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

God put the sins of the world on Jesus when He hung on the cross. And, if you believe that Jesus Christ died and was resurrected from the dead, and if you publicly confess that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, you will be saved:

**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;**

1 Corinthians 1:18, 23

**For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

2 Corinthians 5: 21

**For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 1 Peter 3: 18**

**Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Romans 3: 22-24**

I'd like to take this opportunity for us to pray a prayer in regard to our salvation from God through Jesus Christ. And if you are physically able, I would like you get on your knees to pray this prayer as am going to lead you in. You can also use this prayer to lead someone else to Christ:

## The Prayer of Salvation

God, I come before You today on my knees as humbly as I know how to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I believe in my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus took all my sins when He went to the cross and He has been raised from the dead.

I receive Jesus today as my Lord and Savior as I pray this prayer, for You said, whosoever shall call upon the Name of Lord shall be saved.

I thank You, Father God, for saving me and for forgiving me of all my sins!

God, I don't want anything to keep me from going to heaven, so I thank You that You always direct my paths in this life.

You said in 1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And I thank You Lord for forgiving me of all my sins, known and unknown.

Thank You, God, for saving me and causing me to be born-again and have eternal life through Jesus Christ, My Lord and Savior, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Now that you've prayed that prayer from your heart and confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, you are now a child of God and a new creature Christ Jesus: **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new** 2 Corinthians 5: 17. And, **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name** John 1: 12 .

Now, to help you grow and develop spiritually, I'm going to ask you to pray every day out loud to God, and talk to Him about everything. Read the New Testament every day, and fellowship with other Christians as much as possible. Ask God to help you find a church that teaches the Word of God and preaches salvation through Christ Jesus. If there's none in your area, then get all the materials you can from our ministry and come to as many services as you can. Witness to someone every day about what God has done for you.

If you prayed this prayer to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please contact the ministry and let me know. I'd be blessed to hear what God has done for you. And, as always, if I can be of any assistance to you in your spiritual growth, please contact me.

Your brother in Christ,

**Brother Rich**