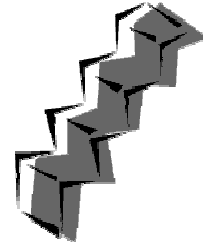


YOU ARE ONE STEP FROM HEAVEN OR HELL



Where will **you** spend eternity? What choices do you have? We will answer these questions according to what the Bible says, but first let's learn a few important details about God.

Who Is God?

God is love. He loves you! ***"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). God loves you and me so much that He gave the ultimate sacrifice of His only begotten Son. Jesus Christ, God's Son willingly and knowingly left the glory and joy of heaven to be born as a baby and later to be crucified by the cruelest death imaginable on a cross. God's word teaches that Jesus is the creator of the universe. The creator died for His creation! What love! You may be asking, why did Christ have to die for you and me? The Bible says that we are separated from God because we have all sinned against Him. ***"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"*** (Isaiah 59:2). You see, God wants to have a personal relationship with each one of us. He wants us to walk and talk and spend time with Him and Him in return with us. But since He is holy and just, He cannot allow sin in His presence.

What Is Sin Anyway?

The Bible says that we are all guilty of sin. ***"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"*** (Rom 3:10) and ***"For all have sinned,"*** (Rom 3:23a). Everyone is guilty of at least one sin; (worshipping idols, lying, stealing, cheating, pride, lust, hate, putting yourself ahead of God and others are examples of sin). If a person dies without being saved from their sins they will have to pay the wages for their sins. ***"For the wages of sin is death" (in hell) (Romans 6:23);***"This is hell for all eternity! No amount of works or rituals that we try to do will allow us to be made right with God. But God has a wonderful plan of salvation!

The Good News of the Gospel

Jesus in His awesome love for us paid our debt of sin in full! The blood that He shed on the cross can forgive us. ***"In whom we have redemption through his (Jesus) blood, even the forgiveness of sins":*** (Colossians 1:14). We can now have peace with God through the blood of His cross (Colossians 1:20). After Christ died He was buried and rose from

the dead! He lives, never to die again! He promises; ***"because I live, ye shall live also"*** (John 14:19). He is now sitting on the right hand of God His Father and is making intercession (praying) for all His children who have a personal relationship with Him.

It's Your Decision?

God created us all with a free will. A person will either want God's forgiveness so they can be reconciled back to Him, or they will choose to remain separate from Him lost in their sins. It's totally up to each individual - no one can make this choice for you. God did not create you as a robot or a puppet on a string. He does not make you do things His way, but instead out of love, He created you so you could make your own choices. If you love God because you want to, this is what makes it true love. God desires this for all of His creation, for He is not a respecter of persons. He loves us all the same and wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9).

Do You Want To Follow Jesus?

You do not have to spend eternity in hell! A place of everlasting torment and fire! You can have complete fulfillment in this life and hope in the next. The Bible tells you to, ***"repent ye, and believe the gospel"*** (Mark 1:15). Repentance is when you are sorry for your sins against God and you have no desire to keep continuing in them. You must ask God to forgive you and be willing to allow Christ to take complete control of your life. This is what it means to make Jesus the Lord of your life. When He becomes your Lord, His loving grace and mercy can now save you from sin and hell. ***"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon"*** (Isaiah 55:6-7). We must place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ so we can be set apart for His plan and purpose. This is what it means to be born again. ***"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"*** (John 3:3). To be "born again" is to be spiritually born into God's kingdom. It is a changed life devoted to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will come to live in a child of God and will guide them to live for Jesus. Letting Christ cleanse our life takes diligence. We must deny ourselves and take up the cross daily. Multitudes of people have decided to follow this narrow path of God's eternal salvation. What better way than to put your faith and confidence in the Creator of the universe! This road of serving Jesus will completely fill the void in your heart and life. God brings true happiness and peace, and in hard times He promises always to be with us. When this life ends we have hope of a much better life. This is a place called heaven.

What Is Heaven Like?

Heaven is a glorious place beyond our wildest dreams! (See Revelation 21-22) Heaven will be a place of joy and happiness forever! ***"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"*** (Revelation 21:4). In heaven, believers will be with God and will have the privilege of serving Him forever.

The Righteous Judgment of God

Let's move on to the next attribute of God. The Bible teaches that God is also a God of judgment. God is holy and just and He must punish sin. Many people think that since God loves everyone He would never send anyone to hell. This is a dangerous assumption. We condemn our own self to hell because we will not submit to God our creator. Just as a murderer or rapist gets condemned by a judge to prison, God must also condemn those who have decided to remain separated from Him. Think about it, heaven would not be a glorious place with unbelievers, murderers, thieves, rapists, liars, and blasphemers in it. God's wrath is real and is to be feared; ***"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 21:8).***

Death Is Hell Without Jesus

Hell will be a terrible place to spend eternity! Forever separated from God and all that is good. You must remember what a stench sin is to God's nostrils. Why ignore God's free gift of salvation? This is God's way. ***"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).*** Jesus is the only way to heaven!

Where Do You Want To Spend Eternity?

If you want to go to heaven when you die then it is time to live like it while you are still on earth. If you don't want anything to do with God now; why would you even want to go to heaven? You surely must be saying, "I want to go to heaven to stay out of the torments of hell". This type of reasoning will do you no good. Either you want to serve God, or you do not want to serve Him. If you are so selfish by wanting to remain in your sins (serving self, lust, riches, things of this world) then why should God save you? He has no reason to, and He won't, because you chose to stay in your dangerous sinful state.

...it's up to you where you will spend eternity? Just think with each second that ticks by you are getting closer and closer to death. One day you will die. There is no avoiding death. It is a proven fact that everyone dies. There is absolutely nothing you can do about it. You are completely powerless. Why would you not want to put your hope in the God who created you and knows everything about you? He knows the exact time and date that you will die. He even knows how many hairs you have on your head. No one that has hair knows how many hairs they have. Yet God knows the exact number. He knows every detail about you, your every thought, every desire, every move and breath that you take. It would be safe to say that God knows much more about you than you know about yourself! Why not trust in Him to raise you from the dead to a place where there will be no more death. Either way, you will be raised.

Don't even dare to say that God is cruel to condemn people to hell. No, God is just the opposite; He did everything that He could to save His people from hell. He did more than

enough by giving the ultimate sacrifice of His Son. Jesus paid the full price for our sins, yet sadly, people still die in them. He loved you so much that He gave His life for you, and has power to save you and deliver you from hell, yet you want to remain separated from Him? Could it be that you are so strong willed that you do not want to submit to the Lord and Creator of the universe? Now is the time to humble yourself because if you do not, one day you will have to bow the knee and confess Jesus Christ's Lordship right before you are thrown into the lake of fire forever!

Three Reasons You May Have To Reject God:

1). Is it because you don't believe? But your conscience knows deep inside that there is a God and an afterlife.

2). Is it because you do not want to quit living in sin? Would you rather live for the very short time that you have left; it could be one minute, could be tomorrow, could be next year, or ten or seventy years? Those who want to continue living this way believe that this will give them happiness. But sadly, they are giving up heaven for not only hell, but failures, despair, and some times of what some would call "hell on earth". This kind of living will never "fill the void" or will never bring "fulfillment", but will always amount in a longing for more out of life. As a person lives for himself or herself they become selfish. This selfishness brings forth sin, and sin only produces death and destruction. By rejecting Christ, you are really giving up a heaven on earth. Jesus Christ is the only one who brings true purpose and meaning to lives, not material items. A hope of eternal life with Christ the Savior is fulfilling and is all your heart truly needs.

3). Could it be that up to this point you have not known or have not cared how to be made right with God? NOW YOU DO KNOW..." *behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).* If you reject Christ not only will you be miserable in hell but God will have no pleasure in sending you there; *"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezekiel 33:11a)*

Jesus Is the Only One Who Can Save You!

The Bible says in 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 (Jesus) from the dead, thou shalt be saved"*. If you are ready to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ so He can save you from sin and hell, ask Him to come into your heart and life and be your Lord and Savior. Just do the following things:

- 1).** Admit to God that you're a sinner (Romans 3:10).
- 2).** "repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Repentance is a heart determination to quit sinning and start obeying God. When you truly repent, God's saving grace is free to act on your behalf.
- 3).** Believe that Christ died for your sins, was buried and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9). You must have faith in Jesus and Him only for your salvation.
- 4).** Pray and invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life and forgive you of your

sins (Romans 10:9-13). Ask Him to be your personal Lord and Savior.

5). Make Jesus your Lord by trusting in Him and giving Him control over every part of your life.

What you can pray. Remember that the attitude of your heart is God's main concern:

Dear Lord God. I come to you a sinner and I humbly repent. I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and I believe you raised Him from the dead. Come into my life Jesus and be my personal Lord and Savior. I receive Jesus to change and take control of my life that I may live for him from this day forth and from now on. Thank you Lord Jesus for saving me and cleansing me with your precious blood In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance

If you have called on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith, believing and asking Him to save you, you are saved! Words mean nothing without belief! If you truly believe, you will humbly allow Christ to begin working in your life so you can fulfill the plan He has for you. The Bible says in 1 John 2:3, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments". If we truly know Jesus Christ as our personal savior, we will KEEP His commandments and our hearts desire will be to SERVE Him in any way that we can.

4 very important steps to take as a new Christian seeking to grow in the Lord:

- 1). Read the Bible daily (a good place to start is in the New Testament with the Gospel of John).
- 2). Pray daily.
- 3). Find a Bible-believing church that preaches the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that God will lead you to the right one. Fellowshiping with other believers is a very important step to growth in Christ.
- 4). Obey God's commandment and be baptized.

