

GOING TO HEAVEN

If you were to conduct a poll among folks who claim to believe in God, most would say they consider their chances of going to Heaven are pretty good. Believers who strive to live a good moral life think that their chances of being in Heaven are excellent. It makes one wonder how many people think that going to Heaven or Hell is based upon “chance!” The Bible teaches it is by design and not by chance that one makes Heaven his home. That is, one must purpose to execute and carry out God’s plan for salvation of the soul. The entrance into Heaven has been “*richly supplied*” (2 Pet. 1:11), but one must choose and continue to travel the “strait” way that leads to eternal life. The Lord warns, “*Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it*” (Matt. 7:13-14).

One can believe in God, never violate his conscience, have high moral standards and outstanding character, and still be lost because he has never obeyed the gospel plan of salvation. The apostle Paul makes such clear in saying that Jehovah will render “*vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might*” (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Thus, even though many who have never obeyed the gospel may believe they will inherit a home in Heaven, simply believing such does not make it so!

The gospel is God’s power to save man (Rom. 1:16). There are people who believe in God and choose to obey the gospel plan of salvation. These folks are added to the

church by the Lord (Acts 2:47) and are raised from the waters of baptism to hopefully continue their walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). For some, however, the new walk does not last very long as they yield to the pressures and pleasures of the world. The Bible emphasizes that a child of God must continue to “*walk in the light, as he is in the light*” to have fellowship with Christ, God, and one another as well as access for the forgiveness of sins committed (1 John 1:7).

There are also many who believe that a child of God cannot so sin as to be lost. They believe that once one is saved he is **always** saved. While this may be a comforting doctrine, it is not what the Word of God teaches about the matter. The apostle Paul tells the Galatian brethren, “*Ye are severed from Christ, ye would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace*” (Gal. 5:4). One will notice that the present tense in this verse makes it clear that some of the brethren have already fallen from grace. However, Peter expresses such a departure from God’s truth in language too clear to be misunderstood. He says of those who have chosen to become Christians, “*For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire*” (2 Pet. 2:20-22). You will notice that one **knows** “*the way of righteousness*” and then **turns** “*back from the holy commandment delivered unto*” him. Can one turn back from somewhere he has never been? Peter also makes it clear that this one has

“*escaped*” worldly corruption through the knowledge of Christ only to become “*entangled*” and “*overcome*” once again in worldly defilement. People who obey the gospel and then return to their old worldly ways may believe they are on the road that leads to Heaven, but the Bible makes it clear that the path they have chosen to travel leads only to eternal destruction.

There are also brethren who fall into Satan’s most dangerous snare. These brethren put forth **some** effort in worshipping and serving in the Lord’s kingdom. They attend **some** of the services when it is convenient to do so. They give some of their income **when present**. They will help **when** their schedule is not booked with other matters. When these brethren compare themselves with worldly people they seem to excel. Most of these brethren probably believe that they are going to Heaven.

The Bible teaches, however, that God must come **first** in our lives (Matt. 22:37). Family recreation, little league, social events, and the PTA does not come **before** the kingdom of the Lord (Matt. 6:33). If a Christian has the right attitude, then his love for God takes precedence over the things in this life. A child of God traveling towards Heaven will always put God, Christ, and the church first. In so doing, he may upset family, friends, and associates – but it does not matter as he is going to Heaven!

Marvin L Weir from Bonham St. Beacon

“*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”
Matthew 6:33

BIRTHDAYS

John Dodson, 04-07; Bo Marcum, 04-08.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Ralph Franklin is in Room D9 at the Evergreen Center.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Tom Tucker and Mary Huffman are visiting relatives in North Carolina for the next three weeks. Chris Edwards was in Canada last week on business. Verna Hanson returned last Sunday from her winter stay in Florida.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, April 4, following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and good company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, April 11, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 38; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 28.

SENTENCE SERMONS

If our loyalties have grown dim, we should brighten them!

Although Christ is the Saviour, He will not save men against their will!

Those To Serve

April 4, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Stanley Anderson
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 7th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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