

^{NIV} **Romans 3:20-22** “...no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law [by doing good]; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

^{NIV} **Romans 3:28** “For we maintain that a man is justified by **faith** apart from observing the law.”

^{NAS} **Romans 4:4-5** “Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but **believes** in Him [God] who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned [counted] as righteousness...”

^{NIV} **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life [through **faith**] in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

^{NIV} **Galatians 2:15-16** “We... know that a man is not justified [made just in God’s sight] by observing the law, but by **faith** in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our **faith** in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by **faith** in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

^{NIV} **Ephesians 1:5** “...he [God the Father] predestined us to be adopted as his sons through [faith in] Jesus Christ...”

^{NIV} **Ephesians 2:4-5** “...God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace [by God’s love] you have been saved.”

^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:8-9** “...by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

^{NAS} **Colossians 1:21-23** “And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He [God the Father] has now reconciled you in His [Jesus’] fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach-- if indeed you continue in the **faith**...”

^{NAS} **1 John 5:11-13** “And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has [faith in] the Son has the life; he who does not have [faith in] the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Conclusion

Are you now *convinced* that the way to heaven is by grace through **faith** in Jesus?

- If so, *praise our Father in heaven!*
- If not, please let me help you learn more about God’s love for you through Jesus!

Pastor Green

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Why Is Faith in Jesus the Ticket to Heaven?



Introduction

Today we are alive, but someday we will all take our last breath; then what? The Bible teaches that everyone will be somewhere forever – either *with God* or *apart from God!*

Three Heavens

The Bible identifies three heavens:

- (1) Our daytime sky – *sun and clouds.*
- (2) Our nighttime sky – *moon and stars.*
- (3) The dwelling place of God – *where we want to go when we die!*

The Big Picture

Creation: The Triune God (*the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*) ♦ is the Almighty God, ♦ made the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them, and ♦ determined what is right and wrong.

The Fall and the Promise: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God – *by eating the forbidden fruit*, God continued to love them and promised to send His Son to be their Savior.

Jesus' Saving Work: When the time was right God sent His Son into the world; then Jesus lived a righteous, holy, sinless life – *in our place, as our substitute*; then, *after He was crucified*, He received all sins and God's eternal punishment for those sins; then, *once He had satisfied God's wrath*, He declared: **"It is finished!"** (John 19:30 NAS). Jesus finished the work that needed to be done in order to *open the third heaven* to all who believe in Him as their Savior!

How Good Is Good Enough?

God set the bar *SO HIGH* that no one can reach it!

- Jesus said: **"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"** (Matthew 5:48 NAS).
- Paul wrote about his fellow Jews: **"I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness [His requirement of sinless perfection], and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to**

the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:2-4 NAS).

- If we try to get to heaven by what we do; then we must begin without sin and live every day without sin: **"All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law'"** (Galatians 3:10 NIV).

➔ Confused? Ask us for a FREE copy of the short book: How Good Is Good Enough?

What about Good Deeds?

Good deeds are a very important part of our Christian lives; however, good deeds add nothing to what Jesus has done to open heaven for all who believe in Him. In other words, **through Jesus we have God's gift of heaven**; then, *knowing God will welcome us into heaven*, we desire to do whatever is pleasing to Him. So we do not do good to earn heaven. Instead, we do good to *thank God for His gift of heaven!*

Think about a locomotive and its cars, it pulls while the cars simply follow. In a similar way, *our faith pulls us to do good deeds!* The Bible says: **"...without faith it is impossible to please God"** (Heb. 11:6 NIV). So we do them to glorify our Father and thank Jesus who gave His life for us!



Jesus Is THE Ticket to Heaven

These are some of the *many Bible passages* that make it very clear that the one way to heaven is through Jesus!

NIV **John 3:16-17** **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him [Jesus] shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him [Jesus]."**

NIV **John 3:36** **"Whoever believes in the Son [Jesus] has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."**

NIV **John 6:28-29** Then they asked him, **"What must we do to do the works God requires?"** Jesus answered, **"The work of God is this: to believe in the one [in Jesus] he has sent."**

NIV **John 6:47** **"I tell you the truth, he who believes [in Jesus] has everlasting life."**

NIV **Acts 16:30-31** **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** They replied, **"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."**

NIV **Acts 26:17b-18** **"I [Jesus] am sending you [Paul] to them [Jews and Gentiles] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified [made holy; made right in God's sight] by faith in me [Jesus]."**