

7. **MYTH:** I have sinned *so much* that God will never let me into heaven.

**TRUTH:** “...do you not know that the **unrighteous** [those without sorrow for their sins and without faith in Jesus as their Savior] shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were** [past tense] some of you; **but** you were washed, **but** you were sanctified, **but** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:9-11 NAS) “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9 ESV).

8. **MYTH:** No one can ever *know for sure* about his/her entrance into heaven.

**TRUTH:** “And this is the testimony, that **God gave us eternal life**, and **this life is in his Son**. **Whoever has the Son has life**; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life**” (1 John 5:11-13 ESV).

9. **MYTH:** Whenever I have to make a decision, I should do what *I think is best*.

**TRUTH:** “Trust in the **LORD** with all your heart, and **do not lean on your own understanding**. In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make **straight your paths**” (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

## Some Are Far Away from the Truth

Some believe there is no God – so they believe in *the big bang and evolution*, they also reject *the reality of an eternity and any need for a Savior*. If that is your situation, I kindly urge you to ✦think about this brochure, ✦evaluate your source of truth (*is it really reliable*), ✦realize that absolute truth comes from God, and ✦repent (thus *acknowledge God’s truth—the Bible, be sorry—wherever you are living in opposition, and receive Jesus—as the One in whom you are trusting for eternal life*)!

- **Good news – Jesus said:** “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance**” (Luke 5:31-32 ESV).
- “**Repent** [be sorry for your sins] ... and turn again [to Jesus as your Savior], that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19-20 ESV).

## Conclusion

If I can help you to *better understand* and/or *eternally benefit*, please let me know by using the contact information below. *Pastor Green*

## You Are Invited to Attend and Benefit

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)  
**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134  
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)  
**Services:** Sundays 8:00 & 10:45; Most Mondays 7 PM  
**Classes:** Sundays 9:30; Thursdays 10 AM  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”  
**Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**PH; EM:** 440-845-2230; [pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:pastor@blc7500.com)

(Last Update: 9-15)

**MYTH**

**OR**

**THE TRUTH**

Where is your confidence for heaven ➔ in common myths OR in God's Truth?

## Introduction

Today's world is filled with information; we receive it through many modes, including books, newspapers, magazines, radios, phones, TVs, and computers. So the challenge today is not *obtaining* information, but *sorting* the information into two categories: **myth** and **truth**. For example:

- ✦ **MYTH:** You must wait 24-hours before filing a missing person's report.
- TRUTH:** The police will accept it sooner.
- ✦ **MYTH:** Don't eat; then swim.
- TRUTH:** Eating only makes a person short of breath; it does not cause cramps.

- ✦ **MYTH:** People evolved from chimpanzees.
- TRUTH:** God created chimpanzees *and people* on day 6 of creation (Gen. 1:26-27).
- ✦ **MYTH:** Jesus was born on December 25.
- TRUTH:** The early church transformed a pagan celebration of *daylight* into a Christian celebration of *the True Light*, the Son of God, coming into the World.
- ✦ **MYTH:** There were definitely three wise men.
- TRUTH:** The Bible never says how many.

Sometimes *the truth* is interesting, but sometimes *the truth* makes the difference between *eternal life* and *eternal condemnation*.

- Jesus prayed to the Father: “...[your word is truth](#)” (John 17:17 ESV).
- Jesus said to people who had believed in Him: “[If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free](#)” (John 8:31-32 ESV).

But why should we trust the Bible to be *the truth*? Please see the next section!

## The Bible Is the Truth

Many claim to have *the truth*, so how can we know for sure? These are some of the many reasons why we *can* and *should* be confident that the Bible is God’s Word of Truth:

- **Prophecy in General** – God declared over 2,000 things in advance; then they happened, *just as He said!*
- **Prophecy about Jesus** – God declared over 300 things in advance about the Promised Savior; *then they came to fulfillment during His earthly life!*
- **Science** – Even though evolutionists

claim to be on the side of science, *honest science* agrees with the Biblical account of creation!

- **The Four Gospels** – They are not *identical* but *similar*; in a courtroom, “identical” testimony points to fabrication while “similar” testimony points to the truth!
- **The Bible Itself** – Many in the Bible, *who laid down their lives for the truth of the Bible*, claim that it is the truth!

For more on those five topics, go the “Sermon” section of our website; then search for “Abide in Me.” See the first five sermons in that series.



Sometimes things can *look* or *feel* or *seem* so right, but are they? The Bible says: “[There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death](#)” (Proverbs 14:12 ESV). Since we *cannot* trust our feelings, how can we *distinguish* between **a myth** and **the truth**? Regarding eternity, *God has told us the truth in His Holy Word, the Bible!*

As you read through this section, notice that each part has two opposites – *a myth and a truth*; then, *by God’s grace*, may you *push away* the myth and *embrace* the truth!

1. **MYTH:** I am good enough to go to heaven.
- TRUTH:** “[None is righteous, no, not one...](#)” (Romans 3:10 ESV). Therefore, no one, *of himself*, can be righteous, thus sinless, holy, or perfect, in God’s sight!

2. **MYTH:** Since I haven’t done anything *real* bad, God will let me into heaven.

**TRUTH:** “[...whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all](#)” (James 2:10 NAS).

3. **MYTH:** Since God is a loving God, no one will be eternally condemned.

**TRUTH:** “[Whoever believes in \[Jesus\] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God](#)” (John 3:18 ESV).

4. **MYTH:** Since others think well of me, I will be welcomed into heaven.

**TRUTH:** What *God knows* is what counts. Jesus said: “[I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead](#)” (Revelation 3:1 ESV).

5. **MYTH:** I have done *more good* than bad, so I’m in good shape with God.

**TRUTH:** No amount of good can meet God’s requirement. Jesus said: “[You ... must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect](#)” (Matthew 5:48 ESV).

6. **MYTH:** Since I go to church, I will also go to heaven.

**TRUTH:** We must be clothed in Christ: “[...when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment \[thus he was not clothed in Christ, Galatians 3:27\]. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness.’](#)” (Matthew 22:11-13 ESV).