

Assurance of Salvation

God ♦desires all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), ♦has provided salvation for everyone through Jesus (1 Peter 3:18), and ♦wants all believers to be certain of their entrance into heaven! Notice how each of these passages points to our *relationship with Jesus*:

“...for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27 NIV).

Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24 NIV).

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who 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 so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:11-13 NIV).

The Introduction Questions

They are very important:

1. God **is** all-powerful.
2. God **did** create all things according to the clear record in Genesis chapter 1.
3. The Bible **is** God’s Holy Word, proven by the fulfillment of many prophecies.
4. “...there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked” (Acts 24:15 NIV); some will go away to eternal

punishment, but the righteous to eternal life (Matthew 25:46).

5. Understanding ♦our sin, ♦God’s saving work thru Jesus, and ♦the importance of continuing to trust in Jesus are critical.

Continuing in God’s Word

Once God has taken action to make us alive in Christ, it is very important to benefit from the Bible every day: *It is our spiritual food!* Jesus said: “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4 NIV). See the “Daily Devotion” brochure, and *be faithful* in attending our services and studies!

Conclusion

For more information on this most important topic, please read or do the following:

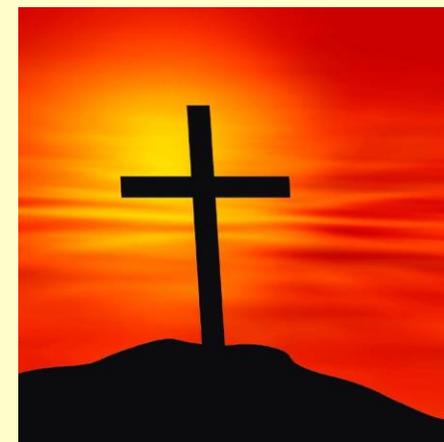
1. Read this brochure: “What Is the Way to Heaven?”
2. Using an NIV Bible, complete the blanks in the “Salvation” brochure.
3. Schedule a time to visit with the pastor; see below for his contact information.

Connect With Us

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)
Schedule: See our “Join Us” brochure
Facebook: “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”
Podcast: “Benefit from the Bible”
Phone: 440-845-2230

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Are You Saved?



This Brochure Is:

- ⇒ Simple
- ⇒ Profound
- ⇒ Life-Transforming

Protestant Bible Version
New International Version (NIV), 1984

Introduction

Dear Friend: Consider these questions:

1. Is there an all-powerful God?
2. Did God create the heavens and the earth?
3. Did God move men to write down His very words in the Holy Bible?
4. Is there an eternal existence for everyone beyond this life?
5. Do you believe that when you die God will welcome you into heaven? If you said “yes,” why will God welcome you into heaven?

Please keep reading to find out more!

A Very Common Belief about the Way to Heaven: **Faith + Works = Heaven**

What does that mean?

1. **Faith** = I know and believe certain things about Jesus.
2. **Works** = I trust that my good works will help me get into heaven.
3. **Heaven** = I *hope* God will welcome me in on the basis of *my faith + my works*.

The information above makes sense for these reasons:

4. Since *good* is rewarded and *bad* is punished, *those factors* must also determine our place in eternity.
5. The Bible includes *much about Jesus* and *much about doing good*; therefore, if we *know and believe things about Jesus* **and** *try to do good things*, it makes sense that God would welcome us into heaven.
6. Some Christian churches teach that faith + works = heaven.

The information above is **NOT** true for these *Biblical reasons*:

7. Good is *not* good enough:
 - a. "...no one will be declared righteous in [God's] sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin" (Romans 3:20 NIV).
 - b. "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).
8. If we try to add anything to Jesus, we separate ourselves from Jesus: "You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace" (Galatians 5:4 NIV).
9. Jesus is much more than our example; He said: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets [*the OT Scriptures*]; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17 NIV).
10. God sent Jesus to take away our sins and make us holy and righteous in God's sight:
 - a. "... [God] has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22 NIV).
 - b. "...Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18 NIV).
 - c. "...now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe" (Romans 3:21-22 NIV).

This Equation Agrees with God's Word, the Bible: **Faith = Heaven ➡ Works**

What does that mean?

11. **Faith** = I know and believe certain things about Jesus; I also trust in Him alone as my Savior.
12. **Heaven** = I *know* God will welcome me in on the basis of *my relationship with Jesus as my Savior*.
13. **Works** = I gladly do good works *in response to God's gift of heaven*.

The information above is true for these Biblical reasons:

14. "...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).
15. "...it is by grace [*by God's loving action*] you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV).
16. "...we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law" (Romans 3:28 NIV).