

Outreach Sermon / Folded Card – 2022

Saturday, 5/21 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/22 at 9:00



Text: NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: At some moment in life, most people will wonder: Is heaven open for me? Sometimes *a significant event can trigger such a thought:*

- An attack on our nation – *like on 9-11-2001.*
- The death of a loved one – *parent, spouse, child.*
- A serious diagnosis – *you have terminal cancer.*

Events that are ♦tragic, ♦sad, and ♦serious can cause us to ask the question: Is heaven open for me?

1. **April 6, 2022:** That's the day I preached part 5 of **The Christian Engine**, *which focused on witnessing.* Throughout the series I said that **witnessing is what supercharges our Christian life.**

- a. Think about these steps:
  - i. When we know Jesus, *we will automatically desire for others to know Him too!*

- ii. When we have that desire, *we will figure out ways to point others to Jesus!*
- iii. When we point others to Jesus, *they will have questions for us*, so we will:
  1. Search the Bible for answers.
  2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring that person to know Jesus.
  3. Invite that person to church.
  4. Introduce that person to other believers.

b. An outreach tool: On April 6 I shared and briefly explained this phrase: **We are saved, by grace, through faith, in Jesus, for eternal life!** Then I told you to watch for a card you could use in the future to **share** that phrase, **explain** that phrase, and **invite** people to Bethlehem (*the new cards are now available in the narthex*).

2. **The New Card**: It's a folded card with this title: **Is Heaven Open For Me?** The question is in the first-person, *it's a personal question*. When someone sees the card, *he will immediately ask himself*: **Is heaven open for ME?** Then, *being curious*, **this is what he will find inside**:

- a. **When we Believe the BAD NEWS, then we will Desire the GOOD NEWS!** Think about that... **to us** the bad news is obvious, *but not for everyone*. Rather than rush to the good news, *let us kindly and honestly share the bad news*.

- b. **What is the BAD NEWS?** God's word says: **✦All** have done wrong, **✦All** have earned eternal punishment, and **✦All** are helpless to enter heaven.
- i. "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:23).
  - ii. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).
  - iii. "...while we were still helpless... Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6).
- c. **What is the GOOD NEWS?** Heaven is open **➔by** grace, **➔through** faith, **➔in** Jesus, **➔for** eternal life!  
**What does each part mean?**
- i. **By grace:** Even though we have all done wrong, ***God still loves us!*** God's love is based on **who He is**, ***NOT on what we have done*** (see [Titus 3:5](#)!).
  - ii. **Through faith:** Through the Bible, the Holy Spirit **✦shows** us our helplessness, **✦makes** us sincerely sorry for our sins, and **✦gives** us faith: **Forsaking All, I Trust Him!** God enables us to **stop trusting** *in what we have done* and **begin trusting** *in Jesus and all He has done!*
  - iii. **In Jesus:** Faith is always in some thing or someone; ***Christian faith is always in Jesus: who He is – the Son of God, and what He did – living, dying, rising!*** When we are saved, ***we are trusting in Jesus alone!***
  - iv. **For eternal life:** It is best to trust in Jesus for everything, ***but especially for our entrance***

*into heaven!* That is the *most important reason* for trusting in Jesus!

- d. On the back of the card: Those who receive a card are invited to:
- i. Ask me a question.
  - ii. Visit our website: [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)
  - iii. Give our church a call: 440-845-2230
  - iv. Watch our sermons on YouTube: “Benefit from the Bible”
  - v. Visit our church: 7500 State Road, Parma.

**Conclusion:** I hope you will:

- Pick up some of the new cards.
- Get familiar with the content (*read it, think about it*).
- Rejoice in the good news that ***heaven is open for YOU through Jesus!***
- Share the card: with ♦family, ♦friends, ♦co-workers, or ♦neighbors, at a restaurant, when paying a bill, etc.

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, please move us by the Holy Spirit to share this new card with others, so that they may ☞read it, ☞understand it, ☞believe it, and ☞eternally benefit!

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com)

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