

“How To Go To Heaven”

John 14:1-6

Introduction: Unless the rapture takes place, God’s children will enter heaven through the portal of death. Let us notice a few things about death.

1. The Promise of Death

- a. Romans 5:12- *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*
- b. Genesis 3:19- *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”*
- c. Ecclesiastes 3:20- *“All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.”*
- d. Ecclesiastes 12:7- *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

2. The Power of Death

- a. Psalm 89:48- *“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.”*
- b. Ecclesiastes 8:8- *“There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.”*

3. The Preparations before Death

- a. Amos 4:12- *“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”*
- b. Proverbs 27:1- *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”*
- c. Hebrews 9:27- *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”*

4. The Places after Death

a. Hell

- (1) Psalm 9:17- *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”*
- (2) Luke 16:22-23- *“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”*

b. Heaven

- (1) Luke 16:22- *“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;”*
- (2) 2 Corinthians 5:8- *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”*

Body: Now that we realize there is a place called heaven after death, how do we get there?

I. Realize that You are a Sinner

- A. Psalm 51:5- *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

- B. Ecclesiastes 7:20- *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”*
- C. Romans 3:10- *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”*
- D. Romans 3:23- *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*
- E. Galatians 3:22- *“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”*
- F. Isaiah 64:6- *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

II. Recognize that You have a Spiritual Need

- A. John 3:3- *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
- B. John 3:7- *“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*
- C. 75% of the people in prison are innocent.
- D. If what you have will not bring you to church, I doubt it will bring you to heaven.
- E. You cannot lean toward hell all of your life and then fall into heaven when you die.
- F. Salvation is not:
 1. Religion John 8:24- *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*
 2. Reformation Matthew 12:43-45- *“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”*
 3. Remorse 2 Corinthians 7:10- *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”*

III. Repent of Your Sins Luke 13:3- *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*

- A. Repentance is a Change of Attitude Acts 3:19- *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”*
 1. About Self
 2. About Sin
 3. About the Saviour
- B. Repentance is a Change of Actions 1 Thessalonians 1:9- *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;”*
- C. Repentance is a Change of Affections
 1. Acts 26:20- *“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”*
 2. James 2:20- *“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”*

IV. Receive a Saviour

- A. Acts 4:12- *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*
- B. Philippians 2:5-11- *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*
- C. 1 Timothy 2:4-6- *“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

Conclusion: Plans change, but not the plan of salvation.

1. Conviction – Awareness of Sins

- a. John 6:44- *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”*
- b. John 16:7-11- *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”*

2. Contrition – Agony Over Sins

- a. Psalms 51:17- *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*
- b. Psalms 34:18- *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*

3. Confession – Acknowledging of Sins

- a. Romans 10:9- *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*
- b. Romans 10:10- *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*
- c. Romans 10:13- *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

4. Conversion – Abandoning of Sins

- a. Matthew 18:3- *“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:17- *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*