

## How To Know You Are Going To Heaven!

Jesus said in John 14:2-6, *“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*

### *Do you think you will go to Heaven when you die?*

This is the question that the New York Daily News asked 6 different people on sidewalk of N.Y. City. The first person answered, *“Yes, I'm sure of it. There must be justice in its true sense. Otherwise there would be no logic to living. Going to Heaven when I die will be but a small recompense for all the dirty deals, yes, I mean, dirty deals - that have come my way and made life a hell on earth.”*

This person's hope for Heaven was based on the ground of *Justice*. Is it *justice* to overlook a person's sins? Is it *justice* to let the unrighteous into the same glorious Heaven as those who have been made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ? Notice that this person claims they deserve to go to Heaven, however, they say it is because of the “dirty deals” they have had in life. The Bible nowhere offers, *“hope of Heaven, just because someone has suffered down here on earth!”* Such abuse in this life, (whether real or fancied), not atone for one's sins. This person said, *“Heaven will be a small recompense for what I have gone through.”* What do people think Heaven will be – payment for what God owes us – or, because we have some “dirty deals” to go through?

The second Person answered, *“I don't know! Like most women, I gossip, talk about others behind their backs, and I'm envious and jealous of other women who have more than I have.”*

This person admits, *“I don't know.”* She probably is the most honest of the six. Noteworthy, is that she realized that she gossiped, was envious and jealous and talked behind people back. She, at least, realized that these were terrible sins in God's sight.

The third person interviewed said, *“Yes, indeed, just as sure as the good Lord has mercy in His heart. I'm going through hell now. I was forced out of my old place of business where I had been for years. It's hard for my customers to become accustomed to my new place. I've always tried to do the right thing, and there must be some reward.”*

Like the first person, this one was sure they were going to Heaven, *“Because he was through hell now!”* While the first person claimed *justice*, this one claims *mercy*. He cries *mercy* to start, then closes by pleading, *“I deserve the reward.”*

Why does this person feel he is entitled to Heaven? He says, *“Because he was forced out of his old place of business,”* And he says, *“I've always tried to do what is right!”*

The fourth person answered, *“I think so. I'm sure I'll have to make a local stop on the way at a place called PURGATORY, to be cleansed of my sins. In fact, I don't think there is a*

*hell. A God who is all good could not conceive of such a horrible place as a hell where one would burn for eternity. God is mercy.”*

Amazement of amazement, that would startle Beelzebub, himself, this person believes in **Purgatory**, which God never speaks of, and does not believe in “*hell*” which God does speak of. The nerve of some people!

This person says, “*God is good, and merciful.*” But, the same Bible that speaks of God's goodness and mercy, also speaks of God as “*a consuming fire!*”

The fifth person said, “*It isn't just as easy as saying ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ There will always some doubt about it. There is an old expression, ‘Heaven for climate and Hell for company!’ I've always preferred company to climate, and if there's the way it is, I'll be with many of my friends for a long time.*”

What a sarcastic infidelity and folly of an answer. Note two grievous errors:

First, this person said, “*It isn't as easy as saying ‘yes’ or ‘no.’*” If I asked you, are you married? – or are you male or female? – or are you an American citizen? You Certainly would be able to answer “yes” or “no.” And, assurance of Heaven can be just as sure as either “yes” or “no.” You can know of a certainty that you are going to Heaven when you die.

Second, this person made the error when they said, “*Heaven for climate and Hell for company.*” There will be no company or companionship in Hell, only torment!

The sixth person said, “*Only God knows that, but I have hopes. I've never killed anyone. I never stole anything. Of course, that is all negative and I know I should do something positive to enter the sacred kingdom. I'm still very young and I hope I'll have a lot of time to think and act.*”

This person certainly, seems sincere! However their first mistake is to say, “*Only God know who can go to Heaven.*” Jesus made it perfectly clear that one can know he is going to Heaven when they die. Jesus said in Luke 10:20, “*Rejoice that your names are written in Heaven.*”

John states in 1 John 5:13, “*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.*”

This sixth person states, “*I have hopes,*” but all his hope is based on works. He glories in the fact that he had never “*killed anyone, or stolen anything.*” His future hope of Heaven dependent upon “*piling up good works to present to God.*”

Notice that not one of the six even remotely makes any reference to Jesus Christ, yet God's Word declares that Jesus Christ only is the **only way!**

Colossians 1:27 teaches, “*Christ in you, the hope of glory!*”

Ephesians 2:12 teaches, “*Men without Christ are without hope!*”

Only thing these six peoples based their confidence on is: mercy, justice, works, or their own righteousness. But, any way that leaves Jesus Christ out will end in destruction (Hell).

One survey showed that over 90 % of Americans believe in “*God.*” Everyone of the 90%

no doubt feel that someday they will go to Heaven, but what does the Bible say?

### **1. ONLY GOD CAN SAY WHO WILL ENTER HEAVEN**

God owns heaven. It is His property. If you own your home, you have a right to say who can come in and who cannot. God built Heaven and He tells us that it is prepared for those who willingly accept His Son, Jesus Christ, as their personal Savior! There will be no intruders there. You may dislike this arrangement, or even disagree, but that doesn't change, or alter, the fact, God says who will enter Heaven!

### **2. GOD HAS ONLY ONE WAY TO ENTER HEAVEN**

The Bible abounds with illustrations. The ark that Noah built, God said who would enter and who would not. When the blood was placed over doorpost in Egypt in the first Passover, God said, who would be saved, and who would not. When Rahab placed the scarlet cord in her window, God said she would be spared when Jericho crumbled.

It is still true today, salvation is God's way, or none.

It is foolish to try fasting, reciting prayers, counting beads, offering sacrifices, offering money, baptism, church membership, belonging to some lodge, giving to charities, or any kind of works – God's way is the only way and that is “*through Jesus Christ.*”

Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth and the life, no man can come to the Father except by Me.*” Acts 4:12 says, “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*”

God's way is only by His grace - through faith, He said, “*By grace are ye saved through faith, not of your selves, it is the gift of God, not of works of righteousness, lest any man boast*” (Ephesians 2:8-9). And also, “*Without faith it is impossible to please Him* (Hebrew 11:6).

### **3. REFUSE GOD'S WAY AND YOU WILL PERISH**

Jesus said, “*Except ye repent, you will perish*” (Luke 13: 3 & 5)

Jesus talks more about hell in the New Testament than He did about Heaven. Hell is a very real place – and so is Heaven. You can have absolute assurance which place you will go when you die.

*"Lord, I care not for riches, neither silver nor gold  
I would make sure of Heaven, I would enter the fold  
In the Book of Thy kingdom, with its pages so fair  
Tell me, Jesus, my Savior, is my name written there?"*

This will be the most important decision you will ever make!