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### THE WAY TO HEAVEN IS SURE AND PLAIN Where must a man go for pardon?

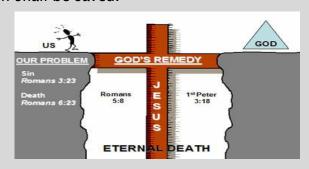
Where is forgiveness to be found?

That way is simply to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. It is to cast your soul with all its sins, unreservedly on Christ – to cease completely from any dependence on your own works or doings, either in whole or in part – and to rest on no other work but Christ's work, no other righteousness but Christ's righteousness, no other merit but Christ's merit as your ground of hope.

Take this course and you are a pardoned soul. "To Christ", says Peter "give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins". (Acts 10:43). "Through this Man," says Paul at Antioch, "is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things." (Acts 13:38). "In Him," writes Paul to the Colossians, "we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14). The Lord Jesus Christ, in great love and compassion has made a full and complete satisfaction for sin, by suffering death in our place upon the cross. There He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, and allowed the wrath of God which we deserved, to fall on His own head.

For our sins, as our Substitute, He gave Himself, suffered, and died – the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty – that He might deliver us from the curse of a broken law, and provide a complete pardon for all who are willing to receive it. And by so doing, as Isaiah says; He has borne our sins; as John the Baptist says – He has taken away sin: as Paul says – He has purged our sins, and put away sin; and as Daniel says – He has made an end of sin and finished transgression.

And now the Lord Jesus Christ is sealed and appointed by God the Father to be a Prince and a Savior, to give remission of sins to all who will have it. The keys of death and hell are put in His hand. The government of the gate of heaven is laid on His shoulder. He Himself is the door, and by Him all that enter in shall be saved.



Christ, in one word, has purchased a full forgiveness, if we are only willing to receive it. He has done all, paid all, suffered all that was needful to reconcile us to God. He has provided a garment of righteousness to clothe us. He has opened a fountain of living waters to cleanse us. He has removed every barrier between us and God, taken every obstacle out of the way, and made a road by which the vilest may return.

All things are now ready, and the sinner has only to believe and be saved, to eat and be satisfied, to ask and receive, to wash and be clean.

('...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.' 1 John1:7)

And faith, or simple trust is the only thing required, in order that you and I may be forgiven. That we will come by faith to Jesus as sinners with our sins – trust in Him – and forsaking all other hope, cleave only to Him – that is all and everything that God asks for. Let a man only do this, and he shall be saved. His iniquities shall be found completely pardoned, and his transgressions completely taken away.

Who desires to be saved by Christ, and yet is not saved at present? **COME** 

I beseech you: come to Christ without delay.

- Though you have been a great sinner, **COME**
- Though you have long resisted warnings, counsels, sermons, **COME**
- Though you have sinned against light and knowledge, against a father's advice and a mother's tears, **COME**
- Though you have plunged into every excess of wickedness, and lived without prayer, yet **COME**

The door is not shut; the fountain is not yet closed. Jesus Christ invites you. It is enough that you feel laboring and heavy-laden, and desire to be saved. **COME: COME TO CHRIST WITHOUT DELAY!** Come to Him by faith, and pour out your heart before Him in prayer. Tell Him the whole story of your life, and ask Him to receive you. Cry to Him as the penitent thief did, when He saw Him on the cross. Say to Him, "Lord save me also! Lord remember me!" COME: COME TO CHRIST! J.C Ryle



### THE HEART OF MAN'S PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF MAN'S HEART



#### A NEW HEART

Modern medical science has made much progress in recent years in the area of providing new hearts for patients who need them, through heart transplants and artificial hearts. Now, even the possibility of growing and implanting new hearts is being pursued. While much attention, energy, and resources are being directed at battling physical heart disease, let us not overlook the universal, congenital condition of spiritual heart disease.

## BIBLICAL DIAGNOSIS OFTHE HUMAN HEART



God's Word gives us the solemn diagnosis of the condition of man's heart.

#### From Genesis – to Revelation

"every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," Genesis 6:5

Revelation 2:23, where God says,

"I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts."

The condition of natural man remains the same:

"there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12).

The Lord Jesus said, "out of the heart proceed	
evil thoughts	• thefts
• murders	• false witness
• adulteries	<ul> <li>blasphemies</li> </ul>
• fornications	(Matthew 15:19).

Crime, violence, and other symptoms clearly point out the depravity of the human heart.

Are we willing to admit that this stream of incurable evil flows from the unregenerate— or human heart? There can be no comfort to anyone who would like to hide his condition from the Lord.

The diagnosis is not a human opinion, for

I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give to every man according to his ways. And according to the fruit of his doings (Jeremiah 17:10).

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

What folly to think we can hide our sins from God!

"He knoweth the secrets of the heart" (Psalm 44:21).

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts" (Proverbs 21:2).

For those who accept God's diagnosis there is hope. God not only makes clear the condition of the unregenerate heart. He also provides the cure—a work of transformation.

# God's cure is not reformation or medication, but a new heart.

Jesus stressed that need to Nicodemus:

"Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

It is a divine operation in which the Great Physician supplies the new heart: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

There are no operational hazards or fears of rejection for those receiving this new heart.

"Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die" (John 11:26).

"Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

The only "risk" involved is for those who refuse God's diagnosis and cure, and thus –

"neglect so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3).

More than a risk, Christ says it is to seal your doom if -

"ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life" (John 5:40).

"He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" in judgment (Hebrews 10:31). But

"he that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Just as a physical heart transplant is made possible by the death of another, so too it is spiritually!

When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6).

God in mercy and love offers a new heart "freely by His grace." By realizing and confessing our lost and sinful condition and turning in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, He will bring about that marvelous transformation of our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Words of Truth



#### POINT TO PONDER



'The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart'

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