

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

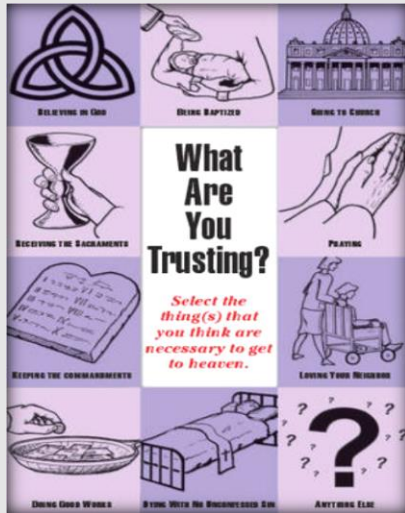
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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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BELIEVING IN GOD:

In order to go to heaven, what must you believe? The Bible teaches that merely acknowledging certain facts about God means little:

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). See also: **Matthew 7:21-23**

BEING BAPTIZED:

How does baptism help you to get to heaven? Nowhere does the Bible teach that it makes a person right with God. In fact, Paul wrote: *"Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel"* (1 Corinthians 1:17). See also: **Luke 23:40-43; Acts 10:44-48**

GOING TO CHURCH:

How does going to church or being a member of a particular church help you attain salvation? The Bible teaches that the church is not a place, but God's people—the Body of Christ:

"[The Father] ... gave Him [the Son] to be the Head over all things to the church, which is His body" (Ephesians 1:22, 23). See also: **1 Corinthians 12:12, 13; Colossians 1:18**

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS:

How does receiving the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, contribute to your salvation? The Bible does not speak of a series of rituals necessary for salvation. The biblical purpose of taking bread and wine is simply a reminder of Jesus, as He said: *"This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me"* (Luke 22:19). See also: **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

PRAYING:

In what way does praying help you to attain eternal life? Jesus taught that repeating prayers over and over is of no value:

"When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matthew 6:7). See also: **Matthew 7:21-23**

KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS:

Are you able to keep the Ten Commandments to God's standard? The Bible teaches that anyone who does not keep the Commandments perfectly will be judged unworthy of heaven: *"Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"* (James 2:10). See also: **Galatians 3:10-12; Romans 3:20, 23, 28; 7:7-12**

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR:

Do you love your neighbour with the kind of love that God requires? Jesus taught: *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"* (Matthew 22:39). See also: Luke 10:25–37; 1 John 3:16–18; James 1:27

DOING GOOD WORKS:

How many good works do you have to do to earn eternal life?

The Scriptures teach that even the best that we do is tainted with sin and unworthy of God: *"All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"* (Isaiah 64:6). See also: Romans 3:12,23; 4:4,5; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; John 6:28,29.

DYING WITH NO UNCONFESSED SIN:

Does your soul's condition at the moment of death affect your eternal destiny?

Jesus said that those who belong to Him would never be condemned to hell: *"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand"* (John 10:28). See also: Romans 5:8–10; 8:33, 34; 1 John 5:11–13

ANYTHING ELSE:

What else must you do to be saved?

Jesus taught that the only way to a right relationship with God was through Him: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"* (John 14:6). See also: Acts 4:12; John 8:24; Matthew 7:13–20



& never know when you have done enough.

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12

TRUSTING JESUS AS SAVIOUR:

The Bible teaches that those who are trusting Jesus to save them will spend eternity in heaven



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

See also: John 5:24; Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 16:30, 31

WHAT ARE YOU TRUSTING TO GET INTO HEAVEN?

As we have seen, none of those things listed inside can get you there. Salvation is a gift of God which *cannot* be earned (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

How can you receive this gift?

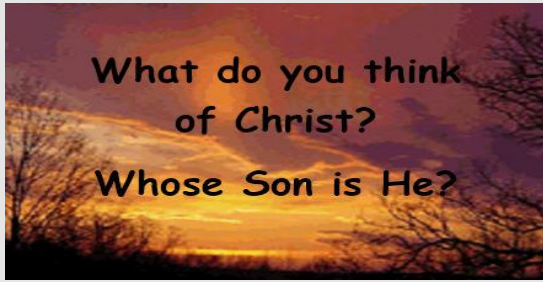
Salvation is offered on the basis of what Jesus, the Son of God, has *already* done. On the cross, Jesus took the guilt of our sins upon Himself and paid the penalty of our sins for us, dying in our place (Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 3:18).

His resurrection is proof that His sacrifice was acceptable to God as the just payment for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 4:25).

God's instructions are "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). To repent is to change your mind—to agree with God that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself. To believe the gospel is to place your faith in (completely trust) Jesus as your Saviour. *Moments with the Book*



For by grace (God's unmerited favour) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2: 8-9



No Middle Ground

"Whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). That question of our Lord's has been declared to be life's most important question. How do you answer it? Who is Jesus?

- The Muslim would say, "Jesus was a prophet of Allah, but nothing more."
- A Jehovah's Witness would tell you that He is a created angel.
- Some say He was a good man, a great teacher, or a wise philosopher.
- Some say He was a son of God—a man with a spark of divinity.

What do you say?

These answers are all inadequate, for they all fail to recognize the deity of the Man Jesus Christ.

Jesus is God, and it is that fact that gives His teachings their authority. It is that fact that makes obedience to His commandments imperative. It is that fact that makes faith in Him as Lord and Saviour mandatory.

Some would declare that it really does not matter who Christ is as long as we receive help from His teachings.

But wait a minute. It is deadly error to try to dispense with Jesus' deity as quickly as that. If He is indeed God, He deserves our reverence and our unquestioning obedience.

If He is not God, He was either a madman or a fraud. If you are not totally convinced of His deity, you must settle the issue.

- *The Bible teaches that Jesus is God.*
- *He exercises the prerogatives of deity.*
- *He has the attributes of deity.*
- *He bears the titles of deity.*
- *And His commandments are the commandments of deity.*

Dr. George Sweeping.



GOD MANIFEST IN FLESH

'...great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...' **1 Timothy 3:16**

'And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.'
John 1:14

'For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily...' **Colossians 2:9**

**Like man He walked, like
God He talked;**

**His words were oracles,
His deeds were miracles;**

**Of God the true expression,
of man the finest
specimen;**

**Full-orbed humanity,
crowned with Deity;**

**No trace of infirmity, no
taint of iniquity;**

**Behold the Man!
Behold thy God!**

**Veiled in flesh the
Godhead see,
Hail, Incarnate Deity**

THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION

BELIEVE & HAVE

Believing is receiving. This word occurs forty-four times in the gospel according to John, which is the great gospel of “believing.” It is constantly repeating believing, believing, believing, and having life. In the twelfth verse of the first chapter, we read:

“As many as *received* Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that *believe* on His name.”
John 1:12

That little word “even” indicates that to believe is equivalent to receive. You may, in any one of those forty-four instances in this gospel, put the word “receive” in the place of the word “believe” and still make good sense.

You *have* what you *take*, do you not? It is a very simple thing to take what is given to you, and so to have it. That is practically all there is in faith.

We may make faith sound complicated by talking too much about it, leading others to infer that there is some obscurity or mystery in it.

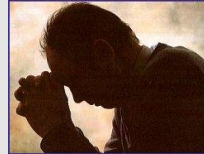
**Faith is very simple: it is taking
God at His word.**

Just as you can put forth your hand and receive a gift, you are able to put forth your will and receive the gift of God, even Jesus Christ, as your Saviour. The Lord Jesus Christ says to you, “I love you; I died for you. Do you believe? Will you receive the salvation that I bought for you with My own blood?”

You need to do no work; all that you need to do is with all your heart to believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again. Trust God at His word and take this salvation which He offers to you. A.T. Pierson



POINT TO PONDER



For whosoever
shall call upon the
name of the Lord
shall be saved.
Romans 10: 13

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