

## WHERE TO: HELL OR HEAVEN?

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Friend: Have you ever stopped to consider the questions: “Is this life all that there is? Then is there no more? If I die today, what will my end be? Do I cease to exist after death?” These are the most important questions you will ever ask. The answers to them will determine your eternal destiny. God teaches us through the Bible that death is nothing more than a change of state for all of us. At death we exchange a temporary body for an eternal body. This eternal body will either stay forever in **HELL** or forever in **HEAVEN**. **HELL** is a place of burning fire and never ending torment. **HEAVEN** is a place of never ending joy and bliss where there will be no more sorrow, no more pain, and no more death. If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity: **HEAVEN** or **HELL**? God knows. HE says in *John 3:18*: “He that believeth on him [JESUS] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”. What this means is that if you die a lost sinner, you are already condemned to **HELL**. In fact, there is nothing you can do to save yourself without the help of God. This also means that if you do nothing, you will spend an eternity in **HELL**. There is a judgement that will decide your fate. The Bible plainly states in *Hebrews 9:27*: “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”.

The fact that there is a coming judgement says that there is a penalty to be paid for sin. “For the wages of sin is death” (*Romans 6:23*). The question is: Who has sinned and is worthy of death? *Romans 3:23* says that: “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”. The Bible also says in *Romans 3:10*: “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one”. It was YOUR SIN and MY SIN that brought death and strife into this world. The Bible shows in *Genesis* chapters 1 and 2 that God created man in perfect innocence and in perfect peace with all life. SIN destroyed that perfection. The penalty for your sin and my sin is death. There is nothing you can do to avoid it. There is nothing you can do to get to heaven. There will be untold numbers in hell who have done thousands of good deeds. You cannot be good enough to get into heaven. God will not accept your works. *Ephesians 2:8-9* says: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”. There is good news.

God has provided a way to escape the death penalty for sin. “God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (*2 Peter 3:9*). The Lord Jesus Christ said in *Luke 13:3*: “**I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**”. Repentance means a turning from sin and a turning to God. If you will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, God will grant you repentance unto life (*Acts 11:18*) In *Acts 17:30*, “God commandeth all men everywhere to repent”. *Acts 20:21* calls for “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”. Without faith and repentance there can be no salvation. Repentance is the joyful work of God in the heart of every believer. God has graciously provided the path to salvation and repentance for you through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 3:16* says: “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”. *Romans 5:8* says: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”.

It was through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary that salvation has come to all who will claim Christ as their personal Saviour. *Hebrews 9:22* says: “Without the

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shedding of His blood there could have been no remission for sin” (*Hebrews 9:22*). Where there is remission, there is God’s pardon from the penalty for sin . It is a personal pardon for YOU, but you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart, repent of your sin, and make a public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 10:10* says: “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”. Who can be saved? The fact is that all can be saved. This means that today can be your day of salvation. Please turn to Jesus today. God does not care how good, bad, evil, or saintly you have been. Jesus said in *John 14:6*: “**I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**”. That means that Jesus is the only way into heaven for the evil and the good. God is no respecter of persons (*Acts 10:34*). The Bible says: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (*Romans 10:13-14*). How is it that we call upon the Lord for salvation?

We come to God with a repentant heart and a Godly sorrow for our sin and just simply ask that God forgive us of our sin and save our souls. The only prayer, or plea, of a lost sinner that God will hear is a plea for mercy (salvation). In *Luke 18:13*, the lowly publican’s heartfelt plea was: “God be merciful to me a sinner”. God heard that cry. God has been good to us. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance. For the repentant sinner, we have the promise of God in *1 John 1:9*: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”. If you mean what you say, ask God. HE will save you.

If you have been saved as a result of this tract or want to discuss the contents of this tract, please contact us at:

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If God has saved you, you should follow the Lord in believer’s baptism and unite with a local, independent Baptist church. We may be contacted at: