

HOW BAD CAN YOU BE AND STILL GO TO HEAVEN?



The entrance requirement to heaven is not stringent: “Trust Jesus Christ.”

The Bible says “Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” – “Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” – “By grace are we saved through faith” – “Whoever comes to me I will never drive away” - "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

But I have got to say, that the question, “How bad can I be and still go to heaven” is the **WRONG QUESTION**. The Lord Jesus Christ offers more than just “going to heaven when we die.”

Jesus Christ offers us life **NOW** in the kingdom of God. Yes, the New Testament has plenty of teaching about going to heaven. However, the greatest portion of its teaching is how to receive, enjoy, and grow in **THE LIFE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD RIGHT NOW**.

Jesus said, “**I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.**” This life in the kingdom is one of living immersed in the triune reality of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised that those who love him will be loved by him and his Father, and “they” in turn shall abide with the believer.

What is life like living now in the kingdom of God?

Serenity of mind and soul. Joy at seeing God at work with you in the smallest tasks. Firm confidence you are coming to a bright, shining destiny. Healing of mind and soul from your personal failures and the attacks of others. Love’s surge in giving and receiving forgiveness. Deep satisfaction in discovering growing strength of character.

What else? An untroubled spirit when choosing not to react, or choosing to do without, for the sake of Jesus. Happiness at the kind of person you are becoming. Sublime gratification when opposed or mistreated for Christ’s sake. Peaceful enjoyment of fruit borne in and with you by God. Relief discovering your authority over the evil one in Jesus’ name.

What else? Rejoicing in fearful awe, knowing the sinner's (your) acceptance by a Holy God. Joyful confidence your life will end well. Fulfillment in life's labors. Hope of reward and greater responsibilities in the next life. Gladness of heart knowing Jesus will be glorified and YOU will get to see him!

Peace and joy at your seasoning through trials and tribulations. Delight in discovering that peace, faith, hope, love, and joy endures.

How do you receive life in the kingdom of God? TRUST JESUS.

How do you grow in the life of the kingdom? OBEY JESUS.