

might have salvation through faith in Him. It is your SIN that God hates and it is YOUR sin that will bar you from Heaven and send you to a devil's Hell. **Godly sorrow for YOUR SIN must overwhelm your heart leading you to true repentance, and conversion to Jesus Christ.** Godly sorrow brings remorse and a desire to turn to Jesus Christ from your sin; the 'turn or burn' gospel message of old-time preachers.

*Now I rejoice, that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner,...For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. [2 Corinthians 7:9,10]*

*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, [Acts 3:19a,b]*

In being converted, we wholly accept (place our faith in) Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and we serve Him from that time on. It is a full surrender.

Every person must do something about Christ. There is no middle course. No one can sink so low in sin or rise so high in society that he cannot, or need not, be saved. No one is so poor or rich that he cannot be saved (converted). No one ever missed Heaven and went to Hell because he was a terrible sinner. We miss Heaven because we refuse to trust Jesus Christ as our Savior. No one can be saved unless he is born again (converted): *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* [John 3:7] Jesus says to all mankind. The necessity for the spiritual second birth is absolute.

Baptism and confirmation will not take the place of the new birth. No performance of religious rites, no matter to what religion you belong, will take the place of the new birth. A great many people are depending upon the fact that they say their prayers, read their Bibles, go to church, partake of the sacrament and perform other duties, but all of this will not take the place of the new birth (conversion).

Some say, "I believe in the Apostle's Creed; I say the catechism; I am orthodox; I hold right views about the Bible and the atonement." You can be orthodox and be lost and burn in Hell forever. Christ said, "Ye MUST be born again." John 1:12 reads, *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."*

The question you need to answer has to do with eternity. Your joy in Heaven or your torment and sorrow in Hell for ever depends upon it. The question is: Are you SAVED? It is not how good you are, but whether you are saved; do you have a personal relationship with God? No one can enjoy the blessing of God or go to Heaven without being saved. Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:7, *"Ye must be born again."* God has made the gospel message of salvation simple enough for a child to understand. Please read the following Bible verses carefully and try to put yourself in them. They are the Word of God.

### **I. Knowing that you have sinned and are lost**

You are separated from a holy God by your sin. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* [Romans 3:23]

*"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."* [James 2:10]

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus Christ] the iniquity of us all."* [Isaiah 53:6]

### **II. Knowing the penalty for your sin**

Hell, for ever, is the destiny for all those who die unsaved.

*"For the wages of sin is death;"* [Romans 6:23a]

*"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"* [Hebrews 9:27]

*"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* [Revelation 20:15]

*"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* [Psalm 9:17]

*"He that believeth on him [Jesus Christ] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the only begotten Son of God."* [John 3:18]

*"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,...And he cried and said,...have mercy on me,...for I am tormented in this flame."* [Luke 16:23a,b; 24:a,c,g]

### **III. Knowing Jesus is God's remedy for sin**

God has already provided the way of salvation for sinners.

*"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."* [1 Peter 3:18]

*"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* [Romans 5:8]

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* [Isaiah 53:6]

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* [II Corinthians 5:21]

*"...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"* [I Corinthians 15:3b, 4]

*"...and without the shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]."*

### **IV. Being saved**

You need to be saved or you will go to Hell. Jesus said so in Luke 19:10...*"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* The new birth (salvation) is a spiritual birth; a supernatural act of God that is credited to the repentance sinner through faith in God's Word.

*"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* [Acts 20:21]

*"And Jesus answering said unto them,...I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* [Luke 13:2a,3]

*"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]

*"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."* [Ephesians 2:8,9]

*"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood..."* [Romans 3:24, 25a]

*"Who [Jesus] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."*

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* [Romans 10:9]

*"For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall [not may] shall be saved."* [Romans 10:13]

God the Father must be drawing you to Jesus Christ or you cannot be saved. And if he is, you must fully surrender to His call and be saved at that time. IT IS YOUR TIME TO BE SAVED; not later or tomorrow. *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* [John 6:44]

#### V. You cannot lose your salvation

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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]

#### OBJECTIONS

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING with the important matter of getting saved (conversion), Satan, your mortal enemy, will throw many conflicting thoughts or obstacles your way in the battle for your soul. Here are a few of them, with the Bible's answers.

**I have too much to give up in order to trust Christ, and live for him:** *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* [Matthew 11:26]

**I am not good enough:** *"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."* [Ephesians 2:8, 9]

**I am already good enough:** *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,"* [Titus 3:5a,b]

*"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."* [Ecclesiastes 7:20]

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* [Romans 3:23]

**I am afraid people will make fun of me:** *"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror; neither be troubled."* [1 Peter 3:14]

#### Other ways or religions are just as good:

Being a Buddhist, Catholic, Baptist, Moslem, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, agnostic or atheist will not save your soul. You must be 'born again.'

*"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* [John 14:6]

**Maybe I will decide later:** *"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."* [II Corinthians 6:2]

**I am trusting my education:** *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* [Colossians 2:8]

**Trusting Christ seems unreasonable to me:** *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."* [I Corinthians 1:18]

**I see Christians who are hypocrites:** *"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth."* [Romans 14:4]

**I just am not interested:** *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."* [Psalm 14:1a,b]

#### NOW IS THE TIME TO TRUST CHRIST

*"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."* [Isaiah 55:6]; *"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."* [Proverbs 27:1]

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#### What Shall I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?



*And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?* [Luke 10:25]

THESE ARE THE WORDS of Jesus Christ Himself. There can be not authority beyond His. "Verily" means 'with absolute certainty,' and it is something to which you need to pay very close attention. The only way to be saved is to be converted; and this, my friend, according to God's Word, the Bible, is the only way to enter Heaven.

*And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.* [Matthew 18:3]

The idea that God is so merciful and loving that everyone will somehow make it into Heaven is totally false. God is holy and man is inherently sinful.

What is conversion? When a piece of land is sold, we say that it has been converted from one person to another. Conversion, then, involves a change of owners. From being Satan's, we become Christ's. Our affections, our desires, our longings then go out to Him. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* [2 Corinthians 5:18] God's only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave Himself by dying on the Cross of Calvary for YOU and for ME. His shed blood paid the price for our sins. His resurrection assures the sinner that the sacrifice of God's Son was accepted and that our sins have been fully paid for. In order to be converted, you must recognize the enormous offence your sin is to God, and what it cost Him to pay for it, His only begotten Son. Jesus Christ suffered a horrible death on the cross bearing your sin, the holy Son of God was made sin for you that you