

David R Sweet



How to
get to
HEAVEN

How To Get To Heaven

David R Sweet

Not for Sale

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Which way do we go?

The pathway to Heaven is criss-crossed by many different paths. How do we decide whether we're on the right one? Do all roads lead to God? How can you be assured of your eternal destination?

There is an old proverb that says "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*" (Proverbs 14:12)

There is nothing worse than to be on a journey and upon arrival, find you've taken a wrong turn and are somewhere that you never wanted to be, totally lost.

Being given the correct directions and instructions, gives the ability to make the right choices. Have you ever heard these sayings: 'What you don't know can't hurt you' or 'Ignorance is bliss'?

These statements couldn't be further from the truth. Ignorance can kill! Think of someone

who is totally unaware of any danger, inserting a metal object into a power outlet. At the very least, this would be a shocking experience or at the worst, end in death. God does not want us to be ignorant. He has written His plan of salvation in His Word (the Bible) so that it is available to every man, woman and child.

God loves each and every one of us and He wants all of us to go to Heaven to be with Him when we leave this life. For this reason, He has left us His directions on how to get to that heavenly destination.

Yet, mankind's way to God is totally opposite to God's way.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

For thousands of years, men and women have tried to become acceptable to God through a religious system based on doing good things,

performing rituals, self deprivation or denial. These beliefs are 'works' or 'performance' based, with people hoping by their own efforts to meet some criteria that God finds acceptable. These may include: door knocking, chanting, fasting, praying, doing charitable deeds, offering sacrifices, etc. Yet for all this effort, the doer is never sure how much is required to fill God's quota. This leaves the person totally unsure about their destination at the point of death and with no assurance of a heavenly future.

Most religions are mankind's attempt to become acceptable to God and are based solely on human effort. They major on what we do, rather than on what **God** has done for us.

What does God think of this?

Psalm 24:3,4 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not

lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

According to this Bible verse, it would seem that to be Heaven bound and stand in God's presence we have to have clean hands and a pure heart. That's a tall order to fill, because all of us have at some time sinned against God. Our doing good deeds can never change the sinful nature within us.

The Bible explains to us that no person can attain to God's level of righteousness through their own works. Anything we try to do in our own strength is as filthy rags to God.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one."

None of us can attain to God's standard of perfection and holiness by our own efforts.

We need help.

Thank God! He has provided the help we need. He has provided for us a saviour. Someone to pay the price for us.

Picture this scene – you are a person about to drown on the high seas, lost, weak, unable to save yourself and all your efforts to stay afloat are futile. Suddenly you hear a noise. There is a rescue team on the way. When they arrive they throw you a life preserver (a saviour). What do you do? If you're wise, you'll grab hold of it as fast as you can and use it to keep afloat until you're totally safe, rescued by the one who offered it to you.

The alternative is to refuse that life preserver (saviour) and continue to try to save yourself through your own feeble efforts. You are already going under, yet you choose not to appropriate the help that is available to you.

This is how people are who refuse God's plan of

salvation. They continue on a pathway that leads to death. They may think they're already going to get into heaven because they've been a good, moral person. Perhaps they've been sucked into a religious system that enslaves them by requiring them to try to earn God's acceptance by conforming to rules, regulations, rituals, self sacrifice and the like. Maybe they've given up on trying to get to heaven because they think they can never be holy enough to deserve salvation.

No one can be acceptable to God through their own efforts. We all have to approach God His way: through the Saviour; a mediator; one who represents humankind on one hand, yet is able to satisfy God's standard of perfection and holiness on the other. This requires a go between - one who is 100% God and 100% man. Who is this person?

1 Timothy 2:5,6 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and

men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

God had the perfect plan to provide salvation through His own Son, assuring us of a future home in Heaven.

Imperfect man could never pay the price to redeem (buy back), his or her soul from slavery and eternal death. God had to send His own perfect Son, Jesus, on our behalf. He lived a sinless life, tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. He became sin for us. He willingly took our sin upon Himself. Because of this, He became separated from God, was crucified on the cross and descended into Hell to pay the penalty for our sin. When the price was paid in full, He was raised from the dead to newness of life, so that those who receive Him could be raised up together with Him, that we might become sons and daughters of God and joint heirs with Jesus, heirs of salvation and Heaven bound. Jesus became our substitute.

**John 1:29 ...Behold! The Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world!**

Where will we stay?

Several years ago, my wife and I were planning to attend a conference in another State. Of course, before we left, we booked accommodation. We've since discovered that it is very important where you arrange to stay. On arrival at the Hotel we were told that our room was not yet ready. We asked if we could have a key, as we wanted to see what the room was like. When we walked into the room we were horrified to find that the previous occupant had wet the bed. You can imagine what happened next. We checked out of there as fast as we could, and into more appealing accommodation. How much more important is it, to make the right decision regarding where you are going to spend eternity?

Some people joke about going to Hell. They think that when they get there it will be fun and

that they'll have their mates with them, partying, drinking, playing cards etc. The Bible tells us that this is far from the truth. It describes Hell as a place of eternal torment, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12). Heaven, on the other hand, is described as a place of indescribable peace and beauty, fullness of joy in the presence of the Lord and pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11).

In the gospel of John chapter 14:2, Jesus told His disciples that in His Father's house (in Heaven of course), there are many mansions - plenty of room for us all. Jesus declared that He was from Heaven and would soon return there to prepare a place for us to live with Him one day.

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, said "*Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?*"

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the

**truth, and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through Me” (John 14:6)**

Jesus said, *“I am the way.”* There is only one way to make it to heaven.

How do we get there?

How then, do we find this “way”, so that we too can be saved and assured of going to Heaven when we die?

A jailer asked this same question and it is recorded in the Bible in Acts 16:30 *“Sirs what must I do to be saved?”* The answer is in verse 31 *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”* Verse 32 continues *“Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.”* They spoke the gospel to him and to his family. The word gospel means ‘good news’. This is because the way that God has provided for our salvation seems almost too good to be true, too simple, too easy to receive. We don’t have to do

anything except receive it as a gift.

Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace [unmerited favour] you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Salvation has to be received as a gift, not earned as wages for good deeds of service. God provided salvation just because He loved us, not because of anything we have done.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...

It's your turn

The power of God is available for those who believe. This means that we each have a responsibility to receive what God has provided for us. It's like playing checkers. God has already had His turn 2000 years ago, when

He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to provide the way back to God.

God loves you and He desires a relationship with you personally, as your heavenly Father - relationship, not religion. Now it's your turn to receive the free gift of God. It's your move. One of the greatest things God has given us is a free will, the power of choice. God will never force you to do anything. It's your choice. Yours is the next move. You decide where you will spend eternity.

**1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written:
"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor
have entered into the heart of man The
things which God has prepared for
those who love Him."**

God loves you and He wants only the best for you, but it's only when we respond to His love, in faith, believing and receiving what He has promised, that we appropriate all the blessings provided for us. God's gifts are available for

those who respond positively to His love. God's love alone does not assure us of automatic passage to Heaven. We are given the right, the privilege, to determine our own destiny - to accept or reject Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour.

Sometimes it is hard for us to comprehend the goodness and the greatness of God.

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

If you want to be sure of your eternal accommodation, book today. Don't delay. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:2 *"...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

It is too late once you leave this life.

Who then can be saved?

Romans 10:13 For "whoever calls upon

the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Whoever - that's anyone. That's you!

What do you have to do?

Romans 10:9,10 ... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

As you are reading this, you too may be thinking, “I need a saviour, but I've done so many bad things in my life, perhaps God won't accept me.” It doesn't matter what you have done in your life, or how bad you have been. God loves you and Jesus died for you. Jesus said in John 6:37 “...*The one who comes to Me, I will by no means cast out.*” (cast out ie. reject) Jesus will not reject anybody. Not only

did Jesus pay for **your** sins, as many as they may be, but for the sin of the whole world. He loves you so much that He would have died for you if you were the only person ever to receive salvation. You can have complete forgiveness and experience eternal life.

Do it now

Say this prayer today and commit to it with your whole heart. Make a confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation.

God in Heaven, I realise that it is impossible for me to save myself and I now accept your free gift of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus died for me, that He paid the price for me and suffered the judgment for my sin. I believe that He arose again from the dead for me, so that I could have newness of life, Eternal Life.

Jesus, I make you my Lord and I receive you

as my personal saviour.

I thank you for saving me. I thank you that all my sins are forgiven and I have a brand new start with God as my heavenly Father. I now have Eternal Life and I will be with you in Heaven when I die.

Amen

If you've said this prayer and meant it with all your heart, you have already made the greatest decision of your life. You are on your way to Heaven.

Your Future, Purpose & Destiny

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* All of your sins have been dealt with. Your old sinful nature has been changed to God's nature. Your new life in Christ starts today. There is a place reserved for you in Heaven.

This is what Jesus was talking about in John 3:3,7 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”* (one translation says ‘born from above’).

You are now a newborn child of God - a Christian. Start reading the Bible in the New Testament. The Bible is God’s book. It doesn’t just show the way to Heaven. It is a manual for *every* area of your life. Ask your heavenly Father to lead you to a good Christian Church where you can begin to grow into all that He desires you to be. You have a future now, a purpose and a divine destiny.

Jesus said in John 10:10 *“...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

As you spend time with God and in His word, He will lead and guide you by His Spirit and you too will begin to experience the abundant

life that Jesus paid the price for you to have.

We look forward to meeting you in Heaven.
God Bless You.

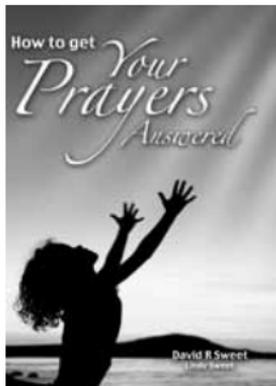
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