The Best Advice Ever!

IT'S BIBLICAL!



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Introduction

It's an old saying, "Advice is like a nose, everybody has one." It's true in spiritual matters, too. Some have great advice, and some have, well, rather out-of-this-world advice.

Preposterous advice.

Well, the advice I offer in this eBook deals with the soul. Your soul. My soul. Everyone's soul. If we miss heaven, we've missed eternity, and that means separation from God, cast into hell. I don't want that, and I don't want that for you. Hence, this advice is for you.

It's really the best advice ever given, and it's in two parts. But it's really simple.

YOU'LL BURN THERE!

Hell is for real, friends. It's just as real as heaven, and everyone wants to go to heaven. I suspect I could ask a stranger on the street if they wished for heaven or hell when they die, and they'll say, "Heaven."

Why is that? Everyone knows heaven is the place of bliss and contentment. They may not know all the Bible-given details about heaven, but they at least know that much.

And hell? Everyone knows hell is the burning lake of fire. No one wants that, even though evidence points out that most folks choose hell by how they live.

Hell is indescribable. I once picked up a hot cast-iron skillet for washing. I didn't know it was hot. You know, the extreme heat of the skillet burned my hand. I yelled out. The pain was immense. Honestly, friends, I cannot imagine what a body immersed in the fire of hell would be like. I cannot get my mind to picture the scorching, blistering, sizzling, searing pain of a body in hell.

So, let's not go there.





Jesus described hell while He was here.

- Matthew 5:22 hellfire.
- Matthew 5:29 cast into hell.
- Matthew 10:28 destroys both soul and body in hell.
- Matthew 11:23 will be brought down to hell.
- Matthew 16:18 gates of hell.
- Matthew 18:9 to be cast into hellfire.
- Matthew 23:15 twice as much a son of hell.
- Mathew 23:33 condemnation of hell.
- Mark 9:43 hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.
- Mark 9:45 cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.
- Mark 9:47 cast into hellfire.
- Luke 10:15 was brought down to hell.
- Luke 12:5 has the power to cast into hell.
- Luke 16:23 and being in torments in hell.



Jesus also spoke of hell using other terms, such as "destruction," "fire/flame," and "condemnation/perishing."

•	Matthew 7:13
	the way
	who enter

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many through it."

Matthew 7:19

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

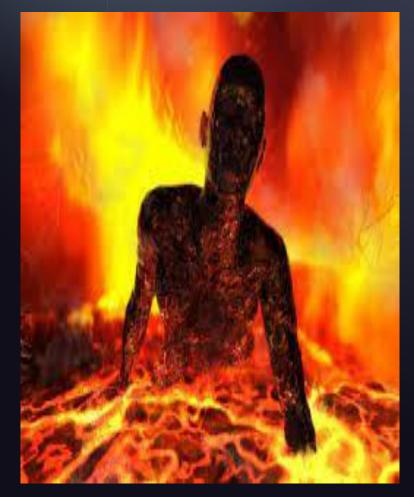
Matthew 13:40

"So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age."

Matthew 13:42 "... and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:50

"... and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."



- Matthew 18:8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire."
- Matthew 22:13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- Matthew 25:30 "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- Mat 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:"
- Mark 9:44, 46, 48 "... where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED."
- Mark 12:40 "... who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."

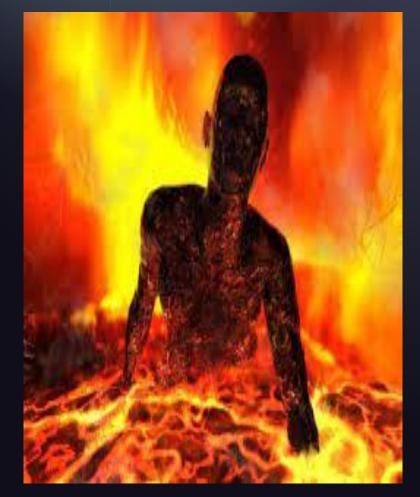


•	Luke 13:3	"I tell	you, no; but unless	you repent	you will all lik	kewise perish."
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• Luke 16:24 "Then he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

• John 5:29 "... and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."



Summary of Jesus' words about hell:

- Hellfire
- Hell
- Son of hell
- Condemnation of hell
- Condemnation
- Fire never quenched
- Brought down to hell
- Cast into hell
- Destruction
- Furnace of fire
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Eternal fire
- Outer darkness
- Worm does not die
- Perish
- Tormented in flame
- Resurrection of condemnation
- Burned



Why People Go To Hell

The reality of hell is enforced upon those who do not know God nor obey the gospel, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

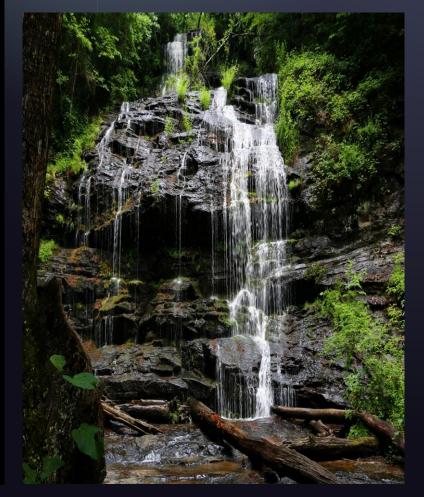
People everywhere should know God exists, according to Romans 1:18-32.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.



- Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,
- Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.
- Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.
- Rom 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,
- Rom 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

- Rom 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,
- Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,
- Rom 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
- Rom 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;
- Rom 1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

The wrath of God will be shown for the following reasons:

- People are ungodly.
- People are unrighteous.
- People suppress the truth.
- God gave evidence of Himself, but people refuse to honor Him.
- He has given evidence through the world's creation, but people ignore Him.
- His invisible attributes, eternal power, and divine nature are seen in creation, yet people do not revere Him.
- People do not honor Him.
- They do not give Him thanks.
- They indulge in futile speculation.
- Their foolish heart is dark.

Folks can have an enjoyable time while on earth, they romp and play in ways that anger God. Sin is disobedience toward God.

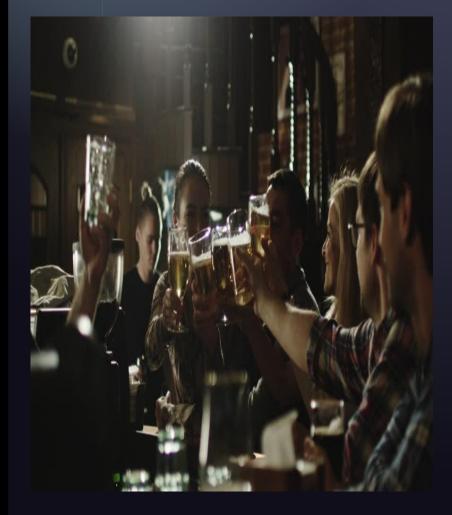
While we've seen a few verses that describe the reasons for being cast into hell, the fact is that the New Testament has several lists of sins, and it is sin that keeps people out of heaven and sends them to hell.

People look for fun. They look for an outlet from their busy lives, looking for a good time. However, fun without considering God is dangerous!

Did I say that people who want to go to heaven are boring? No. They have fun too, but in ways that align with God's favor.

Did you know there are absolutely no perfect people on earth? Romans 3:23 states that everyone has sinned (notice the past tense). Everyone has sinned, and everyone will sin and sin again.

Isaiah 59:2 tells us that sin separates us from God. God gives life, not death. He offers permanent, everlasting life with Him. Our adversary, the devil, offers the fires of hell. Easy choice? One would think so. But look around. Look at the sins of the world. There's murder, mayhem, pain, suffering, and a host of ills plaguing the earth. That's because of sin.



At the time of this writing, there are 8 billion souls on the planet. Except for the saved, there are 8 billion people with sins against them. All of them, every one of them, is separated from God by sin. Their prayers are hindered; they can't get through. It's a Bible fact, 1 Peter 3:12. Here's something else to consider.

The wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. Death, here, means eternal separation from God in hell.

What's so bad about that? Well, we've already seen the pictures and Jesus' words about hell. But what about being separated from God, eternally?

- There will be torture forever.
- You are cut off from every possibility of happiness.
- You forfeit all opportunities to see, feel, or do good.
- You understand, finally, the' reward for sins.
- You will have the most intense remorse, guilt, and shame.
- You will know that your punishment is justified.
- You will never see light again. It is to be shut off from light, always, forever.
- For you, there will be no love, joy, or peace.
- You will never see God's face, experience His joy, hear His voice, feel His forgiveness, and never know His unlimited love.
- You will be found lacking in everything that was ever truly important.
- You will experience the ultimate punishment.



Consider these verses from 1 Corinthians 6:9-10:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

- If you're a fornicator...
- If you're an idolater...
- If you're an adulterer...
- If you're effeminate...
- If you're a homosexual...
- If you're a thief...
- If you're covetous...
- If you're a drunk...
- If you're a reviler...
- If you're a swindler...

You will be cast into hell for these. You will not go to heaven. Even though American media promotes the "gay" lifestyle, God says, through the Bible, that the LGBT+ movement is sin. We must obey God rather than Hollywood. The choice is clear; it's either heaven or hell. There is no such thing as purgatory. The Bible never says that. At our passing, we move to paradise or torment. That's Bible.



Consider these verses from Galatians 5:19-21

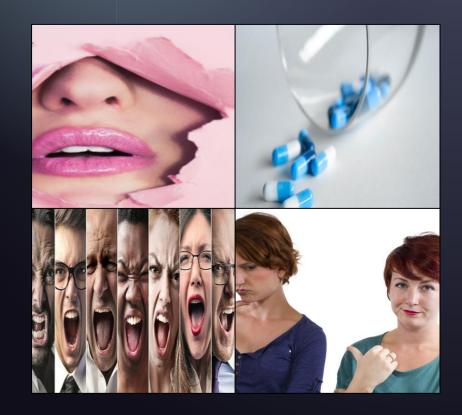
Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Immorality, impurity, sensuality.
- Idolatry, sorcery.
- Enmity, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, and envying.
- Drunkenness, carousing.
- Things like these.

You will be thrown into hell if any of these is your life.

You will not be admitted to heaven. To go to heaven, you'll have to change what you love, think, and how you live.

What is the best advice? Don't go to hell!



One Final Thought.

"Destruction," given as a description of hell, never means annihilation. The soul never burns away. One never burns to ashes. One never goes out of existence. One is always and forever burning if in hell.

The Greek word "apoleia" is the New Testament word for destruction. According to Thayer's Bible Dictionary, it means eternal misery in hell.

Vine's Expository Dictionary says "apoleia" means: "The idea is not extinction but ruin, loss, not of being, but of wellbeing."

Strong's Dictionary states: "ruin or loss, damnable destruction."

The point being? You'll always burn in hell. The torture will never end. You will never burn out of existence.



IT'S THE BEST ADVICE EVER!

What's so special about heaven?

- 1. We'll be free from everything that hurts us.
- 2. We'll have a perfect, eternal, spiritual body.
- 3. There is no disease, nothing impure, nothing that molests, nothing to cause pain or sorrow. There will be no crying in heaven.
- 4. Our Father will wipe away all our tears from a sinning, hostile world.
- 5. There is no death there. We'll live eternally. No death! No aging! Perfection!
- 6. We'll be in the company of thousands upon thousands of angels and heavenly beings.
- 7. We'll serve God.
- 8. The singing is out-of-this-world; thousands of thousands are singing and praising God.
- 9. There will be no aging physical body.
- 10. Our minds will be centered on God, joy, bliss, and comfort.
- 11. Our saved loved ones will be there, and we'll be able to visit them.
- 12. It is a place of indescribable beauty.
- 13. We'll have access to the Tree of Life and the Water of Life.
- 14. There will be no need for the sun or moon.
- 15. We'll be eternal with the Lord Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit.
- 16. We'll be in a perfect place.
- 17. It's a huge place filled with beautiful wonder.



Jesus is already victorious over all evil, death, and Satan.

Death came into the world through Eve's and Adam's sins. God warned them not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but they did. He told them they would die if they did. And we know they did eat the forbidden fruit of that tree.

God then banished them from the perfect Garden of Eden. They faced a harsh world corrupted by sin and Satan. Romans 5:12 has this: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

The devil, Satan, causes the death of billions of people, all people who ever lived and all who will ever live. How did he do this? He made it so that everyone would sin. We are not born in sin, mind you. The Bible doesn't say that anywhere – that's a false doctrine cooked up by man's imagination. Nor do we inherit Adam's or our father's sins, as many believe. Ezekiel 18 explains that. And we don't have to sin, but we will. We want what the world offers.

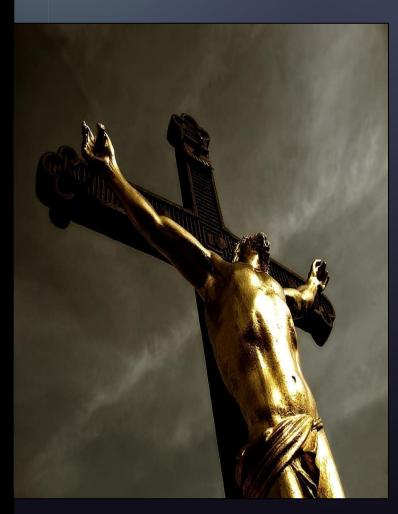
Well, since sin came into the world, all people everywhere, at all times, have rebelled against God's authority. God put free will into man's soul. Therefore, we are free to do good or evil. Romans 5:12 tells us that the wages of sin are physical and spiritual death. That spiritual death separates us from God and casts us into hell.



So, Jesus came from heaven, born of a virgin, to live a perfect life. A perfect life is required because there must be a perfect sacrifice for sin. The death of a perfect being answers God's requirement of death for sin.

It was God's will that Jesus be put to death for all of man's sins. The Father doesn't want a single soul in hell. Even though man rebels against Him, He gave His only earth-born Son to satisfy His law of death against sin. This is god-powerful grace extended to men for the salvation of their souls. But it's not blanket salvation. It's not like it's universal salvation whether one wants it or not. Each individual must accept God's terms of salvation offered through Jesus' sacrifice. To go to heaven, one must actively participate in salvation.

Through the Father's will, sinners (Jesus' contemporary Jewish religious leaders) put Him on trial. They caused Him great shame and humiliation and, through their manipulations, caused Jesus to be scourged and crucified by the Roman army. You can find this story in the Bible, specifically in the New Testament, the Gospels that tell of Jesus' earthly life, and historical references. Man is terrified of death. So, even though Jesus was crucified, buried in a rock tomb, and with a Roman guard of up to 16 soldiers, He arose from the dead just as He said He would. And then He presented Himself alive to many people. Jesus conquered death. He conquered death for all. Those who come to Him for salvation need not fear death, Hebrews 2:14-15.



And since He conquered death, He effected salvation for all. Everyone has an opportunity for redemption. Oh, the devil is always around, and he's continually looking to take folks to hell with him. To go to hell, all one has to do is live, participating in the world's ungodly ways. But to go to heaven, one has to give his full life to Jesus.

And the fear of death? Jesus' resurrection conquers that. Everyone in His church needs not fear death, for they know they will pass from this life into the presence of the Lord Jesus. The saved are safe at their passing.

In Acts 2, Peter and the apostles preached the first sermon after Jesus ascended to heaven. There were thousands in Jerusalem that day, thousands more than usual, for it was Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks for the Jews. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as a "mighty rushing wind." People heard the commotion and gathered to see the event.

Peter stands up and begins to preach. He convinces many that they had a part in crucifying the Son of God by siding with the Jewish leaders who wanted Jesus dead. Many of the hearers were moved by his sermon. They ask Peter and the other apostles what they can do since they're guilty of this. Peter responds by telling them that they must repent of their sins and be baptized to have their sins forgiven.

HOW DOES ONE SUBMIT TO JESUS?

JESUS SAID ONE MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS THE SON OF GOD, JOHN 8:24.

HE SAID EVERYONE MUST REPENT, *LUKE 13:3*.

HE SAID ONE MUST PUBLICLY CONFESS THEIR BELIEF IN HIM, MATTHEW 10:31-32.

HE ALSO SAID BELIEVERS MUST BE BAPTIZED TO WASH AWAY THEIR SINS, MATTHEW 28:19, MARK 16:16.

Some rejected what the apostles said, but 3,000 people accepted his words and were baptized that day. Each person was added to Jesus' church by Jesus Himself, Acts 2:47.

It's the same today. When one accepts his part in salvation, he is added to Jesus' church, not by any man-made church or council, but by Jesus. The church belongs to Jesus. That's why it's called the "church of Christ" Romans 16:16.

But what else about the perfect Jesus?

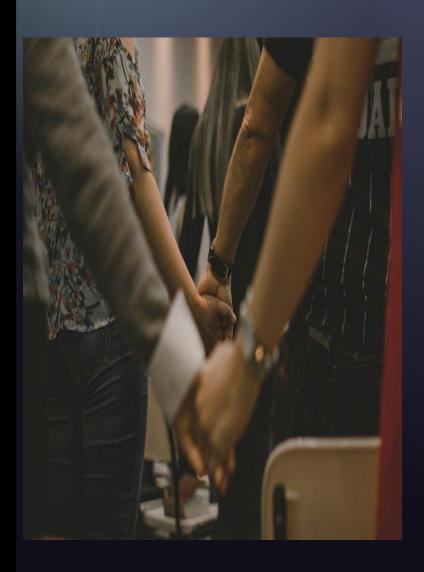
- Jesus saw humanity's weakness and left heaven to help us.
- Jesus, even as Deity, submitted to God the Father, coming to earth as the Savior.
- Jesus willingly went through several illegal trials that falsely condemned Him to death.
- Jesus was slapped, spit on, cursed, mocked, and scourged (horrible).
- Jesus was led away to be crucified because only His life could serve as the sacrifice needed for salvation.
- Jesus was crucified on a Roman cross (one of the most horrible ways of death ever invented).
- Jesus asked God for forgiveness on their behalf because they didn't understand they were killing the foretold Messiah.
- Jesus, by His death, removed the barrier between God and man. Thus, a saved man may visit and worship God anytime, anywhere.
- Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies by His cross.
- Jesus died, and his body was washed and wrapped in cloth.
- Jesus was buried in a rock tomb with an enormous rock door over the opening.



- Jesus overcame death, being resurrected to life.
- Jesus fulfilled prophecy, being raised on the 3rd day, as He said.
- Jesus began His church in Acts 2.
- Jesus adds people to His church who are saved.

Can I say more? What does He do now?

- Jesus created His church and His only church more than 2,000 years ago. All denominations are man-made and are therefore not the church that belongs to Jesus.
- Jesus mediates between the Father and us.
- Jesus is our advocate before the Father. He pleads for us.
- Jesus loves us.
- Jesus is our "high priest" before God. He offered one perfect sacrifice for sin for all time.
- People are Jesus' family after their sins are washed away.
- Through Jesus, people become the Father's children.



- Jesus overcame death so that we might not fear it.
- Jesus defeated the devil.
- Jesus is now in heaven, reigning over heaven and earth.

What else? What will Jesus do?

- Jesus will one day appear in the sky. All the souls that gave their lives to Him will arise from death to meet Jesus in the air. After this, there will be a judgment. All the evil persons will be sentenced to hell, and the saved will live forever in a place so beautiful we can't imagine it, heaven.
- Jesus will preside over the judgment. He will be completely just in His role.
- Jesus will judge the nations rightly and fairly; there is no respect for one person above another.
- Jesus provides a heavenly home for the saved.



You're intelligent. Consider the following.

Christians produce the fruit of the Spirit:

- Love: As the Holy Spirit works in our lives, we show the sweetest love to others. We will do good to them, and for them.
- Joy: We have joy through our relationship with Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and our brethren. We belong to God, and we're going to heaven!
- *Peace*: This is our deepest sense of safety, security, love, and blessings in our Lord.
- Patience: We gain an understanding of waiting on the Lord in times of stress and distress.
- Goodness: kindness, gentleness, and tenderness shown by the Spirit who leads us. Our hearts and lives reflect the goodness of God to others.
- Faithfulness: the saved will always be faithful to Jesus and others.
- Gentleness: gentle, not harsh; it's how you want to be treated and how you wish you had been treated. You'll be gentle to yourself and others.
- *Self-control*: it's the control of our attitudes, heart, mind, voice, and behavior.

The fruit of the Spirit is a growth process in Christians. It begins the moment we are saved and grows throughout life.



I believe you'd want to go to heaven than hell. You want to live a life characterized by the fruit of the Spirit. Wouldn't you rather live in love than hatred? Wouldn't you rather have joy than misery? How about peace? Everyone wants that! People spend significant money to find peace, but the only true peace is through Jesus.

How about patience? That's certainly needed. We move too fast. Our lives are better when we're patient. And kindness, goodness, and gentleness? Think of being kind to your family, friends, and work associates. Isn't that a better life? Don't we all want to live this way? Jesus teaches us how my friend.

Faithfulness and self-control? Do you want an honest spouse? Do you want honest children? Don't you want to be able to exercise self-control, particularly in this disabled world?

I know I do. I know millions who want this and have come to Jesus for all of this. Scripture has it that we are new people when we give our lives to Jesus, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Then, there's this advice:

- 1. Obtain salvation.
- 2. Live a godly life.
- 3. Go to heaven.







LIVING A GODLY LIFE!

Did I say life is all peaches and cream because one turns His life over to Jesus? Nothing could be further from the truth.

The issues that plagued your life will continue to affect you. All of those frustrations remain. All those desires that get you into trouble will still be your desires.

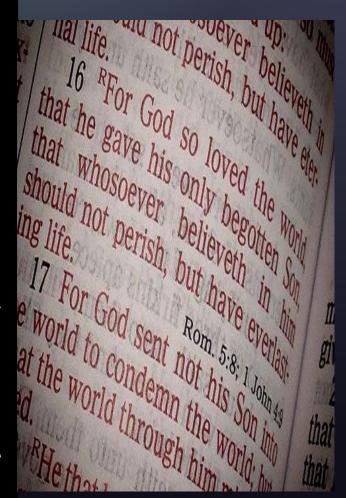
Heaven is heaven, and it's perfect, while Earth is Earth, and it's still in the clutches of the Devil. But again, how will we approach life if we've given our lives to Jesus?

1. We're going to change the way we think. If we continue to think as we did before salvation, we will get the same results: sin and death.

Here's Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. "

Therefore, we must give our bodies to God for His service, living as He wants us to live, doing as He wants, in the ways He wants them done. The world may be in dark sin, but we don't have to be. We *can* crawl out of the mire and stand upright before God and man. Our lives are better for this, from the inside out!



Once we've decided to offer God our hearts, minds, spirits, and bodies, we begin changing. The world might offer bright baubles, but in the end, it only delivers death and eternal separation from God.

So, we don't want to act the way of the world. We want to be the way God wants us to be. God's word can transform our lives. Our minds have changed. It's like the old saying, "Out with the bad; in with the good."

How does one get rid of the bad? The more Bible you take in, the more changes you'll see. Everyone needs to read the Bible daily. You die if you don't eat food. Right? You'll die spiritually if you don't ingest the word.

What if God could teach you patience? What if He told you the truth about how to love others? What if He trained you to wait for His reply? Loving is better than hating. Patience is better than rampaging. Waiting is easier if you know the Father deals with you as His child. There's the richness of life in His words. It's all in how we think, according to the Bible.

2. We're going to change how we behave.

The proof of our conversion is in our behavior. You know, instead of killing everyone for their sin, God is patient, waiting for people to come to salvation. So, we learn from Him. His nature eventually becomes our nature. His goodness becomes our goodness. His forgiveness becomes the way we forgive others. His love becomes the way we love.



Here's this from Ephesians 4:21-24.

if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

- A. Put on the New Self; it's been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.
- B. We are renewed in the spirit of our mind (where our intelligence and thoughts live).
- C. The old way of life is corrupted by lust and deceit. We don't want that, so get rid of it.
- D. We have been taught about Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit by the word.
- E. Remember, true life is in Jesus.

Further reading in Ephesians 4 has a picture of the new life. Here's a summary.

- No lies, just the truth; we are members of one family, the family of God.
- Anger is a God-given emotion, but there's a suitable time and way to express it.
- Do not allow the devil to cause you to sin.
- No more theft, but rather work so you have something to share.
- No unwholesome words. Speak good things so that it will give grace to those who hear.
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by your actions.
- No bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander, and no malice.
- Be kind and tender-hearted, and forgive each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.



God is working in us to perfect us, to be ready for heaven.

Here's Galatians 5:22-25.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Consider the definitions.

- Love: brotherly affection, goodwill, benevolence.
- Joy: gladness or the cause of joy.
- Peace: state of the soul assured of its salvation.
- Patience: forbearance, perseverance, long-suffering, slowness in avenging wrong.
- Kindness: moral goodness.
- Goodness: doing good to others or being good according to the word.
- Faithfulness: proof, faithful, keeping our word or allegiance.
- Gentleness: consideration, humility.
- Self-control: self-mastery.

Life is still life, but a Christian rises above the garbage and behaves in ways pleasing to the Father.



One day in the future (we don't know when), Jesus will return, and when He does, there will be a resurrection of the evil and a resurrection of the saved. Those are the only two choices. There is no such thing as purgatory, and there's no such thing as a time in limbo to get better at living.

You can imagine that if there's a group headed to hell and a group led to heaven, there will be a judgment. Acts 17:31 has this: "For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

God has declared a judgment day. It will be a time of justice for all. The evil will be eternally punished, and the saved will be forever blessed.



Jesus is shown to be the judge in the Bible, as seen in Acts 17:31. This is an inescapable truth. God proved this so by raising Him from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is the bedrock of Christianity. No resurrection. No Christianity.

It's all straightforward. If one wants to go to hell (nobody in their right mind would choose this), they could choose to be evil. I don't have to list the evil - there's plenty out there for all to see and experience. Secondly, you don't have to do anything. Just keep on living, and you'll go to hell even if you're a good person.

Good people go to hell because they do not choose to follow Jesus. And, frankly, many "Christians" follow a false Christianity by practicing things not in the Bible. And then, some folks practice false religion by adding man's doctrine to Bible practices.



Do you know what Paul once said? Here it is, from Galatians 1:6-9 - "I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News

Galatians 1:7 but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

Galatians 1:8 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

Galatians 1:9 I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed."



Now, an apostle of Jesus Christ said that, and he got his information from the Holy Spirit. I wonder just how bad it is to be cursed by God. I think that's terribly frightening.

So, what is God's plan for salvation? This is for those who want to go to heaven.

God says you need faith. And this isn't some weird faith obtained by strange things or people. Genuine faith is a persuasion of the mind. You look at Bible evidence and see that Jesus is who He says He is, and you build trust that He will deliver on His promise of heaven. Romans 10:17 states that the only way to come to faith is to hear (understand) God's word.



That makes sense because God wants you to trust Him for salvation. His word on the subject is objective truth.

But it's not faith only, as so many falsely believe. Salvation is conditional - of course, it is. Choosing to follow His plan for salvation is certainly conditional. Some will, many won't.

What are the conditions?

Well, by Luke 13:3, everyone has to repent of their sins. That means turning away from the bad stuff to doing godly, Bible stuff. If we don't repent, Jesus says we'll all go to hell. Remember. He is the judge.



Repentance makes sense. Without it, we'd keep on doing sin, and that means hell. We stop the sin and live righteously.

After that, we need to publicly confess Jesus is the Christ. It's in the Bible at Matthew 10:32-33. You can also check out Romans 10:9-10. We get this. We must make this statement because we believe that Jesus is Christ, and the only way to demonstrate this is through confession.

The next item gets really sticky for many, but I'm only going to give you what Jesus and His apostles said.

Matthew 28:19-20 – "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Mat 28:20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."



Matthew 28:20 "Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15-16 "And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned."

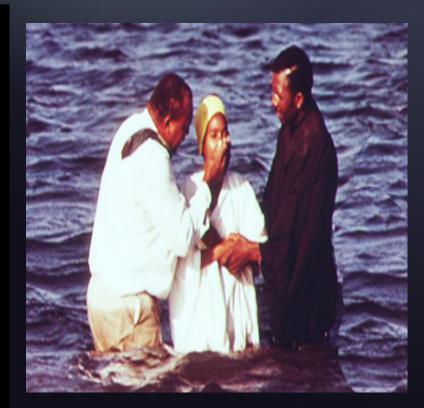
Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."



Well, there's Acts 8:12 "But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized."

Acts 10:47-48 "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" So, he (Peter) gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days."

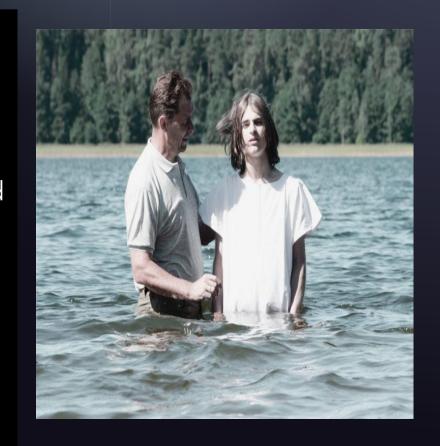
Acts 16:15 "She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests."



Acts 16:32-33 "And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized."

Acts 8:36, 38 "As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him."

Acts 22:16 "What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."



1 Peter 3:21 "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves younged the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, NASB."

With all the evidence, can you see that God requires baptism for salvation?



Now, if someone were to ask you, "Is baptism necessary for salvation," what would be your reply?

A plethora of evidence exists for baptism to wash away sins. It's necessary. Jesus said so, and He's the judge.

Your future, my future, and all people on earth are entirely linked to Jesus. He is our Savior. He is ultimately our judge.

I want to go to heaven. Don't you?



Finishing Up Stuff

GARLAND VAN DYKE.

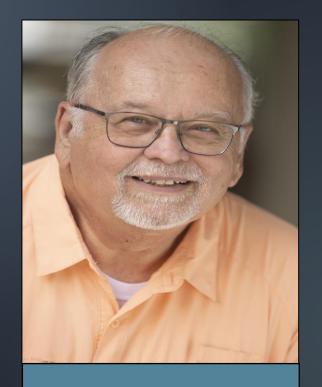
HERE'S MY EMAIL:

GARLAND. CHURCHOFCHRIST @ GMAIL. COM

SURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

HERE'S THE MAILING ADDRESS:

PO BOX 1522 BAY CITY, TX 77414



If you're in the area, we'd love for you to attend. We're really nice people. Sundays 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Worship Wednesdays 7:00 Bible Class

1915 Matthews St., Bay City, TX