
CAN WE BE SURE OF

Heaven



By John Ecob D.D.
For The Herald of Hope

Can We be Sure of Heaven?

John Ecob DD

The Bible is the Word of God given to prophets and apostles to show us the way of salvation and to give us assurance of eternal life. Many verses make this clear. There are *“given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature”* (2Peter 1:4).

Salvation is **by faith** in Christ alone and is it **not by our good deeds**. Our good deeds are the product of salvation. God does reward faithful service to Christ but salvation is by faith alone in Christ:

*“For by grace (undeserved favour) are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**”* (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Christ Has Done it All

All the work necessary for us to be sure of heaven was accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ when He came from heaven to die an atoning death on the cross. The Bible says *“He bare our sins in His own body on the tree (cross)”* (1Peter 2:24).

A full atonement was made by Christ as the Lamb of God who laid down His life and shed His blood for the sins of the whole world. God now offers pardon and mercy to all who rest their faith in Christ alone. My

good deeds can never atone for my sin.

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.

So my personal salvation from sin and hell does not depend upon me but upon Him and the mercy which He freely offers to all who believe in Him.

*“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.** 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” (1Timothy 2:3-6).*

*“He (Jesus) came unto his own, and his own received him not. 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: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”** (John 1:11-13).*

Jesus said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). We are ‘born again’ into the family of God when we receive Christ as our Saviour by faith; God becomes our heavenly Father.

*“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.** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that*

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believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

How can I be sure that eternal life is mine the moment I believe in Christ? Because God never breaks His promises. **It is not presumption to believe that God will do what He promised.** The Bible has many promises to those who truly believe in Christ. Jesus said:

“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).

Can I lose my salvation once I trust in Christ? No! My salvation depends on Him; upon His perfect work of redemption and not on me. Christ has promised to keep us safe in time and eternity. Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one” (John 10:27-30).

Once we become a child of God we are secure and nothing can separate us from the love of our heavenly Father.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,

nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35-39).

Not only do I receive eternal life the moment I believe in Christ but God also gives me the gift of His Holy Spirit. He comes to dwell in my heart and He changes my thinking, my life and my attitudes.

*"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his... But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you... For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:9-17).*

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our heart brings peace and assurance as we take the promises of God's Word and believe them.

The Bible becomes a new book to those who believe in Christ and as we meditate in its pages it gives us strength and guidance:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law

of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:1-3).

Heaven is Assured

Heaven is our home when we become a child of God. We no longer fear death. For the Christian, death is departure from the body. Instantly we are ushered into the presence of Christ:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1Peter 1:3-5).

At death the angels escort the soul of the believer into the presence of Christ (Luke 16:22). Paul wrote:

*“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (our body) were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ...Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord... We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be **absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”** (2Corinthians 5:1-8).*

“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you” (Philippians 1:23-24).

Our Bodies will be Raised

Death is not the end. God has promised a glorious resurrection for all believers in Christ:

*“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds**, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”* (1Thessalonians 4:15-18).

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, **NOW are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is**. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure”* (1John 3:1-3).

You Can be Sure

There is certainty and assurance for the believer in Christ because we know that our

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sins have been fully paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ and since He has promised eternal life as a **free gift** to all who trust in him, we cannot ever be lost again. Day by day we are assured of His presence because His Holy Spirit is now dwelling in us. Not only do we have peace **with** God but we enjoy the peace **of** God. Now we can

*“Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And **the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7).

The Bible is the Word of God and faith comes by hearing and believing God’s Word. If God does not keep His promises then He is not God. He is faithful and cannot deny Himself so we can have complete confidence in the promises of God.

The question remains: Have you turned from sin and self to Christ and placed your faith in His atoning work at the cross. If you have sincerely called on the Lord to save you, then all the promises of God are yours to lay hold of and to rejoice in.

(For further help contact the Editor.

The Herald of Hope

P.O.Box 4216 Marayong NSW 2148

Email: editor@heraldofhope.org.au)

www.heraldofhope.org.au