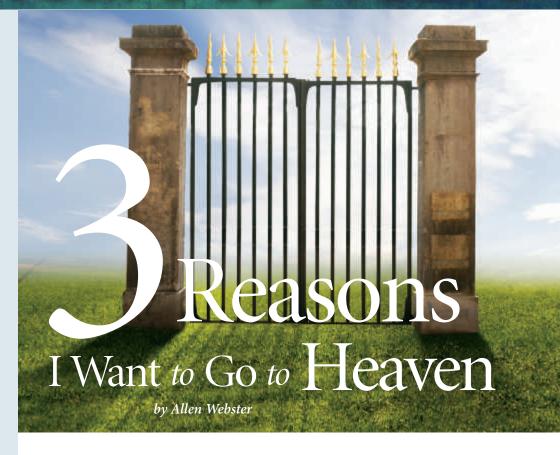


# House to House www.housetohouse.com House to House Leart to House www.housetohouse.com House to House Leart to House www.housetohouse.com House to House Leart to House www.housetohouse.com



This article is a personal project. This world and its constant busyness keeps drawing me, taking my energies, occupying my time, and dominating my thoughts. As I turn 43 today, I decided to remind myself again of what I believe and what my purpose is.

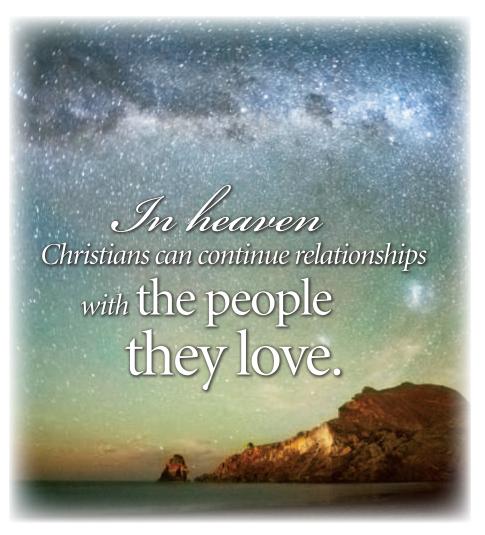
Why do I really want to go to heaven?

### I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO SEE PEOPLE I MISS, AND CONTINUE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

My desire for heaven gets stronger with each trip to the cemetery. The older we grow the more we talk about the people of the past. At some point we realize that we have more loved ones on the other side than we have here.

The Old Testament recognizes this truth and often uses the expression that one "was gathered unto his people" (Genesis 25:8, 17; 35:29; 49:33; Numbers 20:24; 27:12–13). When Jacob thought Joseph was dead, he longed to see him (Genesis 37:35), and no doubt longed more for heaven than he had before. David wanted to go to heaven to see his son that lived only a short time (2 Samuel 12:22-23). Personally, I want to see grandparents, elders I've served under, my teachers and mentors, preachers I have known and respected, and fellow Christians with whom I've worshipped and worked. I can see them in my mind's eye lining the shores of the Jordan to welcome my boat as it arrives!

Further, I want to go to heaven so I can continue relationships with the people I love. The only way one >>



can continue a relationship with a spouse, children, parents, grandparents, extended family, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends is to go to heaven together. We cannot continue relationships indefinitely here, for either circumstances or death eventually part us. There will be no camaraderie in hell, for it is a comfortless place filled with darkness, agony, thirst, and misery (Luke 16:19–31). Since relationships offer joy and respite, we may rest assured that they will not be allowed in the devil's realm.

Yet in heaven Christians can continue relationships with all the people we love. Jesus explained that we will not remain married in heaven (Matthew 22:30), but we will know one another there. Abraham was still Abraham and Lazarus was still Lazarus there (Luke 16:23). They knew each other, although they had never met on earth. Peter, James, and John recognized Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration

(Matthew 17:3–4). Paul told the Thessalonians that when Jesus returned, He would bring with Him the spirits of their loved ones who had died as Christians (1 Thessalonians 4:14). Those spirits would be recognizable, or these words would not have comforted them (4:18).

#### I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN SO I CAN BE FREE OF THE FEAR OF DEATH.

I'll be honest: I don't look forward to dying. I'll have to do it once to get out of this world (unless Jesus comes), but I surely don't want to do it twice! And we won't have to, for "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26). *Death* is used 904 times in the Bible (in various forms). The next to last time is Revelation 21:4, which says that death will come to an end in heaven. The hearse will have made its last trip. You won't see long lines of cars following a coach with their lights on. There will be no more funeral services, no tombstones, no expensive

funeral plans, and no tearful good-byes. There are no hillsides dotted with the markers of loved ones. You won't find silent cities of the dead in heaven, for no one ever dies there!

## I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO SEE MY FATHER.

I have preached sermons on heaven now for a quarter century. The content of those sermons has changed little through the years, but the emphasis has. It used to be more about mansions, crowns, reunions, and rewards. Now it is more about who will be there than what will be there.

Someone observed, "What makes heaven heaven is God." If the street were gravel instead of gold, if the walls were particle board instead of jasper, if Main Street had mud knee-deep, and if weeds overgrew the flowers, it would still be heaven because God is there. The greatest treat of Paradise was not the climate or the fresh fruit; it was that God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). He didn't just create them, put them in their garden, and forget them. He spent time with them.

That's what heaven will be like. God will spend time with each one of us. John heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

The most wonderful aspect of heaven will be the presence of the divine Godhead—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Revelation 1:4–5). God is clearly the "star" of heaven. The four living creatures John described constantly worshipped Him, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:8; cf. 4:10–11; 5:9).

R. G. Lee observed, "Heaven is the most marvelous place the wisdom of God could conceive and that the power of God could prepare."

Do you have hope of heaven?

Contact us!

# Sixteen Things That Cannot Be Done

It is helpful to know our boundaries, so that we do not spend our efforts in attempting things that cannot be accomplished.

- God's eternal purpose cannot be overthrown (Acts 5:39).
- One cannot bear good fruit without Christ (John 15:5).
- No person can keep his sins hidden forever (1 Timothy 5:24).
- No person can live after the flesh and please God (Romans 8:8).



- A person cannot love God and not love his brother in Christ (1 John 4:20).
- A person cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
- No one can take anything out of this world (1 Timothy 6:7).
- After dying lost, one cannot be saved (Luke 16:26).
- One cannot make God be a liar (Romans 3:4).
- One cannot enter into heaven by any door but Christ (John 10:1–9).
- One cannot enter in after the door is closed (Luke 13:25–27).
- One cannot avoid reaping what he has sown (Galatians 6:7–8).
- One cannot be justified by the law of Moses (Galatians 3:11; 5:4).
- One cannot be saved by animal sacrifices (Hebrews 9:22; 10:4–12).
- Man cannot escape death or the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
- A Christian who is faithful till death cannot lose his reward (Matthew 10:42; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

—Brent Smith

# el Will

- Like Paul, forget those things which are behind, and press onward (Philippians 3:13);
- Like David, lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence comes my help (Psalm 121:1);
- Like Abraham, trust implicitly in my God (James 2:23);
- Like Enoch, walk daily in fellowship with my heavenly Father (Genesis 5:22);
- Like Jehoshaphat, prepare my heart to seek God (2 Chronicles 19:2–3);
- Like Moses, choose rather to suffer, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:24–25);
- Like Daniel, commune with God at all times (Daniel 6:10);



- Like Job, be patient under all circumstances (Job 13:15–16; James 5:11).
- Like Caleb and Joshua, refuse to be discouraged because of superior numbers (Numbers 13:30; 14:6–9);
- Like Gideon, advance even though my friends be few (Judges 7:7);
- Like Aaron and Hur, uphold the hands of the leaders of the church with prayer and support (Exodus 17:12);
- Like Andrew, strive to lead my brother to Christ (John 1:40–42);
- Like Stephen, manifest a forgiving spirit toward all who seek my hurt (Acts 7:60).

—Author Unknown



## How to Part Your Hair with Attitude

A lady woke one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed that she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did, and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmmm," she said, "I think I'll part my hair in the middle today." So she did, and she had a great day.

The next day, she woke up, looked in the mirror, and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll wear my hair in a ponytail." So she did, and she had a grand day.

The next day, she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Yea," she exclaimed. "I don't have to fix my hair today."

Attitude is everything!

—Author Unknown

"Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

—PHILIPPIANS 4:8

### **God's Plan for Saving Man**

God's Grace Christ's Blood The Holy Spirit's Gospel Sinner's Faith Sinner's Repentance Sinner's Confession Sinner's Baptism Christian's Work Christian's Hope

Ephesians 2:8 Romans 5:9 Romans 1:16 Acts 16:31

Luke 13:3 Romans 10:10 1 Peter 3:21 James 2:24

Christian's Hope Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance Revelation 2:10



## **Delayed Gratification**

Most parents have seen this happen. As the communion tray passes by, a little one in a stage whisper says: "Mom, can I have some juice, too?" Of course, you could say, "No," but most parents wisely respond, "Not yet."

Children could eat crackers and juice, but they would not be partaking of the body and blood of the Lord. The meaning would be lost on them (1 Corinthians 11:23-28).

"No, you can't" and "Not yet" are quite different responses. Sometimes it's important to wait. Delay is not denial. Waiting for the right time is neither idle nor empty. Anticipation is the



best preparation for the moment of fulfillment. I remember the first time I took communion. I was twelve years old, and

it was the Sunday after I was baptized. What a very special moment that was!

Delayed gratification is not popular in our culture, but there are times when it is important. Waiting to make a purchase until one saves enough money is better than buying on credit and paying interest (Proverbs 21:20). Waiting till marriage for sexual fulfillment avoids many problems and pleases God (Hebrews 13:4).

Humans are always in a hurry. God, I have noticed, allows nature to take its course. It doesn't hurt for children to observe baptisms and communion, and to form the idea that one day, they too will grow to participate in these grownup mysteries.

—Stan Mitchell, Henderson, Tennessee



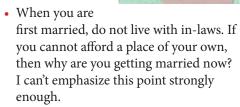
For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

In-Laws or

Love them or not, nearly every married person interacts with his or her in-laws on a regular basis. In-laws have the potential to destroy a good relationship if we let them. They also have the ability to be a source of joy and even save marriages when the road gets rocky,

if we seek their advice. How we deal with extended families is a core element in our relationship.

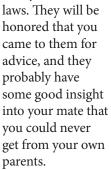
Here are some tips on dealing with in-laws.



- Make a rule that your in-laws cannot just drop by the first year or more of your marriage. Better yet, live at least an hour or two away from them, so you can work on your relationship instead of spending time with family.
- Try to spend as much time with in-laws as possible while dating, especially if your sweetheart is close to his or her family. You need to know what you are getting into.
- Another benefit of getting to know your potential mate's parents is to see what type of person he or she will potentially become in 10, 20, or 30 years. Our parents pass on genes to us, and we often become like our parents.
- If you spend more time each week talking with parents (including phone calls) than you do with your spouse, then something needs tweaking.
- If you and your mate argue or fight, resist the temptation to run home to your parents. You need to learn to solve your problems, and running away

prolongs the problem. Telling parents about all your marital problems makes it difficult for them to support your marriage.

• If you need advice on a problem you are having in your relationship, every once in a while talk with your in-



Remember

that every time you bad mouth your in-laws, you are tearing down someone your mate loves.

- Show kindness to your in-laws, even if they are unkind to you. Turning the other cheek will earn you respect from your mate and your in-laws (Matthew 5:39).
- You do not have to visit them every time your spouse does.
- Send notes to them occasionally. Sign only your name, so they know it is just from you.
- Do not let your parents or in-laws pressure you into "having grandchildren for them." If and when you have children is not their business.
- Come up with a good game plan for holidays.

One final bit of advice for you and your in-laws: Love them, like them, tolerate them, or simply respect them. There is no room in a blissful relationship for hate.

—Michael Webb

- Wilchael Web

"The trying of your faith worketh patience."

JAMES 1:3

# All Things CONSIDERED Why Are the Words of Christ Printed in Red and All Others in Black?

While millions read the Bibles, few know why some Bible publishers print the words of Christ in red.

Words in red are neither more nor less important than the words in black. Jesus said to the seventy, "He that heareth you heareth me" (Luke 10:16). Jesus meant that every divinely inspired writer or speaker was equally important, since the message originated with God's Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The idea of a red-letter Bible originated with Louis Klopsch, the first editor for the Christian Herald. Its November 1901 issue ran an advertisement offering a red-letter Bible to readers. Dr. Klopsch based this on Luke 22:20, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you," spoken by Jesus as He instituted the Lord's supper. Reasoning that blood was red, he asked himself, "Why not a red-letter Bible with the red words to be those of our Lord?" He asked Bible scholars in America and Europe to submit passages they regarded as spoken by Christ while on earth.

The first printing of a red-letter Bible (copyright 1899 by Louis Klopsch) numbered 6,000 copies. They sold quickly. Presses were soon running day and night to supply the demand. The King of Sweden sent a congratulatory cablegram, but the message that thrilled Klopsch the most came from President Theodore Roosevelt. He was even invited to dine with the chief executive at the White House.

Dr. Klopsch died March 28, 1910, and was buried at Mont Lawn near Tonawanda, New York, where he had established an orphanage. At the time The New York Tribune said, "He will not be easily replaced. He lived and died by his own motto: 'Do All the Good You Can for All the People You Can.' This, he truly did."

-Mark N. Posey, Decatur, Alabama

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to www.HouseToHouse.com.

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the 12 Caesars bookmark as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



Name:	 	 	
Address:	 	 	
Phone:			

Questions Taken from the King James Version

**Answers to Last Issue:** One Dozen Scriptures for Women: 1. virtuous, rubies (Proverbs 31:10); 2. could (Mark 14:8); 3. beauty, feareth (Proverbs 31:30); 4. train, depart (Proverbs 22:6); 5. love (Titus 2:4); 6. gracious (Proverbs 11:16); 7. modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9); 8. crown, husband (Proverbs 12:4); 9. needful, good (Luke 10:42); 10. silence (1 Timothy 2:11); 11. adorning, hidden, quiet, great (1 Peter 3:3-4); 12. buildeth (Proverbs 14:1).

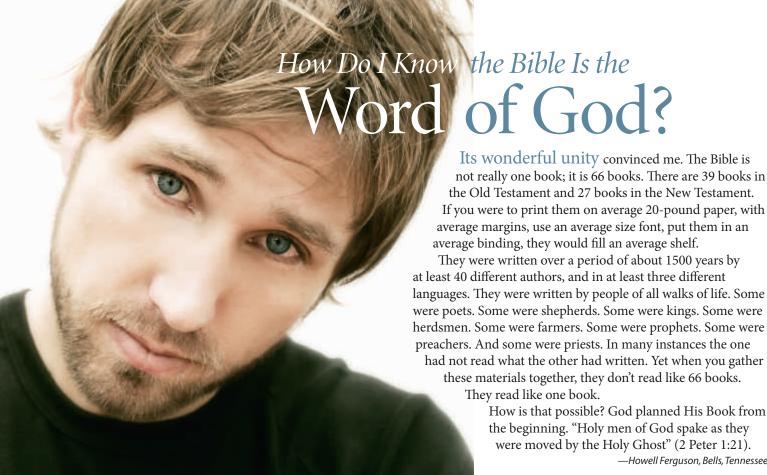
#### **Cases of Conversion**

Vital questions are asked in the book of Acts: (a) "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (2:37); (b) "What shall I do, Lord?" (22:10); (c) "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (16:30). Faithful men of God responded with Spirit-given answers. By learning what early believers did to be saved, we learn what we need to do.

**Directions:** *Match the converts with the chapter:* 

1 Saul of Tarsus	a. Acts 2:1-47
2 Philippian jailor	b. Acts 8:5-13
3 3,000 on Pentecost	c. Acts 8:26-40
4 Ethiopian eunuch/treasurer	d. Acts 9, 22, 26
5 Samaritans	e. Acts 10,11
6 Corinthians	f. Acts 16:9-15
7 Lydia	g. Acts 16:23-34
8 Cornelius	h. Acts 18:8

Λ	atch a name above with these quotes.
	"They that gladly received his word were baptized."
<u>.</u>	"Many of the hearing believed, and were baptized."
8.	"He received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."
ŀ.	"And they went down both into water, both Philip and the; and he
	baptized him."
·.	"But when they believed they were baptized, both men and women."
j.	"He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."
<b>7</b> .	"The same hour of the night was baptized, he and all his, straightway."
3.	"She attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized"



If you were to print them on average 20-pound paper, with average margins, use an average size font, put them in an average binding, they would fill an average shelf.

They were written over a period of about 1500 years by at least 40 different authors, and in at least three different languages. They were written by people of all walks of life. Some were poets. Some were shepherds. Some were kings. Some were herdsmen. Some were farmers. Some were prophets. Some were preachers. And some were priests. In many instances the one had not read what the other had written. Yet when you gather

these materials together, they don't read like 66 books. They read like one book.

> How is that possible? God planned His Book from the beginning. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21).

> > —Howell Ferguson, Bells, Tennessee

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- God's Love for Man —Eric Owens
- ▶ Assurance of Forgiveness —Guy N. Woods
- ▶ Should We Expect Miracles When We Pray for Illness? —Wendell Winkler
- ▶ King Jesus' Kingdom —Allen Webster

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- ☐ I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- ☐ I have a prayer request:\_
- ☐ I have a Bible question:\_
- ☐ I want to know more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

#### I want to learn more about the Bible!

Address: \_\_

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- ☐ I want to see the *Visualized Bible Study* series (an in-home personal **study).** These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.
- ☐ I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

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- □ **NEW!** Eight Reasons I Want to Go to Heaven
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- □ **NEW!** A True Worshipper
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- ☐ What Must I Do to Be Saved?
- ☐ A Lying Tongue
- ☐ Finding God's Treasure
- ☐ Can I Change?
- ☐ Jesus' Mother
- ☐ Back issues of House to House/ Heart to Heart

# Jesus Never Had Family Trouble

A man's wife had deserted him for another man. She succeeded in taking away their children. The estranged husband became depressed and lost his business.

Brokenhearted and ruined, he became obsessed with the enormity of his troubles and refused every offer of encouragement and hope. He attended a church service and heard a great sermon on Christ's having been "in all points tempted like as we are" (Hebrews 4:15). Rather than being comforted by it as others were, he resented the sermon and told the preacher, "Yes, Jesus suffered many things, but he never had a wife and family stolen from him. He was never married, never had children, so that's suffering He never knew."

The preacher responded, "An accomplished violinist plays a great variety of music. There are only four strings on his violin, but they can produce both joy and dirges. The same four strings can cover the whole range. No, Jesus did not experience your trials in the same details, but He endured the broad range of disappointment, desertion, grief, pain, and even dying, so that the strings of His heart can vibrate with all the sad songs of life's bitterest experiences."

—David Pharr, Rock Hill, South Carolina

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

HEBREWS 4:15

# Greatest MAN

He had no earthly servants, yet they called Him Master.

He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives.

"His name shall be called Wonderful."



## Cogito, Ergo Sum

"Cogito, ergo sum"—"I think, therefore I am" is perhaps the most famous statement in philosophy. Rene Descartes wrote these words in his *Discourse on Method*, as he explained that since he knew he was able to think, he could know that he could exist. He continued to reason from this point that God exists.

Louis XIV had a different philosophy: "L'État c'est Moi"—
"I am the state." It is not surprising that he would come to

this conclusion, in view of the fact that he reigned as king over France for seventy-two years. His absolute monarchy set a pattern followed in several other European countries. No doubt this pattern of tyrannical behavior led to the bloody French Revolution of 1789.

Anna B. Warner penned a philosophy for all of us, however, with her words, "Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so." In her 1860 hymn we find words of comfort and strength. This is a favorite with children, but all of us can benefit from the words.

Even if you missed every doctrinal point in the New Testament, surely you could not miss this one. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6–8).

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of

his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30–31).

"Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide; He will wash away my sin, Let his little child come in. Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes Jesus loves me; Yes Jesus loves me; The Bible tells me so."

—Bob Prichard, Oxford, Alabama





## **Facts Each Must Face**

Life Is Short: "Man that is born of a woman is of few days,



and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down" (Job 14:1–2). "What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

**Death Is Certain:** "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The strength of man's mind and the wealth of the world

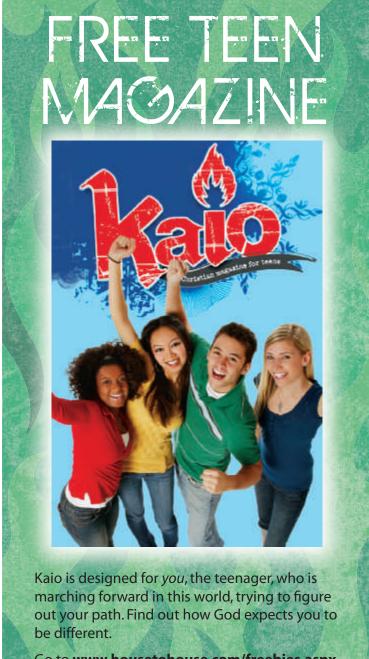
have been spent from earliest times to find a way to escape the fate of death. Still, all die.

**Eternity Is Long:** "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46).

**Judgment Is Sure:** "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

There Is Only One Way to Be Saved: Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). This salvation is available to all alike only through obedience to His gospel. The conditions in obeying the gospel are (1) Believe on Jesus (Acts 16:31; John 8:24; Acts 8:36–37); (2) Repent (Acts 2:38; 17:30; Luke 13:3, 5); (3) Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32–33; Acts 8:36–38; Romans 10:10); and (4) Be baptized (immersed) for remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16); (5) Live faithfully unto Death (Revelation 2:10; Matthew 10:22; James 1:12).

—Jim R. Lewis



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