

Can
YOU
Go To **HELL**
... *from church?*



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“Can YOU go to HELL from church?”



WOW!! What a question! People can't go to Hell from church, can they? Certainly not a sincere person like you. Now people who treat going to church like attending a social club ... *they* may be on their way to Hell, but certainly not you. You're a Christian! You don't just attend church; you serve while you're there. And besides, you've accepted Jesus into your heart. Heaven is DEFINITELY a sure destination for you!

But are you sure? Are you 100% sure?? Many people today have the deadly delusion that “Churchianity” and Christianity are the same thing. Nothing could be further from the truth. Being “in church” is not the same as being “in Christ.”

In fact, the shocking reality is that YOU could spend a lifetime in church, even serve there – and still spend an eternity in Hell. ***Bear with me as I explain how that could happen, and more importantly, how you can avoid being a victim of such a disastrous fate!***

The “Christian” Epidemic



In our world today, many people believe that going to church is an essential part of going to Heaven. While going to a Bible-believing church is definitely beneficial for growing in the Christian faith, church attendance has **NOTHING** to do with going to Heaven. The fact is, going to church can potentially be very dangerous for the regularly attending unbeliever. Why? Jesus put it this way in Luke 12:48, **“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”** In other words, the more exposure you have to Biblical truth, the more accountability you have to respond to that truth, and the greater judgment you will receive for not responding.

Surprisingly, it’s very possible that someone could attend church regularly, be an official member, be involved in activities, perhaps even teach a Sunday school class, and still *go to Hell*. According to two well-known pastors, that scenario is not only possible – but maybe even probable!

Listen to this shocking claim made by the late Dr. D. James Kennedy: “The vast majority of people who are members of churches in America today **are not Christians**. I say that without the slightest fear of contradiction. I base it on empirical evidence of twenty-four years of examining thousands of people.” [Emphasis added.]

Really?? A “*vast*” majority of people ***going to church*** are heading to Hell rather than Heaven!??

And consider these troubling words from the late A. W. Tozer: “It is my opinion that tens of thousands of people, if not millions, have been brought into **some kind of religious experience by accepting Christ**, and they have not been saved.” [Emphasis added.]

This seems almost unbelievable! Millions of people ***going to church*** have been deceived into thinking they are saved, but in reality they are not?

Could these two godly men actually be correct in their assessment? Millions of people ***going to church*** are on their way to a Christless eternity

in Hell, the very place they *thought* they were avoiding. If this is true, we have a literal epidemic on our hands!!!

But is it true? Instead of simply taking man's opinion on this, consider what the Bible has to say about it.

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus says: **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are MANY who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are FEW who find it.”** [Emphasis added.]

Notice Jesus clearly states that **MANY** are going to destruction (Hell), and **FEW** are going to life (Heaven). In other words, more people are going to Hell than to Heaven. A very scary thought, but especially scary when you consider the nature of the audience Jesus is addressing. He's not talking to a bunch of irreligious drug dealers, atheists, or criminals. He's talking to a group of people who are **EXTREMELY RELIGIOUS!** In fact, they would

be the equivalent of “devout church people” in our day. So according to Jesus, **MANY** churchgoers are going to Hell!!

Just a few verses later in the same chapter, Jesus says what could be considered some of the most frightening words in all the Bible: **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. MANY will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”** [Matthew 7:21-23, emphasis added.]

The four most horrible words that a human ear could ever hear: **“I NEVER KNEW YOU”** ... spoken to **MANY** people who *thought* they were genuine followers of Christ. These people prophesied, cast out demons, and did many wonderful works in Jesus’ name!!! I’m sure they knew all the right words and lingo, probably even went to the synagogue regularly and did all the routine

“synagogue stuff” ... yet here we have Jesus saying to these *HYPER-RELIGIOUS* people: “I never knew you; depart from Me.”

Of all people, why would Jesus say this to them?? Look at their achievements! You would think He would be congratulating them for a job well done! But instead He pronounces the most serious judgment possible on them.

Where did they miss it? Didn't they do the works? What could possibly be their problem?

A Serious Problem



The problem with the Matthew 7:23 crowd is that they misplaced their trust. They were relying on the wrong thing. Many people today who believe they will go to Heaven have the same problem. Rather than trusting in the work of Jesus, they're trusting in their own work. They are hoping that they've done enough good things to gain an entrance into Heaven.

Many, especially ones who go to church regularly, are depending on some “religious” activity they did to achieve their salvation – gave to charity, volunteered for a good cause, served on the worship team, said a prayer, went to the altar, “accepted Jesus into their heart”, etc. Because their good deeds obviously outweigh their bad, they’re trusting that a “Loving God” will surely allow them into Heaven.

This mistaken idea of good works producing salvation is firmly rejected by Scripture. Consider Titus 3:5, **“NOT BY WORKS of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”** [Emphasis added.]

Ephesians 2:8-9 further refutes this false concept: **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.”** [Emphasis added.]

These Scriptures plainly state that salvation is “not by works” or “not of works”. Good works

only change the appearance of the outside; they do nothing to change the inside. Thinking they can is like a man trying to cure his heart disease by changing his clothes. Only by God's divine heart surgery can the inside be changed (Ezekiel 36:26).

Good works can never produce salvation because they can't pay for sin. To put it in symbolic terms, good works are simply not the right currency. The Bible prescribes only one currency that God will accept as payment for sin, and that currency is death. The beginning of Romans 6:23 makes it abundantly clear, **"For the wages of sin is DEATH."** [Emphasis added.]

What Are You Depending On?



True Christians don't trust in themselves or what they do (or don't do) for their salvation. They know all too well how unworthy they are to enter heaven by their own merit. They have the perspective of the prodigal son in Luke 15:21 when he said, **"Father, I have**

sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

In order to find out what you are *really* depending on, ask yourself this diagnostic question, “If God said to me, ‘Why should I allow you to enter My Heaven?’, what would I say?” The very first thing that comes to your mind is what you are *really* trusting in for your salvation.

As I’ve witnessed to people over the years, I often ask them this diagnostic question. The most common response I hear is something to do with the person’s “good” behavior. Seldom does the name of Jesus even come up. And shockingly, churched people give me that kind of response just as often as unchurched do.

But equally as tragic as this wrong answer is the right answer given in the wrong spirit, especially when it comes from churched people. What do I mean by that? Allow me to explain.

If the true follower of Christ were given the diagnostic question from God, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?”, their correct and imme-

diate response would be “all about Jesus”. But that answer would not be given in an apathetic, rote way as though it were taken from a textbook. It wouldn’t be like giving the right answer to a math problem or historical question. Those kinds of answers are merely forensic or factual. A person giving those answers has no relational or intimate attachment to them. But for the believer answering the question of why they could enter Heaven, there **IS** a **deeply** intimate attachment to the “all about Jesus” answer.

Jesus is the One who dealt with their biggest problem, which is sin, and eliminated their greatest fear, which is death. Jesus is the One who loved them so much that He took their place and died a horrific and agonizing death on the cross. Jesus is the One with whom they have established their most intimate relationship of all!! For the true believer, the Jesus answer is literally filled to the brim with profound thankfulness. The Apostle Peter says it so well in 1 Peter 2:7, **“Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious.”**

Sadly, I've heard very few church people give the right answer in a way that reflects how *precious* Jesus is. The gratefulness that you would expect is severely lacking. To them, Jesus is just another guy in the Bible who did something amazing, like David who killed Goliath, or Daniel in the lion's den – just another run-of-the-mill fact that they learned in Sunday School.

Essentially, they have the same personal relationship with Jesus that they have with David or Daniel, which is none. They know that Jesus is the answer to the salvation question intellectually, but tragically, they don't know the person of Jesus relationally. In other words, they have a head knowledge of Jesus but not a heart knowledge.

So how would YOU answer the diagnostic question posed earlier? Would it be the wrong answer of your insignificant earthly achievements, like those of the Matthew 7:23 crowd? Would you give the right answer in a superficial, matter-of-fact, run-of-the-mill way? Or would yours be the overwhelmingly and profusely grateful answer of a true believer?

I strongly urge you to be brutally honest about your answer to that diagnostic question. Your eternal destiny depends on it!

Common Misconceptions



Two common answers to the diagnostic question are, “I’ve accepted Jesus into my heart” and “I really believe in God.” Let’s address these one by one.

First, the concept of “accepting Jesus into your heart” is a well-intentioned, good-sounding phrase, but it never occurs in the Bible. Throughout the entire New Testament, when salvation is presented, repentance and belief are the common themes (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:4, 1:15, 6:12, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38, 19:4). Again, nowhere in the Bible does it speak of “accepting Jesus”.

It really isn’t about us accepting Jesus, it’s about Jesus accepting us (Romans 15:7). His acceptance of us is based on our willingness to repent

of our sin and put our wholehearted belief and trust in Him. Rather than “accepting Jesus”, or simply adding Him to our lives, we need to submit and surrender to Him. Then Jesus, in His great love, transforms us and accepts us into His life.

Secondly, the idea of “I really believe in God” is a common false hope that many people have. The problem with this position is that there is another group of individuals in the Bible who REALLY believe in God, so much so that they tremble. That group is the demons. James 2:19 says: **“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”** [Emphasis added.]

So, unless you think there will be demons in Heaven, really believing in God is not enough for salvation. The fact is, the demons know how HOLY and JUST God is, and because of that, they tremble in fear!

Most of the people who claim to really believe in God are far from trembling. They see God as

a benign grandfather. But because of His Holy wrath toward sin, God is anything but benign. Jesus gives this sober warning in Matthew 10:28: **“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”**

The “really believe in God” people need to “really understand” the full character of God. God is not only Loving, but He’s also **“Holy, Holy, Holy”** (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8).

Do you know what the Bible says about how to get to Heaven?



Countless people today who attend church services every week are unable to correctly tell what the Bible says is necessary to enter Heaven. That raises the question: if someone doesn’t know the Biblical means of salvation, are they truly saved or are they going to Hell from church?

Think about it: a friend who lives in the central part of the United States tells you they are driving to a city on the West Coast. When you ask them which route they are taking, they give you a route that leads east! You would have to conclude that they don't know how to get to where they said they were going. More importantly than that, *they are not going to get there*, no matter how long they drive!

How would you respond if your salvation were challenged?



Most people who are going to church today believe that they are going to Heaven when they die. However, when challenged about their salvation, their response often indicates an attitude of someone who is not truly saved.

For example, some have a “This is my belief, it’s private, and that’s final!!” attitude, and they don’t want to talk about it. However, if you truly realize the depth and significance of what Jesus

has accomplished for you, wouldn't you want to talk about Him?

Others may not mind talking about church, church events, or other religious subjects, but when Jesus is brought up, the conversation is over!!

Still others may become angry and defensive: "How dare you question my salvation?! Can't you see that I'm a good person?" In their mind, a *good person* and a *Christian* are the same thing.

Responses like these are often strong indicators that the person is more than likely going to Hell from church.

On the other hand, someone who is truly saved and going to Heaven will respond in a different manner. A true follower of Jesus understands that they have been rescued from an eternity in Hell. They are deeply grateful for that rescue and sincerely want to please the Lord.

But there are times when even a true believer doesn't reflect that deep gratitude in their out-

ward actions. They can develop a pattern of sin or negative behavior that calls into question their salvation.

However, if that salvation is questioned, they won't get upset and distraught with the person confronting them. Rather, they would get upset and distraught with themselves for dishonoring the Lord. Their inward desire to be a good testimony for the Lord would then prompt the true believer to repent of their sin and no doubt be thankful for the questioner.

For a great example of how a true believer reacts when he is challenged, read the account of David and Nathan in 2 Samuel 12:1-13. As you read, remember that David was the *king*. From that position of authority, David could have easily gotten away with ignoring Nathan's rebuke. He could have even had Nathan killed, or at least punished, for having the audacity to confront the king. But instead, King David humbly repents of his sin in verse 12: **“So David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’”**

Notice who was first on David's mind when he confessed his sin. It was "the LORD." David had sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab ... basically all the people in his kingdom, but his primary concern was the sin he committed against **"the LORD"**. No wonder David is known as **"a man after God's own heart"** (1 Samuel 13:14).

The fact is, every true Christian, like David, is a man or woman after God's own heart because they've been transformed (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26). That's why they react to a loving challenge of correction totally differently than an unredeemed churchgoer. Like David, what they have done to the LORD, and how they represent Him, is paramount in their minds.

So, whether we are talking about questioning someone's salvation or just lovingly confronting someone living in sin, the reaction of that person is a great indicator of where they will spend eternity.

What is your fruit?



Sadly, many churchgoers who claim to be Christians are living lives that are inconsistent with what the Bible teaches a Christian life should look like.

Though works are not the cause of salvation, works *will be* the product of salvation (Ephesians 2:10). Just like heat is the natural outcome of fire, works are the natural outcome of salvation.

In other words, good works naturally flow out of salvation and authenticate the genuineness of a person's faith. Paul says in Acts 26:20: **"...I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their good works."** [NIV84]

For the true Christian, good works are a way that they can point others to God. **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."** (Matthew 5:16)

In Matthew chapter 7, just before Jesus says, **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven”**, He gives a great analogy to portray what a true believer’s life should look like. Jesus says, **“Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit ... by their fruits you will know them.”**

What are these fruits that will characterize the life of a true believer?

Galatians chapter 5 contrasts what an unbeliever looks like (i.e., someone on their way to Hell) to what a true Christian looks like. Verses 19-21 read, **“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity ... idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.”**

It goes on to say, **“I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”** (NIV84)

Now contrast that to what it says about the true believer in verses 22-23: **“But the fruit of the**

Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (NIV84)

Ephesians chapter 5, verses 3-5, speaks to true Christians when it says: **“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: no immoral, impure, or greedy person – such a man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” (NIV84)**

The Apostle John gives this clear description of a truly redeemed person in 1 John 2:3-6: **“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He**

who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

These passages (and others) clearly describe what a true follower of Jesus should look like. Setting aside a person’s religious *talk*, it is the *life* a person lives that reveals if they are producing good fruit or bad, and if they are a real Christian or not. It isn’t that a true follower of Jesus does not sin, but that their life is not *defined* or *characterized* by sin.

When someone becomes a Christian, God transforms their very nature. **“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.”** (Ezekiel 36:26). There will be a difference in their behavior whether people are watching them or not ... *especially* when no one is watching. They will have a love for Jesus and their primary concern will be pleasing God rather than pleasing themselves or others (Galatians 1:10).

At this point, we need to issue a caution: Using good behavior as your **ONLY** criteria for being a Christian could be very dangerous. Many sincere

people, especially devout churchgoers, can discipline themselves to produce good behavior but still be on their way to hell.

The real test is not so much your behavior, but the *cause* of your behavior. Scripture tells us that keeping God's commandments is not a burden for the true Christian who is motivated by God's love. "This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3, NIV84)

Is your good fruit the result of a transformed heart that loves God or your own burdensome efforts? An honest answer to that question indicates where you will spend eternity.

The "Bad News" makes the "Good News" *GOOD!*



Let's look at a hypothetical situation. Suppose a random person walks up to you and bluntly says, "Take this pill; it will cure your deadly disease." How would you respond?

Your first thought would probably be that this person is crazy. Naturally, you would be skeptical of taking anything they suggest, especially since you don't even think you're sick.

But suppose a world-renowned cancer doctor approaches you and gravely says, "I have some very bad news. I can see that you have several distinct symptoms of a very deadly disease." The doctor points out the specific symptoms and you realize that you do, indeed, have the deadly disease. Then, the doctor says, "Take this pill; it will cure you." What would you do?

No doubt, without any hesitation, you would take the pill and be profoundly grateful!

Once you understand and believe the bad news of having a deadly disease, you are eager to receive the good news of the cure.

Likewise, spiritually speaking, we need to understand and believe the BAD news before we can receive the GOOD news.

The Bad News



The spiritual bad news, for every human being alive, is this: **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** (Romans 3:23)

First John 3:4 defines sin this way: **“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”** (NIV84)

Sin, then, is simply breaking God’s law.

What’s the penalty, or payment we owe, for breaking God’s law? The first part of Romans 6:23 gives us the answer: **“For the wages of sin is death.”**

The Bible also tells us the ultimate fate of those who break God’s law in Revelation 21:8: **“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”** (NIV84; emphasis added.)

How do you compare?



A quick comparison of yourself to the Ten Commandments is sobering. Have you ever lied? If so, then you've broken the ninth commandment. Have you ever looked lustfully at someone? Jesus said in Matthew 5:28 that whoever looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart, breaking the seventh commandment. Have you ever hated someone? Jesus equated hate and anger with murder (Matthew 5:21-22). First John 3:15 says: **“anyone who hates his brother is a murderer.”** Hating, then, is a violation of the sixth commandment. Ever stolen anything ... even something small? That's breaking the eighth commandment.

How are you doing so far? Probably not too good! And this is just four of the commandments!

Have you ever blasphemed? Exodus 20:7 says, **“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him**

guiltless who takes His name in vain.” A simple “OMG” and you’ve broken this one.

Finally, James 2:10 says: **“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”**

Now you might be saying, “But hey, no one is perfect! Everyone has done these things!”



And there you would be right. That’s exactly why everybody is in the same boat as you are ... *and it’s sinking!*

However, we are not talking about everyone else right now ... we’re talking about YOU. YOU have broken God’s law. YOU will have to stand before Him in judgment one day! **“...It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...”** (Hebrews 9:27) **“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”** (Romans 14:12)

Jesus said in Matthew 12:36, **“... men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”** (NIV84)

Now that you have compared yourself to God's moral standard, the Ten Commandments, you can see that you are guilty. But there is a difference between *knowing* that you've violated God's standard and *being sorry* that you have violated God's standard. Paul describes this in 2 Corinthians 7:10, comparing "worldly sorrow" to "godly sorrow". Worldly sorrow is not caring about the fact that you are guilty, only regretting that you were caught. Godly sorrow means that you realize you have sinned *against God* and that grieves you deeply.

Jesus describes the broken condition of such a person in Matthew 5:3-6: **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."**

Notice the progression that Jesus gives for a person broken over their sin. First they recognize

they are spiritually bankrupt and have nothing to offer God but their sin. They then mourn over their spiritual poverty, and that causes them to be humble before a Holy God.

Any honest person can see at this point that they are guilty and deserving of Hell!

They then yearn for the righteousness that only God can provide, but how can they receive that righteousness and go to Heaven?

The Good News!



Earlier I said that it all depends on what you are relying on for your salvation, but what does that really mean?

To make this easier to understand, consider a criminal court of law. Picture yourself standing before a judge. You have been convicted of a serious crime ... let's say you robbed a bank and shot the security guard.

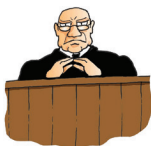
The judge states that the security video proves without a doubt that you are guilty, so at this point there is nothing you can say for yourself. No amount of good works done in the past or future erases the fact that you have broken the law (sinned) in *this* situation.

Imagine you were to say to the judge (as many people claiming Christianity today say to God, the Eternal Judge), “I know I’m guilty, but since you’re a good and loving judge, I’m trusting you will just forgive me and let me go.”

But a truly “good” judge is not only loving, he is also just. As a just judge, then, he couldn’t possibly let you go, because the law demands that a penalty must be paid. In the same way, God is a just judge and He cannot simply forgive our sin without a penalty being paid.

If one of your family members had been murdered and the judge simply let the murderer go free, would you consider him loving and just?

It comes down to this: we want God to be LOVING when He judges us, but JUST when He judges others, especially when they have sinned against us.



Now back to the courtroom ... you stand before the judge convicted. He says that the law demands that a penalty be paid. The penalty for the crime that you committed is a one hundred million dollar fine, cash, paid immediately ... or else you will spend the rest of your life in a hard labor prison camp. What will it be? Unless you've got that kind of cash in your pocket, it looks like the prison camp for you.

This is exactly where we stand before God: we have a penalty that we can't possibly pay, except our "prison camp" will be Eternal Hell.

What, then, is the answer? How can anyone go to heaven?

In a criminal court of law, it would be possible for someone else to pay the one hundred million dollar fine on your behalf. However, the sin debt that we owe to God is impossible for anyone to pay. Such a debt can only be paid by someone who lived a sinless, perfect life. The ONLY person able to pay that penalty is the ONLY man who never sinned, Jesus Christ. **“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”** (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV84)

Two thousand years ago, God became man in the human form of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:16). He lived a perfect life, NEVER sinning, not even once! Having never sinned, Jesus didn't deserve the penalty of sin, which is death. Yet He died on the cross, paying with His own body the *full penalty* for sin that you and I deserve to pay (Romans 8:3,4).

Because of His great mercy toward us, Jesus came to pay the penalty of death that we couldn't possibly pay. Three days later, He rose from the grave, conquering death and proving

that He is God. He ALONE paid the penalty of sin and He ALONE conquered the penalty when He rose from the dead, making it possible for us to go to Heaven! **“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who GIVES US THE VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** (1 Corinthians 15:56-57, emphasis added.)

ONLY God clothed in human flesh could accomplish such an amazing victory, and that’s exactly who Jesus is. This is why Jesus could boldly proclaim in John 14:6 – **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

Because of His great victory, Jesus can – and does! – offer to us the free gift of salvation and eternal life! The end of Romans 6:23 gives us this great news, **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** [Emphasis added.]

To receive that gift, we need to abandon our trust in ourselves and our own goodness and put

our wholehearted confidence and trust in the person of Jesus Christ. Such a transfer of trust requires that we humbly confess, repent, turn from our sins, and put our faith in Christ ALONE as our ONLY Savior and LORD.



The Greek word for repent, “metanoēō,” literally means a change of mind. When we repent of our sin, that means we change our mind (i.e., the way we think) about sin. When that change takes place, we see sin differently, we see self differently, we see God differently – all of which **results** in a dramatic outward change in our behavior and the direction of our lives.

Just to be clear, “turning from sin” does not mean that we become *sinless*, but it does mean that we earnestly desire to “*sin less*”. We completely surrender our life to God to the point where our sincere goal in life changes from wanting to please ourselves to wanting to please God. Though we can never totally stop sinning in this life, a true Christ-follower will not live a life *characterized by sin*.

It's Only Jesus!



Please understand that believing in the finished work of Jesus can't just be added to a list of good deeds that we think will make us acceptable to God. If that's the case, then Jesus just becomes one of the many hopes of our salvation.

Also, we can't say, "I believe in Jesus's work on the cross for my salvation, *but ...*" Everything after the "but" becomes more things we've added as necessary for our salvation – this includes ANY ritual, tradition, ordinance like baptism or communion, last rites, Eucharist, etc.

The true Christian depends on Christ as their ONLY hope of salvation. In Christ ALONE is where our confidence must be.

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Back to the original question!



So, is it possible to go to Hell from church?

The real question is, are YOU going to hell? If you are relying on something you have done instead of repenting of your sins and placing your full trust in Jesus Christ ALONE, then yes, regardless of whether or not you go to church, you are going to Hell. Thankfully, though, because of what Jesus has done, you don't have to! The doorway to Heaven is open to all those who repent and put their trust in Him!

**Behold, now is the accepted time;
Behold, now is the day of salvation.**

2 Corinthians 6:2

For additional copies of this tract, or with questions, email Frank or Shannon at hellfromchurch@gmail.com

Heaven or Hell - who goes there??

When you hear the terms *bank robber, burglar, extortioner, swindler, rapist, child molester, murderer* - do you think they represent the kind of crowd that's on their way to Heaven? Of course not! Everybody knows that crowd is on their way to Hell. God would certainly NEVER allow anyone with that kind of behavior through the gates of Heaven.

But did you know that you can spend a lifetime *in the church*, and even serve there... and still spend an eternity in Hell? This booklet explains why that is possible, and most importantly, how you can be sure that you're not a part of that crowd!!

