

## A Know So Salvation

There are hundreds and hundreds of religions in the world and all of them claim to be "*the*" correct one, but are they? Some religions teach that if a person dies for its god, then that person will be rewarded in the afterlife. There are religions that teach in order to reach eternal bliss in the afterlife, they must have sacrificial rituals, maintain a certain spiritual path, or go through different stages or levels while they are alive in this life. Sadly, they teach there is no absolute guarantee in this life that a person will enter the eternal bliss, or nirvana as it is sometimes called; they will not know until **AFTER** they have died. At least one religion teaches that the soul of a departed person may go to a place called purgatory; certain things must be done **BEFORE** it can enter heaven. The bottom line is that Satan is a master deceiver and multitudes have been deluded into believing these lies. So we now ask the question, "is it possible in this life, while we are yet alive, to know for certain where we will spend eternity?" The answer is yes, in the Christian faith, we can know **NOW!**

For our authority we must go to God's Word, the Bible, for it is there, and only there, that we can find a truthful answer. In God's Word we learn that **ALL** of mankind are sinners because of Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. God had warned Adam that he was forbidden to eat from a certain tree and, if he did, he would die {Genesis 2:17} But he disobeyed God and ate of that tree {Genesis 3:17}. As a result, sin came into the realm of humanity, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" {Romans 5:12} In Romans, Chapter 3, God paints an accurate portrait of just how sinful people are {Romans 3:10-18}, and this is only the tip of it. In verse 23 God said that, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and later in Romans 6:23 we read, "For the wages of sin is death;" My friend, right now there is a death sentence on **all** of humanity because **all** are sinners having inherited the sin nature of Adam. But, this same God is a loving God, and He has provided an escape from the penalty of death. And what might that be you may ask? Please continue reading this tract for the answer.

In God's Word we read, "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." {John 3:16} The person spoken of is Jesus Christ, God the Son, who left the glory of Heaven and took to Himself the body of man so that He could shed His innocent blood and die on the Cross of Calvary as the full and final payment of our sin debt. We read this in such Bible verses as John 3:17; Romans 5:6; 8-19; Hebrews chapters 9 and 10, 1 Peter 1:18-21. All of these speak of Jesus Christ dying on the Cross as He paid **OUR** sin debt. He did this because, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." {2 Peter 3:9} and all of this because of His great love for us "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8}. This is the love of God in action!

How can you be forgiven and saved? It is **ALL** by grace, through faith, and faith in Jesus Christ. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." {Ephesians 2:8-9} There is absolutely nothing you can do to earn salvation! "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" {Titus 3:5} "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." {Romans 3:28} See also Romans 4:5, Galatians 2:16, 20; 3:22, Ephesians 3:17. So, we have the grace of God, faith from God that He gives so we can believe, but we **MUST** repent (a change of mind and heart that turns us from our sin), "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." {Acts 2:38} Repentance is an absolute must and, once a person has repented and trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, then baptism by immersion is the next step. If a person who has truly put their faith and trust in Christ were to pass away before being baptized, that person would still be with Christ in Heaven. {Luke 23:42-43}

Now the best part of the "*know so salvation.*" John 3:16 is one verse that assures us of our eternal salvation **TODAY** but, there are other verses as well. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: ..." {John 3:36a} "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." {Romans 6:23b} "For whosoever

shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} See also John 3:15; 10:28, 1 John 2:25. There is no guessing about salvation or waiting until we pass away to see if we made it; we can have a "**know so salvation**" today, this very moment and this on the authority of the Word of God. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11-13} God said it and that settles it - what remains is for people to believe it. My friend, will **YOU** believe what God has said?

~Richard A. Ciarrocca