

“If you were to die in the next five minutes, would you go to be with the Lord?”

If you can answer “Yes,” then we rejoice with you and we look forward to seeing you one day in God’s presence. However, if you cannot confidently answer “Yes,” then let us ask you another question. If we told you that there was a way of knowing for sure that when you die you will go to God’s Heaven, would you want to know it? Sure you would. Then let’s open the Bible and read what God says about it.

In the opening chapters of Romans, God has the apostle Paul preach the very message He wants you to hear. It’s called “the gospel of Christ.” And as Paul says,...

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:16-17

God says that “the gospel of Christ” is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” This means that if you will believe “the gospel of Christ,” God will save you — from the debt and penalty of your sins, and instead of going to hell when you die, you will go to Heaven.

Now you do need to be saved. As Paul begins to preach the gospel, the first thing he does is show that all men need to be saved.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 1:18

The “wrath of God” is what all men deserve, including you. We are “by nature the children of wrath.” It is also what we will get, if we don’t find a way of escape. No attempt to better yourself will work. Nothing whatsoever you do, or could do, will help you out at all. God’s perfectly righteous Law demonstrates that it is not humanly possible for anyone to save themselves.

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:19-20

“Guilty before God” is what men are, including you. Guilty, deserving of God’s wrath, and unable to do anything about it yourself. That’s not good news. But there is good news. Though you can’t do anything about your predicament, God has — through the work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

What you couldn’t do for yourself, God has done for you through the Lord Jesus Christ. He took the debt and penalty of your sins upon Himself and died upon the cross of Calvary in your place under the judgment of God’s wrath — to “propitiate,” or satisfy God’s Justice regarding your sins, and to make it so that God could “freely” give you complete forgiveness of sins and justification unto eternal life. Moreover, what Christ came to do, He successfully accomplished. Therefore, God raised Him from the dead.

Forgiveness of sins and the righteousness of God you need so that you can live forever with God are now available to you “by faith

of Jesus Christ.” God now offers it to you as an absolutely free gift of His grace. You can have it simply by “believing in Jesus” — placing your complete trust in Him and what He did for you on the cross, and not trusting in any of your own works.

Don’t put off the offer of God’s grace to freely save you right now. You don’t know whether or not you will die within the next five minutes. So, why not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ right now, right where you are? God can look upon your heart, He will see your faith, and He will forgive you your sins and save you.

If you have decided to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, God wants you to know that you are now saved from the debt and penalty of your sins. No longer are you under the "wrath of God." Instead, this is what you now possess.

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

II Corinthians 9:15

Salvation from the debt and penalty of your sins is not all that you now possess. As Romans 5:2 says, you have,

"...access by faith into this grace wherein we stand."

There is more, much more, of the riches of God's grace unto you that you should know about. Enjoy The Bible Ministries® would count it a privilege of God's grace to be a helper of your joy in these things. We are eager to share more with you from God's word.

— Keith R. Blades

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Gospel

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST



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