

How To Be Sure

By Arthur DeMoss

There's probably more uncertainty about the most important matter in the world than about any other. Ask 100 persons "Are you a Christian?" or, "Are you going to Heaven when you die?" The vast majority of people would answer with varying degrees of doubt – "I don't know" - "I'm not sure" - "I'm working on it" - "I've no idea."

Most of these same persons would tell you that they believe in Jesus Christ, and that they believe in Heaven. Yet they don't know whether or not they are going to Heaven.

What, by the way, would your answer be?

Most of us know definitely whether or not we are working and whether or not we are married. Yet we do not know whether or not we have eternal life!

Most persons know where their destination is when they're traveling somewhere. Yet ask them where their final destination will be – where they will be living forever – and very few know!

The Misunderstanding

The misunderstanding revolves around what is involved in attaining eternal life. So long as a person thinks that he must earn his way into the presence of God. He can never be certain that he is going to Heaven.

If you were to ask the average person what one must do to have eternal life, he would probably answer by listing one or more of the following items:

- 1. Join a church.*
- 2. Be baptized or confirmed.*
- 3. Live a good life.*
- 4. Obey the Ten Commandments.*
- 5. Live by the Sermon on the Mount.*
- 6. Go to church regularly.*
- 7. Follow the teachings and example of Christ.*

Now, all of these represent something that man does, or tries to do. They reflect the popular idea that eternal life in Heaven is a reward to be won.

But Jesus said:

"Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

The Bible further makes it clear that we cannot win or earn our way to Heaven. Eternal life is not a reward for what we have done or tried to do; it is a free gift.

The Gift

The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

So long as a person thinks that he must earn his way into the presence of God, he can never be certain that he is going to Heaven. The Bible teaches that we must realize that we cannot be good enough, that we cannot merit or work our way to Heaven – and that we do not need to! But we are to realize, instead, that the way to Heaven has been opened by what Jesus Christ has done for us. No matter how bad or good we may be, or think we are, any one of us can qualify.

Assurance of our salvation.

“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 5:13

You see, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins – yours and mine – by His death on the cross. He paid for eternal life, and now He offers it to you and to me as a free gift. By simply recognizing our need for a divine Savior, by turning from going our own way, and by accepting God's payment for our sins and our salvation, the matter of our eternal destiny is immediately resolved.

“Dear God, I know I am a sinner, and unable to save myself.

But I do believe you love me, and that you sent your Son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins.

“Right here and now, Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins and I invite you to come into my heart, forgive my every sin, and grant me your gift of eternal life.”

“Thank you dear Lord for hearing and answering my prayer, and for coming into my heart and life, as you promised you would. Amen.”