

Assurance of Salvation

God desires all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), has provided salvation for everyone through Jesus (1 Peter 3:18), and wants all believers to be certain of their entrance into heaven! Notice how each of these passages points to our *relationship with Jesus*:

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27 NAB).

Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life” (John 5:24 NAB).

“And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11-13 NAB).

The Introduction Questions

They are very important:

1. God **is** all-powerful.
2. God **did** create all things according to the clear record in Genesis chapter 1.
3. The Bible **is** God’s Holy Word, proven by the fulfillment of many prophecies.
4. “...there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous” (Acts 24:15 NAB); some will go away to

eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life (Matthew 25:46).

5. Understanding our sin, God’s saving work thru Jesus, and the importance of continuing to trust in Jesus are critical.

Continuing in God’s Word

Once God has taken action to make us alive in Christ, it is very important to benefit from the Bible every day: *It is our spiritual food!* Jesus said: “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4 NAB). See the “Daily Devotion” brochure, and *be faithful* in attending our services and studies!

Conclusion

For more information on this most important topic, please read or do the following:

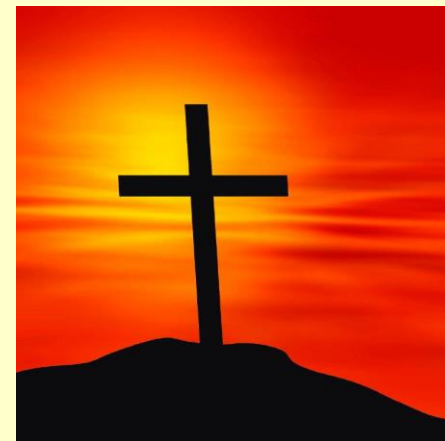
1. Read this brochure: “What Is the Way to Heaven?”
2. Using an NIV Bible, complete the blanks in the “Salvation” brochure.
3. Schedule a time to visit with the pastor; see below for his contact information.

You Are Invited to Attend and Benefit

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)
Schedule: See our “Join Us” brochure
Facebook: “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”
Podcast: “Benefit from the Bible”
PH; EM: 440-845-2230; pastor@blc7500.com

(Last Update: 8-15)

Are You Saved?



This Brochure Is:

- ⇒ Simple
- ⇒ Profound
- ⇒ Life-Transforming

Catholic Bible Version

The New American Bible (NAB), 1970, NT 1986

Introduction

Dear Friend: Consider these questions:

1. Is there an all-powerful God?
2. Did God create the heavens and the earth?
3. Did God move men to write down His very words in the Holy Bible?
4. Is there an eternal existence for everyone beyond this life?
5. Do you believe that when you die God will welcome you into heaven? If you said “yes,” why will God welcome you into heaven?

Please keep reading to find out more!

A Very Common Belief about the Way to Heaven: **Faith + Works = Heaven**

What does that mean?

1. **Faith** = I know and believe certain things about Jesus.
2. **Works** = I trust that my good works will help me get into heaven.
3. **Heaven** = I *hope* God will welcome me in on the basis of *my faith + my works*.

The information above makes sense for these reasons:

4. Since *good* is rewarded and *bad* is punished, *those factors* must also determine our place in eternity.
5. The Bible includes *much about Jesus* and *much about doing good*; therefore, if we *know and believe things about Jesus* **and** *try to do good things*, it makes sense that God would welcome us into heaven.
6. Some Christian churches teach that faith + works = heaven.

The information above is **NOT** true for these *Biblical* reasons:

7. Good is *not* good enough:
 - a. “...no human being will be justified in his sight by observing the law; for through the law comes consciousness of sin” (Romans 3:20 NAB).
 - b. “...all who depend on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed be everyone who does not persevere in doing all the things written in the book of the law’” (Gal. 3:10 NAB).
8. If we try to add anything to Jesus, we separate ourselves from Jesus: “You are separated from Christ, you who are trying to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4 NAB).
9. Jesus is much more than our example; He said: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17 NAB).
10. God sent Jesus to take away our sins and make us holy and righteous in God’s sight:
 - a. “... [God] has now reconciled in his fleshly body through his death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before him” (Colossians 1:22 NAB).
 - b. “...Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God” (1 Peter 3:18 NAB).
 - c. “...now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law... the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe” (Romans 3:21-22 NAB).

This Equation Agrees with God’s Word, the Bible: **Faith = Heaven ➔ Works**

What does that mean?

11. **Faith** = I know and believe certain things about Jesus; I also trust in Him alone as my Savior.
12. **Heaven** = I *know* God will welcome me in on the basis of *my relationship with Jesus as my Savior*.
13. **Works** = I gladly do good works *in response to God’s gift of heaven*.

The information above is true for these *Biblical* reasons:

14. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16 NAB).
15. “...by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NAB).
16. “...we consider that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the law” (Romans 3:28 NAB).