

Qualify to be Included!



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VIRTUAL

At some point we *all* will appear at a *Great White Throne*—it is *then* that everyone will know if they are *saved* or *sentenced*; whether they are a *believer* or an *unbeliever*—there will be no excuses given and none accepted. Our faith and trust on God must be *real* and *remaining* through every trial, test, or trouble. We must *know* the *standard of faith to qualify for Heaven*.

Jesus said to those whose faith was *not* real—calling them *hypocrites* Matthew 15:8 “*These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*” We can praise God with our words, but we also must trust Him from the *heart*. The apostle Revelation 20:11 “*Saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it.*”

He said that *small* and *great* stood before God vs 12, to give an account for how they lived on earth. Revelation 20:15 “*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*” That is why Jesus gave serious warnings—that is why He said Luke 21:36 “*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to*

pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” We must *qualify to be included!*

There are only *two* possible destinations when leaving this world—we head for *one* or the *other* when our time here is through—or when Jesus returns for true believers. Many think that there *is* a Heaven or Hell after this life, but they do not know *how* to *qualify* for either one—they do not know the deciding *factor* that would put a person in one place or the other for all eternity—they either are not *informed* or do not *accept* the Truth of the Bible.

Everyone heads toward the *wrong* direction from birth—Titus 3:3 “*We ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.* 4 *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,* 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.*”

Some think that if they do enough *good* things; help enough people; and give a little extra to the poor—that these things, somehow, are added to our *score*, and help us qualify for Heaven. If *that* were so, we could *boast*, but no one can *ever* boast or be proud—Ephesians 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.*”

Society judges people on the work they *do*, or do *not* do—society knows no *other* way. Any good *deeds* are just good *things* that we should *always* do, as the Holy Spirit inspires us to do them, but there is no *merit* to them. Luke 17:10 “*So you also, when you have obeyed all the orders given you, must say, ‘There is no merit in our service: what we have done is only what we were in duty bound to do.’*”

If it is true that *good* people go to Heaven and *bad* people go to Hell, then we have to define *good* and *bad* before knowing how to qualify for Heaven. Jesus said the “*Hour is coming*” John 5:25, 29 when those who have passed away will “*Come forth; they that have done good [what is right], unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*”

To do what is *good* and *right* is to *keep* the Word of God in our heart, so we can *keep* trusting Him in faith all through life and all through trials or troubles. Doing *good* is *accepting* the teaching of the Bible—which means: *asking* God to teach us *how* to trust Him day-by-day; *trusting* Him in faith to heal physical afflictions; *depending* on divine power to have each day’s financial needs; and *believing* He will answer every prayer placed before Him in real faith.

Our eternal *destination* will be determined by the *standard* of faith God has clearly explained in the Bible. We must *know* the criterion that determines whether a person *has*, or *has not*, lived up to that Bible standard—whether they would be considered *good* or *evil*.

No one meets that standard at first, because *no one* has faith in God until their heart is converted from *reliance on self*, to *dependence on God*. It is all based on our *faith* in the resurrection power of Christ. Romans 3:22 “*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.*”

If we have all sinned, we have all *missed the mark*; if our faith in God is lacking, we would not qualify for Heaven. Romans 6:23 “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” The result of sin is *death*; but the result of faith in God is *life*—everlasting!

Since everyone has sinned—then everyone needs a Savior. Romans 6:22 *“But now being made free from [the tyranny of] sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit [reward] unto holiness, and the end [the final result] everlasting life.”*

Believing faith in the Atonement sacrifice of Christ is the *standard* of faith, the *requirement* of God, and the qualification for entering His kingdom. Eternal security proponents make the mistake of calling “good,” “works,” and then quoting Ephesians 2:9 *“Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* The previous verse explains why faith must be included: 8 *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”*

The eternal security doctrine says we are *not under law*, but *under grace*, and quotes Romans 3:20 *“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.”* We need to *know* when we sin so we can *repent* and make corrections. Psalm 19:7 *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”*

The Law or Ten Commandments turns us back to God in faith and in trust. 1 John 3:4 *“Every one who is guilty of sin is also guilty of violating Law; for sin is the violation of Law.”* The Law we violate refers to the Commandments we memorize. Romans 7:7 *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”*

We recognize the Law that is being quoted—Exodus 20:17 *“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house”*—nor covet *anything* that belongs to *anyone*. This is the *tenth* of the Ten Commandments! In the first five books of the Bible, written by Moses, God gives the Ten Commandments twice! Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

Since God *repeated* these commandments, it must be important for us to *know* what these commandments *are* and *how* to follow them. These were not written to make God *happy*; but to make us *holy*. Jesus gave the young ruler the standard of faith for being qualified—Matthew 19:17 *“If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”*

The *condition for salvation* then is to *“keep the Commandments!”* This is recorded *four* times in the New Testament—Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:17; Luke 18:18; Luke 10:25. A lawyer asked: *“Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 [Jesus] said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?”* The commandments define the Christian life of faith in God.

Being a *Christian* does not mean being *free* to do what whatever we *want* to do. Jesus says John 8:34 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”* Being a *slave* is not being *free* but being *bound*. Jesus explains John 8:36 *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*

If our apartment on the 20th floor had no railings, we would never go onto the balcony—it would be too risky and dangerous. If we put some strong railings in place, then we might go out and even *lean* on the railings. Once there is a *boundary*, we have the *freedom* we want—*inside* that boundary. Boundaries provide freedom.

Many think they are free to do *anything* they want—not realizing that they are *slaves* to the consequences of their choices. Galatians 5:1 *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”*

God gives us laws, commands, and words to live by—so when we stay *within* these boundaries, we are *free* from the bondage to sin. If we step *outside* these boundaries, it is like stepping over the railing and trying to walk away

from the edge of the twentieth-floor balcony. The consequences of being rebellious are disastrous!

A recent study showed that 97% of Americans “believe in” the Ten Commandments, but only 5% could name three or more. Nevertheless, the Law can tell us everything we *need to know* to guide our life toward Heaven and to qualify for entrance. The moral laws of God are the Ten Commandments of Scripture. We must *know* if we meet God’s *standard* of behavior when we *stand* before Him.

Exodus 20:2 *“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”* That means God must be the focal point of our affections—our relationship with Him must be the most *important* thing in our life.

The rich young ruler’s *possessions* had his focus and his affection. His *money* had first place in his *heart*. We all worship something! If it is not God, then it will be some *thing* or some *one* on earth. *What* has our affection—is the question to ask. The young ruler could not get past the *first* Commandment—he *did* have another god ahead of the only one God! It was his *money*.

The *standard for salvation* is from the *Author of salvation* Hebrews 12:2. Jesus said that if we love *anything* or *anyone more* than Him, we are *not worthy* of Him. Matthew 10:38 *“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”* Romans 4:16 *“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace!”* We can *qualify to be included* with those entering Heaven—just keep our faith in God!



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