

# Getting Another Chance!



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Everyone has said at one time or another—If I had another chance; another opportunity, I would have done much differently; If I had a second chance, I would have treated them better; If I had to do it over again, I would have made much different choices. But God does give second chances—1 John 1:9 “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” The question is this: **Are we taking advantage of the opportunity!**

**It was said: *There is nothing more important than finding out what is after this life! What happens to us when we leave this world!***

We should *know* what is after this life—God told us—1 Corinthians 2:9 “*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him;*” Isaiah 64:4. We can only imagine.

If we are living a committed life of faith in Christ and obeying the Word of God concerning all things we deal with in a day, then—2 Corinthians 5:8 “*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*”

When we *think* about eternity, we first think about our *life* on earth—like: God has been so *patient* with me; so *many* times. I have ignored His Word and have done things I should not have done, or treated people in a wrong way! But I know God gives me *Another Chance!*

Jesus told us Mark 1:15 “*The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*” God will someday, and maybe soon, give the command for His Son to return—*then* no more opportunities to repent.

We *must* know what is on the other side, because we will be *there* a whole lot longer than we will be *here*—a *whole* lot longer. It was also stated that if we could get someone to really *think* about eternity for *five minutes*, they would lose no time in accepting Jesus as their Lord and Master.

That may be true, and that is why Satan has people *think* about everything and anything—*except* eternity. Most people focus on education, jobs, family, vacations, retirement, life insurance, bank accounts, investments, or other very temporary things. **In a general sense, people avoid thinking about eternity and where that might be for them.**

We wonder what answer we would get if we asked someone: 150 years from now, will it matter if you made a million dollars; drove a sports car; graduated from college; or played in the Final Four—the answers would have to be interesting.

The only thing that *is* important to everyone is—if we really *know* the God who gives us life; if we have *allowed* Him to teach us what we need to know to be prepared for Heaven; and if we really *trusted* in Him—because we really *love* the One who loved us enough to give His life on the Cross to pay our entrance fee into Paradise. *For God so loved the world* John 3:16 that He gave His very best!

The only thing that matters is where we *are* on the other side—and the only way we can be sure it is the *right* place, is that our heart is *right* with God, and that our *attitudes* are controlled by Him. John 17:3 “*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”

The only thing that matters is that we truly *know* God and *trust* in Him—because we will be at *one* of the *two* destinations forever. If we do not take advantage of the opportunities God gives us here on earth, there is no changing the result once we are in eternity.

It is only the *eternal* that matters. Colossians 3:2 “*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth,*” but Satan has people to set their affections on things of *this* life, and not ever thinking about things *above*—where everyone would *want* to be.

Colossians 3:3 “*For ye are dead,*” or the self-life is dead—as it has been crucified *with* Christ. Once we have confessed our sins and given our life to God, “*Our life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*” That is important to know and experience what is on the other side—being *with* Him in glory!

A high school student was asked the following questions: What are you going to do after high school—he answered: Probably go to college. *What then*—Maybe get married and raise a family. *What then*—I suppose I’ll retire. *What then*—I guess I’ll be near the end of my life. *What then*—Now that is a really good question, he said!

**Yes it is very good question—one that everyone will have to answer some day!** The young man didn’t *have* the answer at that point, but he *knew* it was an important question. Eternity is a really *long* time—we *have* to be sure that we are checking in at the right place.

Most people do *not* think about eternity, nor do they consider how long eternity *is*—but at some point they will *have* to, because everyone will pass to the other side sooner or later—to *one* of *two*, and *both* are *forever!* Job said Job 16:22 “*When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.*”

Most people want to do something with their life—but they do not always consider that it is just a *journey* to the other side—we *have* to know what is waiting for us there. Today we have another opportunity to get *right* with God and make things *right* with everyone else we have harmed or offended. It is always good to say, “*I’m Sorry for the way I’ve treated you; I was wrong. With God’s help, things will be different from this time on.*” I have 1 John 1:9—*Confessed*; so, He *forgave* me—He gives everyone *another chance!*

We should not put our head on the pillow at night unless we *know where* we want to spend eternity. God is *loving, merciful, and patient*—and He is *ready* to show us what we need to *know* to be ready for the next.

His *grace* reaches *further* than our *worst mistake*—so today is the day to take advantage of the opportunity He gives for us to repent and be forgiven.

The apostle says 2 Corinthians 6:1 “*Not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you’—but are we confessing to Him so He can hear us—is the question. ‘And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’”* God is waiting to restore us to His family—but are we *asking* for His help—“*Behold, now is the accepted time!*”

Every time we *read* the Bible can *plant* a seed of Truth in our heart. When we give scriptural advice to someone, we can *plant* a seed of truth in them—then God can open their heart to that Truth and inspire them to *live* it. 1 Corinthians 3:7

“*So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*”

**B I B L E**—Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. It reminds us of how important it is to *read* the Scriptures on a regular basis—asking God to *enlighten* us to the meaning—how those verses *relate* to us and how they *apply* to our life.

It doesn’t matter who we are—from the President to the poorest person on earth—we will all be leaving this planet one day. If we have the *right* information about eternity, and do the *right* thing *with* that information, we will end up in the *right* destination; but if we have the *wrong* information, we will end up at the *wrong* destination.

God gives us *another chance*—today is the day to commit our life to Him; to confess and forsake wrong ways or attitudes we *hold* on to far too long; and to learn under His teaching every day—how to meet everything, every person, and every situation in a scriptural way—according to the instructions in the Bible.

If we tell our little ones: *I really care where you spend eternity*, it can have a big impact on them. If we look them in the eyes and *say* that and *mean* that—God can enable our words to touch their heart. They will realize that we *love* them and are *concerned* about them.

Many care about others in a *temporal* sense, but not many care in an *eternal* sense. When we show someone that we truly care about their eternal well-being, they are more willing to listen to scriptural advice. We can *make* a friend; and we can *be* a friend. If we want to really see them in Heaven, then *living* the Truth and *speaking the Truth in love* Ephesians 4:15 can make that happen.

We should not *force* the Truth on anyone, but we can *tell* them about it—whenever God opens the door of opportunity. Just *living* God’s Truth in our *own* life every day may be the only Truth another person may ever see.

Christ-like attitudes, godly decisions, right behavior, and a scriptural way of treating others are so *visible*, that they speak *volumes* of truth to those around us—at work, at play, and all other times. Truly living God’s Truth, by truly following His Words of Scripture, is so important that it eclipses everything else.

Living God’s Truth and setting a right example for others to see and emulate, is far more important than anything else we might be interested in or get involved with on earth. Jesus did *His* part two thousand years ago; now we do *our* part—*live* His Truth every day—and there is never a time that we do *not* live that Truth.

Matthew 7:12 “*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*” Everything hinges on whether we can *treat* people as if we truly *loved* them—whether we think they *deserve* it or not. 13 “*Enter ye in at the strait gate:*” as it is the gate leading to eternal life in Heaven—“*for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.*”

God is giving us *another chance*—what are we doing with it—is the question. The *God of second chances* is giving us a *second chance*—what we *do* with that opportunity is the most important decision we could make—because it involves where we will spend the rest of eternity.

**It is: *The strait gate with the saints; or the wide road with the sinners!* God is waiting for our response!**



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