

We All Stand

before Jesus!



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As the spiritual condition of the world worsens every day, we need to ask: *How we can Be Sure of heading in the right direction to the right destination.* We only have so much time. First on the list is Repentance—*Repentance is when we are inwardly humbled by the Spirit and outwardly transformed by His power.*

Repentance is being willing to admit our mistakes; it means confessing them to God; it means forsaking those sins with God's help—that is what repentance is all about. We are not comparing ourselves to others but to a perfect and holy God—who says *Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect [in our faith in Him], even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."*

If we will do our part of admitting, repenting, confessing, and forsaking—God will do His part of converting and saving our soul—because *1 John 1:9 "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."* *Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

Only Jesus can bring change—which can take place when we decide to trust Him for that heart-conversion. Jesus only can atone for sin.

The apostle was *Acts 20:21 "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* If we will do what he told them to do, We can Be Sure of Heaven!

We will all stand before Jesus—and maybe sooner than most of us think. *Hebrews 4:13 "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight—Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight—Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."*

Everyone gives account of sins committed—past and present! How can this sin issue be resolved—the answer is from the One we answer to. *Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."* The apostle pointed to Jesus saying *John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* Our trust must be on Him for everything!

We know Jesus is the Messiah, and He is the only One who can erase every sin we have ever committed. Sin is repulsive to God and fatal to us. *Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* If God has a gift for us, we need to know about it and accept it.

Millions of Old Testament animal sacrifices were offered for the people's sins, because God requires a blood sacrifice for sins. The crucifixion of Christ satisfied the requirement of God for the sins of the world. *Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."*

Jesus began His ministry *Mark 1:15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."* We

all have the choice to believe and be saved; or refuse and be lost! Sin has a price tag, and there are consequences.

Not only are there consequences for sins on earth, but we could be paying for them in eternity—unless we let God pay for them—for us. The death of Christ on the Cross is sufficient payment for all the sins ever committed. *2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

The Word says *Psalms 7:11 "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day."* If God is angry with the wicked, we do not want to be in that category. It is good that God is patient and forgiving when we are ready to repent and confess sins. *Psalms 145:8 "The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."*

Millions recite the following verse—but they must believe to not perish. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

The Gospel means the good news God has for us—that all sins of the past can be forgiven by the atoning Blood of Jesus—all of them. Our part is trusting in faith on that sacrifice for the Blood of Jesus to effectively erase them. *John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

To believe in the Name of Jesus, is to trust on the sacrifice of Jesus—For divine healing without medication; For the needs of the day without borrowed money; For a right attitude toward everyone; and for a forgiving heart toward every one of every wrong done to us.

The resurrection of Jesus is paramount, because if that did not happen, none of our sins could be forgiven—they would *still* be charged against us. If over 500 people said that an event actually took place because they experienced that event personally, it would be easy to believe the event really did happen.

Over 500 witnesses said Jesus *lived* on earth; that He *gave* the Gospel to all who would listen and accept it; that He was *nailed* to a cross; and that He *rose* from the tomb three days later. Everyone must really *believe* this happened, because their destination is *riding* on it happening. Jesus only can forgive our sins—and we *all* stand before Him at some point.

Jesus said a new birth is necessary to enter His kingdom. John 3:3 “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” Being born again is what the jailer needed—Acts 16:30 “*What must I do to be saved?*” 31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*”

This new birth can only be received by *faith* in what Jesus accomplished on the Cross. Ephesians 2:8 “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*” The only two things we can do with a gift is *accept* it, or *reject* it—that is the choice we *all* have.

Everyone stands guilty before God, because of a multitude of mistakes, wrong attitudes, and offenses toward God. Someone must *pay* our sin debt. We will either pay the sin debt with an eternity in hell, or we let *God* pay it with the Blood of His Son. It seems like an *easy* decision—just *accept* a gift—but it *costs* our whole life. John 12:25 “*He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*”

After deciding to give our life to God for His will to be done, it is not always smooth sailing

from that point, because 2 Timothy 3:12 “*All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*” When we are born again to a new life of faith in God, our sin-debt has been paid in full. We owe *nothing* to God for those sins—except we *give* our entire *life* to Him *because* of those sins.

Time is something we have to consider, because we do not have as much time as we once had! The clock is ticking from the day of our birth, and with the world in the dreadful spiritual condition that it *is*, we now *know* that time is running out. There is *no* guarantee we will be given a tomorrow—that is why 2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”

Something to consider: Jesus told the story of a rich man in hell who asked Luke 16:27 “*I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*”

Those in hell are *pleading* and *entreating* everyone: *Don't come to this horrible place of suffering!* They now realize that no drug, no dollar, no alcohol, no lust, no pride, and no possession on earth would *ever* be worth going to that ghastly place of eternal torture—nothing!

Everyone will graduate from *this* life to the *next* life. The question is: will they graduate to Heaven or Hell Joshua 24:15 “*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” Eternity is too long to serve *anyone* but the Lord.

God does not send anyone to Hell—but people send *themselves* to that horrible place by their

stubborn refusal to believe, turn away from the world, and begin trusting God—God who graciously accepts anyone who sincerely repents. John 6:37 “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*” The *decision* to return is *ours!*

It was once said that a stone cutter walked through a cemetery and read this tombstone: *All you people passing by; As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you must be; prepare for death and follow me* unquote. The stone cutter then chiseled *these* words: *To follow you, I will not consent, until I know which way you went* unquote.

We *have* to be sure! Heaven is way too glorious to miss it by being stubborn and rebellious; Hell is far too dreadful to go there by following the world; and eternity is way too long to end in the wrong place by making wrong decisions and excuses on earth. Simon said to Jesus John 6:68 “*Thou hast the words of eternal life.*”

Heaven is where *God* lives; it is where *Jesus* is; and where we can see Them face to face forever and ever! We *yearn* to go there—Philippians 1:21 “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” The next life is permanent—it *has* to be the *right one!* John 17:3 “*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*” Knowing the One we stand before, is *trusting* the One who paid our debt! We *can* be sure!



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org

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