We All Stand Before Jesus

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As the spiritual condition of the world seems to worsen every day, we need to ask: *How we can Be Sure that we are 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 Holy Spirit and outwardly transformed by the power* of the Holy Spirit.

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 and focusing our attention on whether we think that they are heading in the right direction to the right destination. We are comparing ourselves 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 true 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, <u>We can Be Sure</u> 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! We all stand before Jesus. How can this sin issue be resolved—the *answer* is from the One we *answer* to, Jesus Christ. 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 Jesus for everything!

We *know* Jesus is the Messiah, and Jesus is the *only One* who can erase every sin that 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 we need to *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 to believe, refuse to repent, refuse to come back and thus be *lost forever!* Sin *has* a price tag, and there *are* huge consequences.

Not only are there consequences for sins here 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 that we have 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 of God says Psalm 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. Psalm 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 (and continue to 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."* However, we must remember that believing in Jesus is a whole lot more than a one-time profession of faith.

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."*

John 3:18 YLT, *"he who is believing in him is not judged, but he who is not believing hath been judged 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* for every *wrong* done to us.

The resurrection of Jesus is paramount or of supreme importance, because if that resurrection

did not happen, none of our sins could be forgiven—our sins 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 that Jesus *lived* on earth; that Jesus gave the Gospel to all who would listen and accept it; that Jesus was *nailed* to a cross; and that Jesus *rose* from the tomb three days later. Everyone must really *believe* this happened, because their destination is *riding* on or depending upon the resurrection really taking place. Jesus only can forgive our sins—and we *all* stand before Jesus 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 at Calvary. 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 that 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, Jesus Christ. 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 God's will to be done in our life, 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

Those in hell are *pleading* and *entreating* everyone: *Do not 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 we 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!* We must make that decision to return; God does not force anyone to return. We all have the power of choice, and it seems that many in this world have chosen to stay away.

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, following our ways and plans, listening to false teachers, and following false doctrines that tell us that we do not have to change; we can live like we want to live because we are already saved and cannot lose our salvation; 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."* We all need to take heed to Jesus' words of admonition for us.

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, Jesus Christ, and *trusting* the One who paid our debt, Jesus Christ! We *can* be sure!

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