

# SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN THE BIBLE.

## GUESS AGAIN

### YOUR ENTIRE FUTURE COULD DEPEND ON IT

The odds are that you have never had anyone open a Bible with you and show you how you can be absolutely sure that you will go to heaven when you die. In fact, it is doubtful that you have ever opened a Bible on your own to determine what God says about your future. You probably have never realized that the Bible, the "letter from God" to the human race, contains all of the answers you have ever asked yourself about why you are here and where you are going. You may think that you are already going to heaven, but have never verified your belief with any proof from the Bible. In fact, the Bible says that the way that may seem right to a person is not always right, and can end in disaster. Proverbs chapter 14 and verse 12 states, **"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."**

Are you interested in finding out? In the next few pages, you will discover

something that you probably never knew. You will discover that you know very little about what the Bible actually teaches. Millions of people who have never read any of the "good book" have absolutely no idea of

and begin to read, you will find that the letter from God contains both bad news and good news. Most people have heard the good news but have never heard, or choose to ignore, the bad news.

There is a way  
which seemeth right  
unto a man, but the  
end thereof are the  
ways of death

Proverbs 14:12

the message contained in its pages. What you are about to read can be confirmed by simply opening the book and reading for yourself. If you don't believe what you read in these pages, try to prove it wrong by studying the Bible. You will be surprised.

Most people have heard that the Bible is the "good book" and contains "good news." When you open the Bible

### THE BAD NEWS

Throughout the entire Bible is the message to man that he is unfit for heaven. From Genesis to Revelation, God's letter to man is filled with the warning that man is incapable of getting to heaven when he dies. Adam, the first human on this earth, failed miserably in maintaining the standards set by his Creator. You can find this fact in Romans chapter 5

and verse 12, where it states **“Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** It’s pretty clear that because Adam sinned, all of his offspring have sinned also. We can’t help it. If you look up the word “sin” in Webster’s dictionary, you will see that it is defined as “Transgression of the law of God,” or “To violate the divine law by actual transgression or by neglect.” Romans chapter

fact, when Jesus Christ was on this earth he used analogies to get his point across. The Holy Spirit, who wrote the Bible, called them parables.

Here is our first analogy. The term “come short” in this verse in Romans chapter 3 simply means to “miss the mark.” Let’s suppose that you became involved in a rock throwing contest. The object was to hit the North Pole from a point in the United States. You may be able to throw the rock fur-

they keep the Ten Commandments, they have a pretty good chance of getting to heaven. Have you ever considered that it is impossible to keep the Ten Commandments? It’s nice to try, it will result in a more honest and moral life, but it can’t prepare a person for heaven. Try reading Ecclesiastes chapter 7 and verse 20, where it states **“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”** Every human who has ever lived has sinned at least once. Is one sin enough to keep a person out of heaven? James chapter 2 and verse 10 states **“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”** That makes it pretty clear. One “little” lie, and a person is under the penalty of breaking every commandment.

For all have sinned,  
and come short of the  
glory of God

Romans 3:23

3 and verse 23 goes on to say **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”**

Most people use analogies when they find it hard to convey an idea to another. An analogy is a story using familiar points to illustrate an unfamiliar concept. In

ther than the person next to you, but no matter how hard you try, you will never, ever, hit the North Pole. You will always “fall short” of the mark.

There are plenty of other areas in the Bible that convey this message. Most people have the idea that if

Here’s analogy number two. If a ten link chain is used to suspend a heavy weight from the ceiling, how many links must break for the weight to come crashing to the floor. The answer to that question is evident.

So why in the world did God give Moses “the law,” or Ten Commandments. Most people think that God’s intent was to force

people to follow the rules. The actual reason is much different. Man was running around on the face of the earth thinking that they would be able to measure up to God's standards of perfection and thus get into heaven when they die. God gave them his holy Law to show them His holiness and to make them realize how inadequate they really were!

Most people would argue this point about the Ten Commandments out of ignorance of the Bible. Can this point be proven? Let's examine Romans chapter 3 and verse 19, which says **"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."** This proves that the Ten Commandments (the law) were given by God to mankind to eliminate all excuses, and show everyone that they were guilty of sin. The very next verse states **"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."** What is this saying? Mankind cannot be perfect (justified) in God's eyes, and he should know this because he cannot keep the Ten Commandments.

Think about it. Has anyone lived a perfect life from birth? Is there one person who has never lied, never became angry, never had an evil thought? Psalms chapter 58 and verse 3 says **"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."** Have you ever seen a baby crying in his crib to make his mother believe he's hurting? Then he'll stop and listen to see if his mother is responding. Soon he's wailing again, in an attempt to make someone believe he's in pain or discomfort. The Bible says that deceit begins at birth.

How about this one? Has there ever been anyone who has put God first in his or her life? Read Deuteronomy chapter 6 and verse 5, which is the first commandment given by God. It reads **"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."** Do you know anyone who devotes every minute of every day to God and forsakes all else? Not quite. So no person on the face of this earth can say that they have never sinned. In fact, in 1st John chapter 1 and verse 10, God says **"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him (God) a liar, and His word**

**is not in us."**

So are we to conclude that God gave us these rules that we cannot follow as a nasty trick? Is God an unloving Creator who doesn't care for His creation? Galatians chapter 3 and verse 21 states **"Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law."** If there was *any way* that God could have made man fit for heaven with a set of laws, *He would have done so.* But *He could not!* Unfortunately, mankind falls short of the perfectness (righteousness) needed to get into heaven. If you read the next verse in Galatians chapter 3, it goes on to say **"But the scripture hath concluded all under sin."** The Bible, including the Ten Commandments, categorically states that man is imperfect for God's heaven.

So what does it mean if one sin is too many? What happens to us if we fail to live up to God's standards while we are here on this earth? Although the Bible is clear about this subject, most people choose to ignore this part of its message. Romans chapter 6 and verse 23 states **"For the wages of sin**

is death." By reading this entire passage it is easy to understand what kind of death God is talking about. It isn't only the death of the body; it is the second death, incarceration forever in the lake of fire. Revelation 20 and verse 15 reads **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**

**The wicked  
shall be  
turned into  
hell  
Psalm 9:17**

#### HELL FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

The next natural question is, how can an everlasting soul die? Turn to Psalm chapter 9 and verse 17. Here we read **"The wicked shall be turned into hell."** Jesus himself, when preaching the sermon on the mount, whose words are recorded in Matthew chapter 18 verse 8, said, **"Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than**

**having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire."** Jesus goes on in the next verse, **"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."** Talk about hell fire and brimstone preaching! Here Jesus is teaching that there is an everlasting hell fire where people will be cast. This particular point is again addressed in Mark chapter 9 and verse 43, when Jesus states that these people will be cast into hell, **"into the fire that never shall be quenched. Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."** Matthew chapter 13 and verse 42 describes how God will gather the sinner, **"And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."**

What is this place called hell? Why in the world would God create a place of torture such as this? If you examine Matthew chapter 25 and verse 41, you will see that Jesus is explaining the final destiny of these people. He is explaining what God will say to them. **"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into**

**everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."** Here is a clue that hell was created by God as a prison for the devil and all of his demons. But the Bible also teaches that this hell is only a temporary prison, a sort of "holding cell" for people who die in this present age. What happens at the end of this age at the final judgement? The Bible gives us that answer in it's final book, the book of Revelation.

Revelation chapter 20 verses 12 through 15 give a vivid account of the final destination of those unfit for God's heaven. **"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found-written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** So at the final judge -

And I saw the dead,  
small and great, stand  
before God;

Revelation 20:12

ment, sinners will be pulled out of their holding cell, made to stand trial, and then cast into God's "Federal Penitentiary", the lake of fire.

So what is the solution to this dilemma? So far we have learned that mankind as a whole is unfit for heaven. Every human being born is immediately headed for hell, to spend eternity forever in torment. That's not a very optimistic outlook.

If you would ask a group of people how they intend on getting into heaven when they die, most would say that they are doing the best that they can in this lifetime. They are living a good life and treat others the way they would like to be treated. The Bible not only teaches that if you commit one sin you are lost forever, it also addresses the issue

of man's efforts to do good works in order to gain God's favor. Isaiah chapter 64 and verse 6 gives God's viewpoint of man's attempts to do good. It says **"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses (good works) are as filthy rags."** Galatians chapter 2 and verse 16 makes it clear. **"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law.... for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."**

We've determined from the Bible that everybody has sinned at least once. The Ten Commandments are an indictment pointing a finger at our inability to measure up to God's standards. Because of our failure, God has sentenced us to an eternity of torture in a fiery hell. And there is nothing we can do about it. We can't even live a good life to get God to take off the

heat. Things aren't looking good.

### THE GOOD NEWS

If the Bible only contained the information about our sin and punishment we might as well give up. The prospect of an eternity in hell when we die would cause many to go insane. But the Bible is also filled with good news, the most fascinating story you will ever read.

It is almost inconceivable that the Creator of the universe, who created man and gave him dominion over the earth, would even consider giving man a second chance after being ignored and scorned by His own creation. Even though the entire world has pursued their own desires and has attempted to ignore God and push Him out of their lives, God has devised a plan to make it possible for mankind to spend eternity in heaven when they die.

The Bible makes it very clear what this plan is. Romans chapter 5 and verse 6 says, **"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure**

**for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** When there was absolutely nothing we could do for ourselves, Christ died for us. What does it mean that Christ died for us? 1st Peter chapter 3 and verse 18 says, **"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God."**

The Bible teaches that God *could not allow any sin into heaven*. It also teaches that *each person is required to pay the penalty for their sins* that they commit during their lifetime. But God devised a plan that would enable *someone else* to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. And that person was His only Son, Jesus Christ. So Christ came down to the earth He designed, and was born as a human being amongst the creatures He himself created. After living on this earth for thirty-three years, He was executed by men who, not realizing their actions, actually fulfilled God's plan. Christ paid the price for our sins.

Let us draw an analogy to this fact. I recall an incident while working as a police officer, when I was in

charge of the jail for a short time. There was a man who was serving time in the jail in lieu of a fine he was unable to pay. That afternoon a gentleman arrived at the station with a release from the court for the prisoner, signed by the judge and stamped by the clerk's office. This gentleman had paid the fine and the prisoner no longer needed to serve his time. As I entered the jail and opened the cell door, the prisoner was advised that he was free to go. "This piece of paper says that John Smith paid your fine and you are a

not seen in years. When our prisoner realized that his penalty had been paid, he accepted the authority of the court's release. He could have stayed behind bars if he so desired, but his freedom was more important.

Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 12, referring to Jesus, says **"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."** He actually sacrificed himself to save us from hell. Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 2 states, **"Christ also hath loved us, and**

**For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast**

**Ephesians 2:8**

free man," I said. "But I don't even know a John Smith" was his reply. "Well, you are free to stay if you like" I told him. His decision was evident as he scrambled for the door. He was soon in the lobby, shaking hands with John Smith, an old friend he had

**hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."** Hebrews chapter 9 and verse 26 says, **"He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."**

While hanging on the cross, Jesus Christ endured God's

wrath because of sin, paying the penalty for every sin laid upon Him by God. 1 Corinthians chapter 15 and verse 3 says, **“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.”** He died in our place.

The Bible contains a considerable amount of information to convince us that Jesus died on behalf of our sins and has offered eternal life to mankind as a gift, a gift that is ours for the taking. Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 8 states, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”** Romans chapter 4 and verse 5 states, **“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”** Again, Titus chapter 3 and verse 5 confirms this. **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us.”**

If you were to ask a group of people why Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross, you would probably receive a unanimous answer “To bear the sins of the world.” Most people have at least a limited concept of why Christ died. If you asked

them if he died for everybody’s sins, most would answer in the affirmative.

But if you were to ask if that meant that every single person on the face of the earth was going to heaven, there would be a resounding no. The next question is sure to cause some confusion. If Jesus died for everybody’s sins, *then why isn’t everybody going to heaven?*

### THE CHOICE

The fact that Jesus died for the sins of mankind is not enough to save the world from an eternity in hell. You see, what God can now provide to the lost sinner is an extremely precious gift, the gift of eternal life. That gift did not come easy. God’s Son endured suffering beyond imagination in order to make that gift available. It just isn’t handed out to everybody. *You have to want it.* The desire for that gift must be the most important issue in your life.

Let’s say you live in a neighborhood with several neighbors who are also your good friends. The neighbors next to your house are wealthy and have four cars in their garage. Another

family across the street is rather poor. They have only one old car. One night tragedy strikes and the poor family’s car catches fire and burns to a crisp. You know that they have very little money, no insurance, and the car was the only transportation to and from the father’s job. Fortunately, you have an extra car in your garage that you are not using. You speak to your friend and ask him if he would like the car for his own. What do you think his answer would be?

Would you even consider offering your car to your neighbor next door that has four cars of his own? Not likely! Your rich neighbor would have no appreciation for your extra car. You would hesitate to give it to him if he asked, for his need for the car is not great. Yet you would seek out your poor neighbor and offer him the car knowing that he is searching desperately for transportation. God is also seeking those *who are looking for salvation.* Are you seeking God’s salvation? A seeking sinner and a seeking Savior soon meet. Luke chapter 19 and verse 10 states **“The Son of Man (Jesus) is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”**

So how must a person receive this gift which God is waiting to distribute? The entire Bible tells us about the simplicity of receiving God's salvation. In Acts chapter 16 and verse 30, a man asks the question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" In verse 31, the answer is given, "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Could there be anything simpler? Romans chapter 10 and verse 9 states, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Acts chapter 2 and verse 21 says "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 13 and verse 38 says "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Here is irrefutable proof that by simply putting your trust in the work that Christ did on the cross, your sins will be forgiven by God, something you were unable to do on your own.

But how can we be sure that this simple act of faith is enough to take us off the road to hell and place us on the road that leads to heaven? I would say the words of Jesus himself would be the proof we would need. In John chapter 11 and verse 25, Jesus is speaking to Martha the sister of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. The verse reads, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" What do you think she replied? "She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

**Verily, verily  
I say unto  
you, He that  
believeth on  
me hath  
everlasting life.  
John 6:47**

In John chapter 6 and verse 47, Jesus again states "Verily, verily, I say unto you,

**He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."** Jesus again in John chapter 5 and verse 24 repeats this very simple message. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John chapter 1 speaks of Christ coming into this world that he created and the result of trusting his work. Verse 10 says "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

It can't get any simpler than that. All that is needed is faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. There is plenty of scripture about faith. Jesus himself spoke of trusting in Him for salvation. Luke chapter 18 tells the story of the blind man who came to Jesus out of faith. Jesus asks the blind man "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved

thee." This act of faith in Christ's ability not only resulted in the blind man receiving his sight; he also was saved forever from a burning hell. Why? Desiring to be delivered, he believed Christ could save him.

There are passages in the Bible that make it clear that sometimes people are just not sure about their faith. How much faith do I need? How do I know if I am believing correctly? In Mark chapter 9 and verse 23 there is a story of a man who was unsure as to whether he had enough faith in Christ. The verse reads **"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."** Here a man asks Christ to help him believe. In Matthew chapter 17 and verse 20 Jesus makes it clear that it's not the amount of faith that is needed. He says, **"For verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,..... nothing shall be impossible unto you."** Have you ever seen a mustard seed? It's the smallest seed in the world, something you can barely see in the palm of your hand. Does it matter if your

faith is as large as the Rock of Gibraltar or as small as a mustard seed? Not according to Jesus. Because it's not the amount of faith that is important, it's the value of the work of Christ that's important.

Is it possible to be sure that we have received God's free gift of salvation? God assures us that if we trust Christ, we cannot fail. Is there any doubt that if you ask God for his free gift that it will be given to you? There shouldn't be. If you ask God for salvation, and he tells you *"No," you will be the first human being in the history of this world that he has turned his back on.* In fact, *it is impossible for God to say "No."* His written word guarantees it! In Titus chapter 1 and verse 2, the apostle Paul writes about **"eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."**

There is a story about Blondin, the great high wire specialist who placed his life in danger on many occasions by walking a tight rope between two high points. On one occasion, Blondin advertised that he was going to walk over the gorge at Niagara Falls. The rope was stretched, and with a large crowd watching, Blondin took his balanc-

ing pole and walked slowly from one side to the other. Again, he walked across the rope back to his starting point. He then took a wheelbarrow, and with great care he repeated his journey to the opposite side and back. The crowd roared in approval. Blondin then posed the question. "Do you think I can do it again?" he asked. "Sure, you've already done it twice!" the crowd replied. Everyone in the crowd believed he could repeat his feat without falling into the river below. But Blondin's next question put the ultimate test to the crowd's faith. "I need a volunteer," he yelled. The crowd grew quiet. You can imagine the difficulty in convincing one of the crowd to climb into that wheelbarrow for the trip high across the gorge. Did the crowd believe he could do it? Sure they did. Did they think he could do it with them in the wheelbarrow? Maybe not.

It's the same with a lot of people when it comes to trusting Christ's work to save them from hell. People believe that Christ can take away the sins of the world, but have a hard time believing that if they trust him, He can take away every one of the sins they have ever committed. Yet *it is*

*that easy.* 1st John chapter 4 and verse 10 tells us **“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”** We cannot love God in our sinful state; we are alienated from Him due to sin. But He loved us, and we must accept His gift with childlike faith. Luke chapter 18 and verse 17 explains, **“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”**

So how is a person sure that they have received the gift of eternal life? Do they receive a special “feeling” or some other sort of revelation? It is nothing as complicated as that. When a person finally puts their trust in Jesus Christ to put away their sins by His death on the cross, God opens their eyes to see the simplicity of it all, and the wonders of his generous gift. Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 17 says, **“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches**

**of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.”** Acts chapter 26 and verse 18 speaks of God’s ability **“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”** Isaiah chapter 32 and verse 17 says **“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.”** When a person gets saved, they know it.

**them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”** Jesus here tells us that anyone who has received His gift of eternal life will never be taken away from God. Jude chapter 1 and verse 24 speaks of God **“that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”** Saved people can exclaim like the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 8 and verse 38, **“For I am persuaded,**

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God.**

**Romans 8:38**

Did you know that once we accept the free gift of God, we are eternally safe and can never be lost! John chapter 10 and verse 28 says **“And I give unto**

**that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be**

**able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Is there anything else that we could add to this list? There isn't one category that is not covered here. It is made perfectly clear. Nothing, not one thing, not one person, not one creature, can separate us from God once we trust in Him.

### **BLIND LEADING THE BLIND**

Why is it that so many people simply fail to see the simple message that God has given mankind in the Bible? The Bible gives us the answer. The adversary of God and the truth, the Devil himself, is hard at work on this earth trying with all his might to drag mankind with him into eternal damnation. When Adam sinned, the title deed of this earth was turned over to Satan, and the Devil became the ruling "god of this world." 2nd Corinthians chapter 4 and verse 3 explains, **"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."** It is Satan that convinces man-

kind that they do not need salvation. It is Satan that convinces the concerned soul that God's plan is too easy. Revelation chapter 12 and verse 9 says **"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."** Satan is working hard to blind the eyes of mankind to God's precious gift.

Do today's churches teach the multitudes about God's free gift? Contrary to the message contained in the Bible that salvation is free without good works, ministers stand in the pulpit and convince the congregation that they must lead a good life and go to church to get to heaven. Does the Bible address this problem? It sure does! 2nd Corinthians chapter 11 and verse 4 **"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."** Verse 13 then explains what these "false teachers" are in God's opinion. **"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.**

**And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."** Here we are told in no uncertain terms that *Satan himself is working in the churches today* in order to deceive mankind!

In 2nd Timothy chapter 4 and verse 3 the Bible tells us why people are so easily misled. **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts (desires) shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (teaching them what they want to hear); And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."** The people want to be told they're alright! They don't want to be told they are sinners. So they go to a church that tells them what they want to hear! When these people turn away from the truth of the Bible, they believe the false doctrine (fables) of the church. Speaking of these false teachers, Jesus stated in Matthew chapter 15 and verse 14 **"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall**

fall into the ditch." Millions of people are being deceived in the churches today, and will perish forever along with the teachers who are leading them astray.

Unfortunately, there is

**For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereof.**

**Matthew 7:13**

evidence in the Bible that very few people are going to go to heaven and the majority of mankind is going to burn in hell forever. Matthew chapter 7 and verse 13 states **"For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."** Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew chapter 20 and verse 16 **"For many shall be called, but few chosen."** Again in Luke chapter 13 and verse 23, Jesus an-

swered a question put to him. **"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for**

**many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."**

I will assume that you have made a decision as to whether this information is important to you or not. It's hard to believe that some people actually make the decision to go to hell when they die. Billy Joel, in one of his first big hits "Only the good die young," sings "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints, because sinners have much more fun." The Bible also has an answer to that type of attitude. Ecclesiastes chapter 11 and verse 9 says,

**"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."**

Many people have pushed this issue to the side in pursuit of this world. To them, the entertainment and business world holds great promise for happiness and security. Mark chapter 8 and verse 36 says **"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"** Some have decided that accepting God's gift will transform them into a bored, depressed person. Some have no idea of their direction and the result of their ignorance.

If you had to make a choice right now, *what would it be?* The Bible warns that if you choose to put off God's salvation, you may not have another chance. Proverbs chapter 29 and verse one states **"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."** For those who think that tomorrow will offer another opportunity, Proverbs chapter 27 and verse 1 says **"Boast not thy-**

self of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." In Acts chapter 26 the Bible tells the story of king Agrippa, the great grandson of Herod the Great. The Apostle Paul, appearing in front of king Agrippa as a prisoner, asked the king "**King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?**" Paul then said, "**I know that thou believest.**" Paul knew that *the king believed that Jesus Christ was the Messiah* promised by the Old Testament prophets. Was that knowledge enough for King Agrippa to be saved? In verse 28 we read king Agrippa's reply, "**Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.**" Agrippa decided *to ignore God's gift*. He died a lost sinner and is in hell today. If you decide to wait for a more opportune moment, you have already made the decision to ignore God's invitation to become the inheritor of eternal life. He may not invite you again.

John chapter 3 and verse 16 says, "**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.**"

### ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is a complete document consisting of 66 books, each book substantiating the others. The elements of the Bible are intimately and closely welded together with harmoniousness between each of the books and the Bible as a whole. There are clear lines of historical evidence supporting the accuracy of the Bible. The amazingly detailed typology of the book, woven like a magnificent mosaic in God's great redemption plan from Genesis to Revelation, argues strongly for the authenticity of the Bible. Read it! It will amaze you!

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