

What Must I Do to Go to Heaven?

Acts 16:25-31

Psalm 118:24 says, *This is the day which the Lord hath made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it.* And I hope that you're rejoicing today, and I hope that your hope has been placed in the Lord. That's where all of our trust needs to be. We don't need to be trusting in the things of this world or the things that we even control with our hands. We need to realize that the Lord is the one who should be controlling our lives today.

Well, it is a good life and it is good being with you once again today, and in just a few moments, we'll be looking in the book of Acts, chapter 16. Before I do that, and before we look at that Scripture today, let me remind you that you can receive a free transcript of this program by going to www.LRWM.org. That's on the Internet. You can download a free transcript there of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life."

Now those transcripts are provided by BibleTranscripts.com, and we're so grateful to that organization for providing these transcripts to us and to you that you can share the Word of God, not only after you hear this program for yourselves, but you can share this with other people, the Word of God as it goes forth, by using Bible transcripts that we offer to you free of charge if you'll go to our website, www.LRWM.org.

You can also write to me: Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Now, if you can't remember the last name, remember the first name: Lewis. Just send your request to Lewis, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. We'd like to hear from you, not only to request a free transcript, but also that we may be able to share in your prayer requests that God has laid on your heart. You may have a lost loved one that you want us to pray with you about. You

may have a financial need that you would like for us to pray with you about. You may have a sickness you'd like for us to pray with you for.

Whatever your need is and whatever that request might be, or you simply just want to let us know that you're a Christian and you have been saved and you are on your way to Heaven, and you want to share that testimony with us. Or maybe you need to get saved and you'd like to know more about how to go to Heaven.

Well, in just a moment, we're going to look at that: "What Must I Do to Go to Heaven?" And, many times as a minister, as a preacher, I take things for granted. And the Lord speaks to my heart and says, "Look, not everybody knows how to go to Heaven."

And I may say something like, "Well, this is something that you people have probably heard several times, many times over."

But the Lord speaks to my heart and says, "Many people have not heard how to go to Heaven." So, therefore, today, I want to share with you, "What Must I Do to Go to Heaven?"

In Acts chapter 16, verse 25, it says there: ²⁵ *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.* ²⁶ *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.* ²⁷ *And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.* ²⁸ *But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.* ²⁹ *Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down*

before Paul and Silas, ³⁰And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Now, all people want to go to Heaven. When you ask someone, "Are you on your way to Heaven?" most of the time they'll say, "I hope so. I hope I'm on my way to Heaven." But you know, it's an awful thing to die and go to a devil's Hell. The Bible tells us that Hell was created for the devil and his angels. God did not create Hell for human beings. Something must be done. Seeing that something must be done, the question...the big question is this: What must I do to go to Heaven?

Well, first of all, men and women cannot go to Heaven as they are. There must be something that takes place in their life. Men and women must have a changed nature. A person must be changed from the natural to the divine nature.

In 2 Peter, chapter 1, verses 2 through 4, the Bible says: ²*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of—notice this—the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it says, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.* Well, the question then is asked, "How do we become a new creature?" In Titus 3:5, the Bible says, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

And then those familiar verses in Romans 10:9-10: ⁹*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. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Heaven would be Hell to a person without a changed nature. Men and women must have a nature to befit them for Heaven. Heaven is a holy place.

Now, in order to go to Heaven, a person must not only have a new nature, but a person must have their name written in the Lamb's book of life. In Luke chapter 10 and verse 20, it says, *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.* In other words, don't be so high and mighty that you're rejoicing in the fact that you're about to do certain things because you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, but the verse goes on to say, [B]ut rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

In Revelation chapter 20 and verse 15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* Revelation 21:27 says: *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.* In order to go to Heaven, a person must have their name written in the Lamb's book of life.

In John chapter 3 and verse 3: *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* And verse 7 of John chapter 3, it says, *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

When is our name written in Heaven? It is written when we are born again. When is it written in the Lamb's book of life? When we are born again.

Now, in order to go to Heaven, a person must be made a son, a child of God. Only sons, children of God, are going to go to Heaven. Only God in the new birth can make you a son, a child of God. God is not the Father of all men. He is the Father of only those who have been born again. Don't believe the lie from the devil that, simply because you're a human being, you're a child of God. That's not true. You become a child of God through the new birth.

In John chapter 8, verses 41 through 44, it says: ⁴¹*Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, [even] God.* And these are the Pharisees and the Jews standing there, tempting Jesus. They're accusing Him now of being an illegitimate Son.

In other words, we know that Mary was a virgin. She conceived before she was married, so therefore, they're trying to say that Jesus was illegitimate. But Jesus goes on to say unto them: ⁴²*If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.* ⁴³*Why do ye not understand my speech? [even] because ye cannot hear my word.*

Notice what verse 44 of John chapter 8 says: *Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

These scribes and Pharisees and Jews, speaking to Jesus, were speaking to Him and they were

blaspheming the Lord. And they did this on many occasions.

In Matthew 1:23, it says, *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

In order to go to Heaven, a person must be made a son, a child of God. Well, when are we made sons or children of God? It's when we are born of God. In John chapter 1 and verse 12, it says: *But as many as received him—that's Jesus—to them gave he power to become the sons—or the children—of God, [even] to them that believe on his name.*

In order to go to Heaven, a person must be made like Jesus. Romans 8:29 says, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* Jesus said, in order for us to go to Heaven, must be made like Him.

We also understand that, in order to go to Heaven, you must have God's Spirit. When we get saved, we receive the Spirit of God. Romans 8:9 says: *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

Romans 8:14 says: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* And on and on the verses go.

In verse 16 of 1 Corinthians, chapter 3: *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?* When a person gets saved, they have the Spirit of God. They trust Jesus to save them, to take them to Heaven, and when they do that, the Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within that person.

In order to go to Heaven, you must have God's Spirit, and that happens the moment you trust Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to heaven, you must be made an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus. Romans 8:16 says: *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.* Now there are many verses that continue on, telling us that, in order to go to Heaven, a person must receive Jesus as Savior. Have you done that today? Have you received Jesus as your personal Savior? If not, may I invite you to do so right now. Bow your head where you're at. Ask Jesus to come into your heart. Ask Him to save you.

"Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior. I trust You to save me and take me to Heaven."

If you'll pray that prayer today, God will save you and you can be sure of Heaven. Why? Because God says you can trust Him and that He will give you eternal life.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and I trust that you will continue to listen and look at our website, www.LRWM.org, or write me: Lewis, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Until this same time next week, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.