

Who Goes to Heaven?

In Matthew 7: 21 Jesus says, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

There are many things we need to do as Christians to serve the Lord. One of them Jesus clearly spells out in Matthew 28: 18 – 20.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus gives His disciples three things to do. First, He says to go and make disciples of all nations. Second, He says to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Finally, He says to teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Since only God can determine who goes to heaven and who does not, we cannot make a list and be certain we are correct. We can have a level of confidence that those who do the will of the Lord and follow His commands will have the best chance of going to heaven. We know the Lord commanded us to believe in Him, recognize that we are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God. We also know that we must repent of those sins and be baptized for the remission of those sins. So, being baptized is essential to salvation. Then comes the most powerful part of being a Christian. We need to live a life that is righteous and of humble service to God.

A man once spoke to a small crowd on a street. They asked him what they had to do to get to heaven. He said, “Call upon the name of the Lord and you will be saved.” The crowd walked down the street and another man was speaking. They asked him what they had to do to get to heaven. He said, “Live a good life because God is a God of love and he will not let you go anywhere but heaven if that is what you want.”

Finally, the crowd walked farther down the street and they saw a man sitting down calmly drawing pictures in the dirt. They asked him what they had to do to get to heaven. He quietly said, “I cannot tell you, but the Word of God in His holy scriptures tell you what you should do. It is better to listen to God than to men. So, he gave them each a Bible and they read from Acts chapter 2 in verses 36 – 41.

The Apostle Peter said, ³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

You see, they asked the same question the crowd asked. The third man used the Word of God to answer the question and not the words of man. Always go to the Word of God for your answers. Then you know the words are the truth.

Questions:

1. Does everyone who wants to go to heaven get to go?
2. Does Jesus give us ten things to do in Matthew chapter 28: 18 – 20?
3. What three things does He give us to do?
4. Does this mean that each of us has to visit every nation?
5. Should we use the words of men or of God?

Next Steps:

Share Acts 2: 36 – 41 with someone and then share Matthew 28: 18 – 20. Those two scriptures will open many doors.