

ARE YOU SAVED FOR SURE?

My friend, are you 100% sure that if you died today that you will go to Heaven? Perhaps you ask, "Is that possible, after all I haven't finished sinning yet and one can't be forgiven of a sin until he has committed that sin?" Have you considered these Bible Verses? **I John 5:13** says "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life." We also read in **II Timothy 1:12** "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." The Apostles John and Paul both knew that they were going to Heaven for sure and they still had years left to commit sins before they would finally die. You and I have no idea what sins or even how many sins we will commit from this day on, but God does. God knew all about you before the world began, and He has offered you a full pardon for all your sins, past, present, and future. Read **II 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 answer to the dilemma of man's sin is Jesus Christ. All sin is against God, but God, because of His absolute holiness, cannot forgive any sin until the full penalty of each sin is paid. Romans 6:23a says "For the wages of sin is death..." The ultimate penalty for sin is eternity in Hell: **Matthew 10:28b** "...fear

Him that is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Saying that you are sorry for your sin or even sincerely repenting of each sin cannot ever bring forgiveness from God. The price of death must still be paid for each sin. When Jesus Christ was put to death, God allowed Him to become sin for us by putting the sins of the world (that includes your sins my friend) on Him. Jesus Christ in His death on Calvary's cross paid the full penalty for sin and totally satisfied the Holiness of God in regard to each sin. In **Isaiah 53:10** we read "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief..." But now we have another problem: since Jesus died for all sin and for all sinners (and it is obvious that not everyone is going to Heaven) how do we get His death for sin to apply to our specific sins? Consider **Romans 6:23b** "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Salvation from our sins is offered to us as a gift. Since we could never earn salvation by good works, God in His infinite mercy paid the full penalty for our sins by sending His eternal Son to die for us and then offers to give it to us as a free gift of His Grace. Salvation from sin is possible for all, but only those who accept God's offer of the free gift of salvation will be able to enter Heaven. If someone tries to add good works to Jesus' free gift of salvation he will not receive eternal life. Look at **Ephesians 2:8,9** "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."

THE PURPOSE OF GOOD WORKS

Do not I need good works to prove to God the sincerity of my trusting Him for salvation? No! God knows our hearts and accepts us when we accept His gift of salvation. **John 2:25** says "...for He knew what was in man." **But good works do have a part in our life as a Christian.** Baptism, reading my Bible, praying daily, going to church, being kind to others, and etc. demonstrate to other believers and to all who care that I belong to Christ. All these good works and others are pleasing to God when done because of my love for Him. Good works done for the right motives cause me to draw closer to Him and thus I become strong in the faith, and these good works draw the lost to Christ to find the same joy and happiness that are in evidence in my life.

If you have any questions for us, you may contact us at bmason6@bellsouth.net or you may call one of our counselors at 864-498-1943