

## IF YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY,

are you 100% SURE you would go to Heaven? The Bible says *YOU CAN BE SURE* (1 John 5:13).

**BUT FIRST**, you must realize that what keeps you from going to Heaven are your sins, because: *"...your iniquities [sins] have separated between you and your God,"* Isaiah 59:2. In fact, in God's eyes YOU ARE A SINNER: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;"* Romans 3:23.

**SECONDLY**, you must realize that there is NOTHING you can do to save yourself and earn Heaven: *"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."* Eph. 2:8-9 Baptism, good deeds, church membership, self-righteousness are all examples of good works that cannot save you, because: *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he [Christ] saved us,"* Titus 3:5.

**THE ONLY WAY** you can get saved is through Jesus Christ. He said: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me,"* (John 14:6) **THAT'S WHY:** *"...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,"* (Rom. 5:8-9)

**THEREFORE:** You must REPENT (change your mind) admit that you are a Hell deserving sinner and can't save yourself. And call upon Christ, and Him alone, to save you. *"if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus [REPENT], and shalt believe in thine heart TRUST that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved,"* Romans 10:9

But it doesn't end here. Notice the scriptures say, "shall be saved" and there are many more that say "will be and maybe saved". All of them are future tense, meaning in the future. At the time you commit to the above, you are saved, but not eternally saved.

Eternal Salvation takes place the moment you take the first step into Heaven. Until then, you must run the race. You don't have to win the race, just finish the race. The prize for finishing the race is eternal salvation. You must endure and persevere through tribulations, persecutions and maybe even death.

*We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means. So, let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back. 2 Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne. 3 Think about Jesus' example. He held on while wicked people were doing evil things to him. So do not get tired and stop trying. Heb 12: 1-3*

**Jesus said:** Luke 14:25 And great multitudes were going with Him; and He turned and said to them, Luk 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate (see note below) his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. Luk 14:27 And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple; Luk 14:28 For which one of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has sufficient for its completion; Luk 14:29 Lest perhaps, after he has laid its foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, Luk 14:30 Saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish'? Luk 14:31 Or what king, when he goes out to engage another king in war, does not first sit down and take counsel, whether he will be able with ten thousand to meet him who is coming against him with twenty thousand? Luk 14:32 But if not, while his enemy is still far off, he sends ambassadors and desires the terms for peace. Luk 14:33 In the same way also, each one of you who does not forsake all that he possesses cannot be My disciple.

I am not going to be popular, being acclaimed as king. I am going to be crucified. There is a real cost if you are going to come after Me. You better count the cost. You better measure it.

NOTE: Now, don't misunderstand Jesus and think that you have got to hate your father, and my mother, because that is just the opposite of what the gospel teaches. The fruit of the Spirit is love. And if say I love God and hate my brother; I am a liar, and the truth is not in me. How can I love God who I haven't seen and hate my brother who I have seen? Then what does Jesus mean, unless you hate your father, mother, brothers and so forth? That is in the language a comparative.

Your love for Jesus Christ must be supreme. It must be greater than your love for your family, your home or yourself, because it may cost you all of these things to follow Jesus Christ. And for many of those people it did cost all those things. Following Christ did cost some of them their families, their family relationships. For they were ostracized by their families when they made their commitment to Jesus Christ. And the same is true today. Many people have found it quite costly to follow Jesus Christ. It cost them their family relationships. But Jesus said if you are not willing to give up these family relationships, you can't really be My disciple. You have got to love Me more than you love any other relationship that you have. Your love for Me must be supreme and every other love must be subservient to your love for Me. Eternal residence in Heaven is a gift beyond measure. Is it worth the cost? You must decide.