

Who Will Go To Heaven?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Introduction. Who will go to Heaven? There are many who believe in Heaven and talk about going to Heaven, but, who will actually spend eternity in the place called "Heaven"? Is there a fixed number of individuals who can go to Heaven (i.e. 144,000)? Or, will everyone go to Heaven? Or, is there an unnumbered few who will go to Heaven? If you want to go to Heaven, you need to know how the Bible answers this question!

Those who have not sinned. Those who have not sinned will go to Heaven. The Scriptures teach us that it is sin which separates us from God and condemns us to Hell (see Isa. 59:1-2 and Rom. 6:23). Therefore, those who have not sinned have never been separated from God – and will go to Heaven. But, are there any who have never sinned?

First, we need to establish the fact that we do not inherit our sin. The Bible (as a whole) teaches personal responsibility/accountability. This is demonstrated time after time within the pages of the Scriptures. Furthermore, the Bible helps us to understand that we do *not* inherit our sin. Read and consider Ezekiel 18:20 and Romans 5:12 to see that we are personally responsible for our sin. Also consider the fact that (in Matthew 18:1-4) Jesus tells us to become as little children. Now, why would Jesus tell us to become like little children if little children were also sinners?

Second, you can study the Scriptures and discover that sin occurs whenever we violate the law of God (see 1 Jn. 3:4; Jas. 1:14-15). An unborn or small child has never violated the law of God! Also, the mentally handicapped may have never committed sin. Those individuals remain pure until they reach the point in which they become personally accountable (i.e. able to knowingly choose between right and wrong).

Therefore, since there are some who have never sinned – and die without sinning – they will spend eternity in Heaven (the place that is prepared for those who have been faithful to the Lord)!

Those who obey God. Those who obey God will go to Heaven. The Scriptures teach us that salvation is promised to those who are obedient to God. Read Matthew 7:21-23, Hebrews 5:9, and Revelation 22:14 – to name a few.

Those who have sinned must obey God in order to be forgiven of their sins. Of course, the Scriptures teach that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, all who have lived and come to maturity of body and mind have made the decision to transgress God's law at some point in their lives (with the exception of Jesus Christ – Heb. 4:15). Yet, God has made it possible to be forgiven of our sins. In order to be forgiven of our sins, we must obey Him! He instructs us to: (1) Hear His Word – Romans 10:17; (2) Believe – John 8:24; (3) Repent of our sins – Acts 17:30; (4) Confess Christ – Romans 10:9-10; and (5) Be baptized (immersed in water) – Acts 2:38.

Furthermore, God instructs us to remain faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). Therefore, in order to go to Heaven, we must be continually obedient to God for as long as we live! If, however, we fall back into sin, we must repent, confess our sin to God, and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 Jn. 1:9).

Conclusion. You can go to Heaven! However, you must be obedient to God. You will not go to Heaven just because you are religious (see Matt. 7:21-23). You will not go to Heaven just because you live with a clear conscience (see Acts 10:2, 22). You will not go to Heaven just because you know what God teaches (see Jas. 1:22). You will not go to Heaven just because you believe in God (see Jas. 2:14-26). Those who will go to Heaven will be those who have never sinned and those who are obedient to God! Therefore, few will go to Heaven (Matt. 7:13-14; Rev. 22:14).

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