"ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR JOURNEY INTO ETERNITY?"

**INTRODUCTION**

1. If you were to die today, **would you know for certain that you would**

 **be with God eternally?**

2. The Bible tells us we can know for sure –

[**1Jn 5:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%205.13)**….**13These 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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

 a. If it is possible to know, I'd want to know, wouldn't you?

 b. May I take a few moments of your time to share what the Bible says

 about receiving eternal life?

3. Before I do, let me ask you another question...

1. Suppose you come before Jesus and He asks,

**"Why should I let you into heaven?"**

 b. How would you answer Him?

4. Some might answer...

 a. "I kept the Ten Commandments"

 b. "I attended church regularly"

 c. "I was a good moral person"

 d. "I was a good neighbor"

 **-- These and similar answers imply an understanding that salvation is**

 **earned**

5. Yet the good news (gospel) of the Bible is that……

**Eternal life is a gift...!**

1. "...the gift of God is eternal life..." - cf.

[**Ro 6:23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.23)**….**23For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

 b. As a gift, it is not something we earn or deserve!

[Why is eternal life a gift? The answer lies in understanding man's

problem with sin...]

**I. THE NEED OF GRACE**

1. **THE BIBLE TEACHES ALL HAVE SINNED...**
2. Sin is violating the law of God –

[**1Jn 3:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%203.4)**….**4Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1. Sin is failing to do what is right –

[**Jm 4:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jm%204.17)**…..17Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**

 **-- Everyone has sinned in some way –**

[**Ro 3:23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%203.23)**…..23For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God**;

 **B. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN...**

 1. The wages of sin is death! –

[**Ro 6:23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.23)**……**23For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. What kind of death? Everlasting separation from God! - cf.

[**Re 21:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%2021.8)**……8But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

 a. Have you done any of these?

 b. Just a few?

 **-- Even if just one sin, we are still guilty! –**

[**Jm 2:10-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jm%202.10-11)**….10For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.11For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.**

[While everyone is guilty of sin and deserving of death, there is hope

in...]

**II. THE SOLUTION OF GRACE**

1. **GOD OFFERS THE GIFT OF LIFE...**
2. In mercy God offers the gift of eternal life –

[**Ro 6:23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.23)**….**23For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. He does this through the death of His Son –

[**Ro 5:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%205.8)**….**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1. Out of love, God sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins

[**1Jn 4:9-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%204.9-10)**….**In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

 a. On the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins!

 b. Through His death, Jesus made eternal life possible!

**What wonderful love, what a wonderful gift! Yet sadly...**

1. **FEW RECEIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE...**
2. Because many will not look for it - cf.

[**Mt 7:13-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.13-14)**…..13Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

1. Because many will not have done the Father's will

[**Mt 7:21-23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.21-23)**…..21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

 a. Though they may do many things in the name of Jesus

 b. Remember, doing good things does not merit eternal life

 **-- Only those who do the Father's will have eternal life!**

[**1Jn 2:15-17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%202.15-17)**…..15Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

[What is the Father's will that we might receive the gift of eternal

life...?]

**III. THE RECEPTION OF GRACE**

1. **BELIEVE IN JESUS...**
2. We must believe in Him whom God has sent - cf.

[**Jn 6:28-29**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%206.28-29)**,**[40](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%206.40)28Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?29Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

40And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

 2. Believing in Christ involves more than mental consent - e.g.,

[**Jn 12:42**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2012.42)**,**[**43**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2012.43)**….**42Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

43For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

 3. A faith which does not express itself in action is a dead faith

[**Jam 2:26**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jm%202.26)**…..26For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

 **-- How are we to express our faith in Christ?**

1. **REPENT OF SINS...**
2. Jesus requires repentance - cf.

[**Lk 13:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2013.3)**;** **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

1. True repentance is:

 a. A change of heart which will result in a change of life

 b. A change brought about by sorrow for our sins - cf.

[**2 Co 7:9-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Co%207.9-11)**…..9Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.10For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.11For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.**

 **-- In repenting, we decide to turn from sin and turn to God!**

 **C. CONFESS FAITH IN JESUS...**

1. Together with faith, confessing Jesus leads to salvation –

[**Ro 10:9-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2010.9-10)**…..9That 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**

 2. Confessing Jesus means to acknowledge Him as the Son of God

[**Ac 8:37**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%208.37)

 **-- Confess Jesus before others, and He will confess us before God!**

 **-**

[**Mt 10:32-33**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2010.32-33)**…..32Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.33But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**

 **D. RECEIVE CHRIST IN BAPTISM...**

 1. Note first these spiritual truths:

 a. All spiritual blessings are IN Christ –

1. Salvation is IN Christ -

[**2Ti 2:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Ti%202.10)**…..**10Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1. There is no condemnation IN Christ –
2. Eternal life is IN Christ –

[**1Jn 5:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%205.11)**….**There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

 2. All these blessings are IN Christ

 a. It is one thing to believe IN Jesus, quite another to get

 INTO Jesus

 b. How does one get INTO Jesus? The same way you get into a

 coat (you put it on)

1. We get INTO Jesus by putting Him on in baptism - cf.

[**Ga 3:26-27**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%203.26-27)**…..26For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

 a. As many as are baptized into Christ, have put on Christ

 b. Those not yet baptized into Christ, have not yet put on

 Christ

 c. If we have not PUT ON Christ, we are not yet IN Christ

 4. What is baptism?

 a. An immersion (burial) of the believer in water –

[**Ac 8:35-38**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%208.35-38)**….35Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.36And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?37And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.38And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.**

 b. Administered to the penitent for the remission of sins –

[**Ac 2:38**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.38)**….38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

 c. In which we are:

 1) Baptized into the death of Jesus –

[**Ro 6:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.3)**…..3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?**

 2) Buried with Him into His death –

[**Ro 6:4a**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.4a)**…..Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

 3) Raised with Him that we might walk in newness of life

 -

1. A working of God in cooperation with our faith -

[**Col 2:11-13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%202.11-13)**….11In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:12Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.13And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

 1) In which our sins our cut away (circumcised)

 2) In which we are made alive, forgiven of all sins

 **-- Not a work of righteousness done to earn salvation, but an act**

 **of faith submitted to in order to receive God's grace and mercy**

 **- cf.**

[**Tit 3:5-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Tit%203.5-7)**….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;6Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;7That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

 **E. REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS...**

1. Jesus expected us to learn and follow Him after baptism –

[**Mt 28:19-20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2028.19-20)**…..19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

 2. Jesus promises the crown of life to those who remain faithful

[**Re 2:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%202.10)**…..10Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

**CONCLUSION**

1. Though deserving of death because of sin...

 a. We can receive God's gift of eternal life!

 b. By expressing our faith in Christ through repentance, confession,

 and baptism!

2. Two examples confirm this is how God's gift of grace is extended...

 a. Peter on the day of Pentecost –

[**Ac 2:36-42**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.36-42)**,**[**47**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.47)**…..36Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.37Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.39For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.40And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.41Then they that gladly received his** **word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.42And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

 b. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch –

[**Ac 8:35-39**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%208.35-39)**….35Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.36And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?37And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.38And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.39And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.**

 -- Note what people were told to receive forgiveness of sins (the

 gift of eternal life)

1. Does this make sense...?

 a. Is there anything I have said you do not understand?

 b. Have I taught you anything other than what the Bible teaches?

If you are willing to place your faith in Jesus, repent of your sins,

confess your faith before others, then let these words move you to

respond in the proper way...

 **"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash**

 **away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."**

**(**[**Ac 22:16**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2022.16)**)**

Yes, why wait, when you can put on Christ in baptism and prepare

yourself for your "journey into eternity"?