



We Can Be Sure!

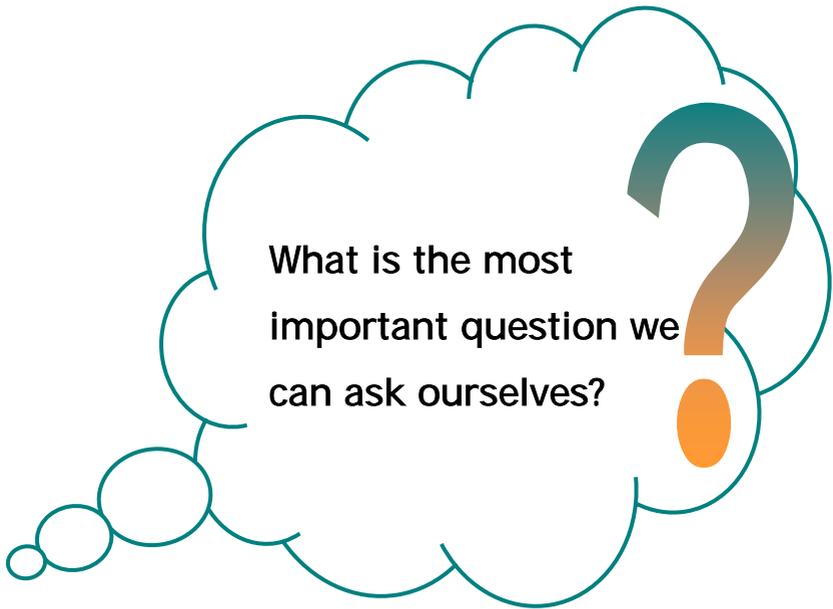
What God Has Done for Us

An Electronic Pamphlet

from

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Lexington KY



Can we be sure...

...that when we die, we will live with our
loving God forever in heaven?





You should know for sure that:

Eternal life in heaven is...

Given by God as an absolute gift!



It can't be...

- § obtained by our own effort.
- § deserved by our own goodness.
- § secured by our own personal merit.



Grace for Us!

Part of the answer to the question *“Can we be sure that when we die we will live with our loving God forever in heaven?”* is determined by the understanding of **GRACE**.

GRACE—What is GRACE?

Grace is something you receive when you don't deserve it.

God has shown us His **Grace** by sending His Son Jesus for us. His plan of Salvation has been laid out in history which is shown through the Word in the Bible:

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.”
Ephesians 2:8*

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
John 1:14*

Man's Sin

Further, the answer to that question *"Can we be sure that when we die we will live with our loving God forever in heaven?"*

is determined by an understanding that...

- § Man is a sinner. We are all sinners.
- § Sin exists because of Satan.
- § Satan wants to separate us from our Loving God.
- § God created us perfect in His image, but because of Satan we are no longer perfect.
- § We have become separated even at birth by a nature that cannot possibly obey every law!

The Word of God tells us about sin and how we can't become perfect ourselves:

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." -- Gen 2:16-17

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
Gen 3:1*

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; -- Genesis 3:6-7

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." -- Isaiah 53:6

God's

Love

God calls us back to Him!

He wants us to be perfect once again.

God, the Father...

- § found a way to take away our sin.
- § does not want to punish us as we deserve to be punished.
- § wants to justify us for Him.
- § calls us with His patience and loving-kindness.

God's Word reveals what He did for us...

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." John 3:16-17.

"For God shows no partiality." Rom 2:11

"Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

Rom 2:4

Jesus Christ

God sent His Son for us!

Who was His Son?

His Son was Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ...

- § was God sent as a man to take the punishment for our sin--a sacrifice for us!
- § took our sin upon Him and died facing eternal death.
- § did not stay dead, He defeated Satan in death and rose out of death's grip into eternal life back with His Father in heaven!

**All this He did so that
we could share eternal life with Him!**

The Gospel tells us about Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL means GOOD NEWS!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1, 14

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit through God's Word works Faith in our heart. God's love is shown to us. We then want to...

- § acknowledge that our sin separates us from God.
- § confess our sin and look to Him for forgiveness.
- § desire to be baptized to wash away our sin.
- § desire to live a Christian life.

When we believe that Jesus is our Savior, we **can be sure** that God has been at work in us bringing us to faith. We are children of God.

We are believers in Christ. Our sins are forgiven! The Holy Spirit lives in us!

We can be sure we have eternal life with God by the Grace He gives us through faith!

The Holy Spirit...

- § cleanses us through Baptism.
- § gives forgiveness through the Lord's Supper.

*⁶This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
--1 John 5:6*

⁴The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. --1 John 2:4-6

Faith

To continue to answer the question, "**Can we be sure that when we die we will live with our loving God forever in heaven?**" Let's look at **faith**.

Faith is...

being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see—*Hebrews 11:1*

We can be sure that...

- § God loves us!
- § we have sin that separates us from God.
- § Jesus Christ died and rose again to set us free from our sin.
- § through faith we can receive eternal life and victory over death.

When we have faith and believe that Jesus died and rose again for us, then we are **Christian**. We place our confidence and trust in Jesus Christ for our eternal life.

The Bible is very clear about **faith in Jesus**...

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.--*Rom 5:1*

³¹"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." --*Acts 16:31*

²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. *Rom 3:22-24*

¹⁰"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." --*Romans 10:17*

⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
1 John 1:6-7

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. --*2 Peter 1:5-7*

Love God...

As a Christian, God desires for us to...

- § grow spiritually by nourishing our faith through His Word in the Bible.
- § be baptized.
- § ask for forgiveness and look to Him for cleansing.
- § worship Him with other believers
- § serve one another in love.
- § share our faith with others so that they will know the Lord's saving grace too!
- § give thanks, praise and honor to Him throughout our lives.

What a blessing it is to us that we have a Savior who loves us!

...Give Thanks

We want to thank God daily for giving us the gift of eternal life and the faith to know it. We can thank God for this faith through prayer. A prayer of thanks:

Lord God, heavenly Father,

You have been patient with me. I did not know You and what You have done for me. Forgive me for my ignorance. Forgive me for willfully breaking Your wishes.

Because You have sent Your Holy Spirit into my heart I believe Your Son is my Savior.

Thank You for the gift of eternal life and the forgiveness of all my sin. Whenever I die I will live with You forever in heaven because Jesus died for me.

I give my life to You. With Your help I want to do Your will. May other people come to know You as their Lord through me. This prayer is offered in the name of Jesus Christ my Savior.

Amen

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...God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:8-10