

Do you think you are going to Heaven someday? I hope you do, however if I asked you to tell me what you would base that on, what would your response be? Would you say it was because of your wealth, or good looks? Maybe you would say it was based on your position in life, or your abilities and talents. This one always works, my good deeds, I know I do more good things than bad and don't forget to mention your religious denomination. Sorry not enough, it doesn't work like that. In order for God to make us fit for Heaven, He has to be fair and just. Our works would be like God judging us based on our IQ's. Some of ours are very low and some very high but most of us fall somewhere in the middle. Now we can work on that by studying and trying to improve it somewhat (good work) but we can only bring it up so high so no matter how smart we think we are, we could never get it as high as God's perfect knowledge.

Salvation works much the same way, no matter how much we do or how good we are, in order for us to enter into Heaven we would have to be perfect, PERFECT!!! Yes PERFECT. The Bible talks about this in the book of Romans chapter 3 verses 10-12 (Amplified Bible) – *As it is written. None is righteous, just and truthful and upright and conscientious, no not one. No one understands {no one intelligently discerns or comprehends}: No one seeks out God. All have turned aside; together they have gone wrong and have become unprofitable and worthless; no one does right, not even one!*

Wow, that really puts us in a pickle, so now what do we do? Don't worry; God has the answer for that too. (Verse 23) *Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives. (All are justified and made upright and in right standing with God, freely and gratuitously by His Grace (His unmerited favor and mercy) through the redemption which is (provided) in Christ Jesus.*

What does that mean? It means we have all in some degree or another sinned. Not only have we sinned, we are in a continuous state of falling short of what God requires of us to be made right with Him yet out of His great love for us, He literally bent down from Heaven and set His Son on this earth in the form of a Man. He did this so we could have the opportunity to wrap our arms around Him, and hold on tight, tight enough for God to lift us up into a place where we could never go on our own without Him.

Ephesians Chap 2: Verses 4-8 (Amplified Bible) (Should read the whole chapter, amazing)

⁴ But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of *and* in order to satisfy the great *and* wonderful *and* intense love with which He loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings *and* trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship *and* in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation).

⁶ And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

⁷ He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in [His] kindness *and* goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment *and* made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

Joy In Life

While we're at it, what will Heaven be like?

The Bible gives us a more complete picture of heaven than we might guess. First, we can take a little look at what heaven won't be. In heaven, there will be: No power shortage, for God is all powerful; no bumping into things in the dark; no sleepless nights (there is no night there, Revelation 21:25). There won't be any: Bills; hospitals; bank accounts. In fact, heaven will have: No complaints; no back-talk; no hate; no fear; no crime.

Heaven will be a place of friendship. "I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself" (John 14:3). The children of God shall "meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:17). And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24).

Heaven will be a place to worship God. When Isaiah speaks for the Lord of the new heavens and earth, he prophesies that "all flesh shall come to worship before me" (Isaiah 66:22, 23). The Apostle, John, also predicts the same thing saying: "For Thou only are holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee" (Revelation 15:4; 21:24).

Surely heaven will be a place of joy and productive work. We can be sure that in heaven we will be like God and Jesus, and they have always worked. Jesus said, "But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." (John 5:17). Isaiah describes it as a place of joy where there will be no tears nor the sound of crying. This is in Isaiah 65:19, and also in Revelation 21:4; 7:17. Isaiah continues to show us it will be a place where one can labor and see his labor bear fruit. This is in Isaiah 65:21-23.

Heaven will have a beauty beyond our imagination. The best John could do to describe heaven was to say it was like an entire city of transparent gold. He says: The walls of the new city are precious jewels. The gates are twelve single pearls. The city itself and its streets are pure gold, yet like transparent glass. This is found in Revelation 21:18, 19, and 21. And the whole city is lighted by the glory of God.

Heaven is a place of matchless blessings. Jesus has prepared a mansion for us there. Great treasure is stored up for us; in fact, the saints "will inherit all things" (Revelation 21:7). The leaves of the tree of life will guarantee our health, and the crystal pure water of the river of life will flow from the throne of God to the tree of eternal life. For the first time since the Garden of Eden, God's children may eat out of this tree in His paradise (Genesis 3:22 and Revelation 2:7).

In heaven we will be given new names, new imperishable bodies and we will be clothed in the white robes of righteousness. We will be glorious living stones; pillars in the eternal temple of God (I Corinthians 15:52; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 3:12).

Best of all, heaven with God and Jesus will be a place of love. God in tender love will wipe away all our tears (Revelation 21:4). The angels will rejoice as heaven fills with righteous Christians (II Peter 3:13). Those spirits who have hungered and have thirsted to humbly live with God; those with pure hearts; those who have willingly endured persecution; and those who have lived for God's peace, will live together in life and love forever and ever.