

(Heb 2:3). Similarly doing good deeds, while good in themselves, due to our own sin, avails us nothing for God says “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

Many feel that their parents’ faith will get them to heaven. Others say that the Church approves them for salvation. They say “I was baptised as a baby...”. However, we must seek guidance only from the Bible, for God’s Word says that, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by whom we must be saved (Jesus).” Act 4:12 “many have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof; from such turn away” (2 Tim. 3:5). The above Ephesians’ reference tells us that it is not anything we do that saves us but what God has already done. Membership in a church is desirable as it helps us with accountability in holiness but does not give us salvation.

3. Sin must be actively dealt with and not ignored: Judgement day will surely come.

Hiding our sin will not do. Sin will not disappear on its own accord. We must confess that we are guilty. It is God’s opinion that matters. Have we faithfully obeyed God at all times? “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23) Not just some but “all the world has become guilty before Him” (Rom. 3:19). "As many as have sinned under law shall be judged by law... in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men according to my Gospel" (Romans 2:12-16); “They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead”. (1Pe 4:5) Many reject the notion that mankind is responsible to God but the day is coming when... "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue confess to God" (Rom

14:11) “...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Phil 2:10). Be prepared for that day.

4. But is there any thing that is good? I am so bad and ungodly, is there any hope for me?

You must repent from your sin and believe the wonderful news that Jesus died for the ungodly, “... but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Repent means to confess one’s guilt and turn from committing sin. Even if people won’t forgive you, remember God will. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“**But God demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). Jesus died for you and won your pardon on Calvary’s Cross. This shows that even though you have sinned carelessly before God, He has made you a path out of your hopelessness unto the good that He has for you. This truly is good in the midst of bad. “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor 2:19). This truly is good news.

You must believe the wonderful fact that Jesus did not stay dead, for God raised Him up. Now, all who come by faith in Jesus, God is able to save (Heb. 7:25). To believe means more than an intellectual assent to certain facts about Jesus, for the Bible says “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—

and tremble!” (James 2:19). Believing Jesus means to act upon those facts and wholly trust Him for salvation.

You must call on only the name of the Lord Jesus. “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” Act 4:12. “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer 29:13). Remember earlier we saw that God looks for diligence in those who seek Him.

You must trust God, not your feelings, and by faith receive the forgiveness that the blood of Jesus Christ, bought on the cross for you; “...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom 10:9-10).

Is there any thing that would stop you from receiving Jesus now? “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

5. Decision Time: There comes a time when we need to act upon our consideration of things. One may be convicted of right but not converted to it. At this point it is helpful to know that salvation is not based upon how much we know about God or the Bible but rather on the simplicity of admitting that we have sinned and by faith accepting that God has paid, on our behalf, the penalty that our

sin brings. Following our receiving of Jesus, we pledge to obey the Word of God and then we will increase in our knowledge of God. What would stop you from receiving Jesus as your saviour right now as you read this? You might like to, in a simple way, tell Jesus what is on your heart. There are no particularly right words to use, just pour out your heart to God. He understands. If you find a list of things coming to your mind don't ignore them but confess them to God one by one. HE LOVES AND CARES FOR YOU.

Some have found the following a help to get started:

I admit that I have sinned carelessly, and now believe that Christ died for my sin and rose again from the dead for me. I confess my sins and trust that you, God, will bring to my mind, matters I need to deal with. Now I wholly receive Him as my personal Saviour and Lord, and with His help I will happily confess Him before people as the Lord enables me.

If you have given your heart to Jesus today please let someone know.

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HOW TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOD AND KNOW IT

Firstly there are some unpopular things now-a-days that we must come to grips with to have a correct understanding on which to make thoughtful decisions:

1. We are responsible to our Creator: Yes God does exist. The design of the world implies a designer.*

- Yes we must believe that God exists and that He created the universe and especially us if ever we are going to trust Him. (Read Genesis Ch 1). "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6). He created us because he loved us and wants to share Himself with us.

This text tells us five things: **a.** God exists, **b.** we must believe that He exists, **c.** faith is the only way to approach God, **d.** God is a rewarder of those who seriously seek Him **e.** God does not accept half-hearted measures.

2. Does personal goodness get us to Heaven?

We are not approved by God because we feel we are good enough, for God's Word says "There is none that do good, no not one" (Rom. 3:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). God's standard is something that we fall from regularly. We lie, cheat, steal, have an over inflated opinion of our level of goodness and we simply ignore Jesus. "...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him..."