

Will I go to Heaven when I die? - November 2024



Dark nights: November is a sombre month in the Church of England. This is the month of All Souls, when we remember our loved one's who have died. This is the month when we recall the millions who died in warfare. But this is also the month when we celebrate All Saints – the vast numbers of believers who have gone “home”

before us, and are already in Paradise with Jesus.

Scientific Breakthrough

Just recently, we visited the Jodrell Bank Radio telescope where, inside the huge domed theatre, we experienced a mesmerising film about the universe. One thing that professors and researchers are now certain of is that God's creation is infinite, multi-dimensional and time is completely different to the way we've always understood it – it's no longer a fantasy, or fairytale that, as Jesus said, in some distant dimension, the Father has prepared a wonderful home for us.

Think also of the thousands of recorded stories of near death experience, when people experience “temporary” death and are brought back by medical staff, and, with great joy, give detailed accounts of being in heaven and meeting Jesus.

The certainly of King David (Psalm 23)

“I am certain that goodness and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and ***I shall dwell in the House of the LORD forever”***

The first three words of that verse are just one word in the original Hebrew – “akh”that strange little sound is called a positive particle, a sound that can be thrown into a Hebrew sentence to emphasise that what is being said is definitely true. So, this is not just a nice psalm created by the king, but a huge affirmation that David **knew**, after his death, He would live forever with the LORD in heaven. David shares this psalm with us that we might also have the certainty that we, too, will live in Paradise with Jesus.

How much? I don't know if this was anybody else's experience in childhood, but if I asked my dad for something, when I was little, Len Hodson would reply, in an extremely coarse and throaty Salford accent:

“ ‘ow much?” When I gave a price, he would repeat in a much louder, and shocked voice: “ **‘OW MUCH?**” The big question for us is “What is the cost of getting into heaven?”

“‘Tis finished, all the debt is paid... the grand and full atonement made; God for a guilty world hath died.” -Charles Wesley

The Bible is unequivocal in its answer to the question, what is the cost of getting into heaven? It is **impossible** for anybody, in anyway, to merit, earn, purchase, qualify, attain to, or impress God in such a way as to deserve to go to heaven. Only God Himself can engineer our free passage into eternal life – that is the beautiful Good Friday and Easter story.

Whosoever Believeth in Him, should not Perish, but have Everlasting Life



Everything hangs on one little word – “**believe**” in Him. What does that really mean?accept God exists? No. There's a difference between believing in buses, and actually getting on one to begin your journey. How do I get on the bus?

Jesus says: “The Kingdom of God is now within your reach. Repent and believe in the Gospel” Let God bring you to the turning point, where you can turn away from the path that you've been on, and choose God's way. Lay down the whole of your life to Him, and begin to trust Him, and He will make your turning and trusting work, to give you a new birth, a new beginning, walking hand in hand with Jesus.

*Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you took all my guilt on yourself. You made me acceptable for heaven, and I humbly ask you to save me. I ask you to save me from the **sins** and the habits that are messing up my life right now. I believe in you, Jesus. Amen*

Trev