

Am I Going To Heaven?

Many like to ask the question, "Are members of the church of Christ the only ones going to heaven?" However, this is not a very good question. The better question to ask is, "Am I among the number of those who are going to heaven?" Jesus said in Luke 13:24, "*Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*" In Acts 2, when Peter preached the first gospel sermon and 3,000 obeyed (Acts 2:41), were they members of a denomination? No, they were members of the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28).

So how does one know they are going to heaven? The Bible says that the steps to salvation include faith (John 1:12; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6), repentance (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), confession of Jesus (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10), and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). After someone has become a steward of the grace of God (1 Peter 4:10), they must be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2; Revelation 2:10). If they fall back into sin and do not repent, they are lost (2 Peter 2:20-22).

One must always remember that a kingdom is reproduced by its seed. Genesis 1:12 says, "*And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*" In Luke 8:11, we are told that the "*seed is the word of God.*" Therefore, just as physical seed produces only the plants which it is supposed to, so the word of God produces only the kind of Christians God desires. When one "*obeys from the heart that form of doctrine*" (Romans 6:17), and are faithful, they will go to heaven.

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