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Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



VICTORY "IN CHRIST"!

God's law in the New Testament makes it clear that, as far as salvation is concerned, there are basically two groups of people—those who are "saved" from their sins (those "in Christ") and those who are "lost" (those "outside of Christ"). [A third group would include those who, like very small children or those who are mentally challenged, are neither saved nor lost. Instead, they are in a "safe" condition because, due to their current mental state, they cannot tell right

from wrong and have not sinned. They also cannot understand, believe, and obediently respond to the Gospel. They do not enter into our discussion here.]

The group of the people who are "in Christ" is composed of those who are Christians. They have "purified their souls in obedience to the truth" (1 Peter 1:22-23), have been "born again" (John 3:3-5), and continue to "walk in the light as He is in the light" (1 John 1:7). This category consists of the saved—those who have done exactly what God commanded, in exactly the way God commanded that it be done. Thus, they are "in Christ" (Romans 3:24). As Paul told Timothy: "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they also may obtain the salvation which

is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). As a result of their relationship with God and His Son, those in this group have access to all spiritual blessings, which are found only "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). It is only when a person is "in Christ" that he or she has "forgiveness"

(Colossians 1:14), "redemption" (Romans 3:24), "salvation" (2 Timothy 2:10), and "eternal life" (Romans 6:23).

If a person is not "in Christ," then he or she is "outside of Christ" and in a lost state. Anyone who is mentally mature, and who is old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong (that is, the difference between obeying God or sinning against Him), must respond to Him in one way or another. If that person has not responded by faith in obedience to God's saving grace by being baptized into Christ (which is the only way we can get "into Christ" and have our sins forgiven—Read Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3-4, and Acts 2:38), then he or she remains in sin and thus is "outside of Christ." According to the apostle Paul, any person who fits into this category is in a lost condition and will remain there until he or she obeys the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

The choice is ours. Will we choose to obey God by hearing His Word (Romans 10:17), believing in Christ as His Son (John 3:16), repenting of our past sins (Luke 13:3), confessing His name before men (Romans 10:9-10), being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38), and living a faithful life (Revelation 2:10)—thus being "in Christ" and destined to live in heaven? Or, will we choose to be a rebellious sinner who lives "outside of Christ" and is destined to live in hell?



A DARK PICTURE

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Jesus must have known this when He told a story in which He painted a picture of the afterlife for both the righteous and the wicked. In Luke 16:19-31, we have the story of an ungodly rich man and a poor beggar named Lazarus. The rich man did not follow the laws of God, one of which was to take care of the poor. He would eat the finest meals, while Lazarus, who was covered in sores, starved outside of the rich man's gate. One man was never hungry; the other was never full. One man lived in a mansion; the other lived in front of a gate. One didn't follow God; the other did.

Eventually, the poor beggar Lazarus died. He may have died of starvation or from some disease. Perhaps he died because he was constantly outside and exposed to the weather. However he died, God looked down upon His poor child who had suffered so much in life. In the moment of death, when Lazarus' soul left his body, angels were standing by, ready to take Lazarus into paradise.

While we do not know how he died, we do know the rich man passed away soon after Lazarus. In contrast to Lazarus, the Bible doesn't say anything about angels being there to take the rich man away—it says simply that he was buried. The next verse records that the rich man was in hades. He was burning, but could not burn up, and he knew that he would spend eternity in flaming fire. What was probably worse for the rich man was that he could look up and see, Lazarus, standing next to Abraham. The man begged Abraham and Lazarus for just a drop of water to cool his tongue, but Abraham told him that it was impossible to cross over from paradise to punishment.

Jesus painted a very dark picture about the rich man. Lazarus, a poor man who tried to follow God, was carried to paradise by angels. The rich man, who did not care about the Word of God, found himself burning continually, tortured by the sight of the unreachable paradise. Jesus' story should encourage us to live our lives so that we will be in paradise some day.



HEAVEN

Every faithful Christian has a deep desire to get through this life and get to heaven. The greatest goal is to be with God in heaven forever. We can make it through every terrible thing that comes our way if we know we get to go to heaven.

What will heaven be like? The Bible tries to describe heaven to us, but it is not easy, since we are earthly beings and heaven is an eternal, spiritual realm. But God tells us enough to cause us to want to go there.

HEAVEN WILL BE A PLACE OF REST

Heaven will be a place of **rest** from all our labors on Earth. John wrote: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors" (Revelation 14:13). Jesus soothed the apostles by reassuring them that in His Father's house are many rooms, and a place is prepared for them (John 14:1-2). "Rest" does not necessarily mean we will do nothing. We will not be bored. Any effort we put forth will be pleasant and untiring. No more temptations! No more hardships!



HEAVEN WILL BE A PLACE OF REVERENCE

Heaven will be a place of **reverence** where we adore and worship God. The whole population of heaven worships God (Nehemiah 9:6). In John's glimpse of heaven, recorded in the book of Revelation, he saw multitudes of heavenly beings singing, praising, and thanking both God and Christ.

We ought to sing and praise God often so that we expand our spiritual desire to do so after this life is over.

Do you remember how God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden? But they had to leave when they sinned, and they then had to work hard to get food and live. Heaven will be the ultimate paradise of God. We will



have every need supplied, and everything will be wonderful.

HEAVEN WILL BE A PLACE OF RESERVATION

But you have to have a **reservation**! Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. You have to prepare to go there. Jesus said that He left Earth to prepare a place for us (John 14:2). But heaven is not for everyone. Those who do not obey Christ will not get to go to heaven.

Three pictures are given of heaven in the book of Revelation. One picture is that of a bride prepared for her husband (21:1-8). The thrilling feature of this picture is that God will **live** with her: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God" (vs. 3). Can you imagine a place where you will actually be with God all the time, forever? Can you imagine actually sitting with God and Christ? Jesus declared, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (3:21). That means the end of tears, crying, pain, and death! Can you imagine that?

Another picture of heaven is that of a city (21:9-27). This city radiates the glory of God, reflecting light like a jasper stone—crystal clear. The city is surrounded by high walls with twelve gates—three gates on each side. The city sits on twelve foundations, each made from precious, expensive materials. The crystal clear walls reflect the gold shimmer of the city itself.

The city forms a perfect cube. If the numbers of Revelation were literal, the city would measure about 1500 miles long, wide, and high! Each of the twelve gates is a gigantic pearl. The city street is pure gold, like transparent glass. No church building or temple is there since God and Christ are its temple. No street lights, Sun, or

Christians



Moon are necessary since the glory of God and Christ illuminate it. In fact, there is no night there! The gates are never closed—since only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life are there.

Are you ever afraid? Afraid that someone will hurt you, or

that you will be in an accident? Afraid of tornadoes, hurricanes, or floods? Afraid of sickness or death? In heaven, we will be perfectly secure and protected. No more fears!

A third picture of heaven is of a garden (22:1-5)—the "Paradise of God" (2:7). It is far better than the Garden of Eden; and the Tree of Life is there! A crystal river flows from the throne of God. On its bank is the Tree of Life that bears fruit twelve months out of the year. Healing power is in the leaves. We shall see God's face! We will have no concerns, no worries, no cares. All our needs will be supplied. God will see to it that we are contented and happy throughout all eternity. But we must work hard to love Him and obey Him every day while we are alive on Earth.



ROAD TO HEAVEN

ACTIVITY PAGES



TRUE OR FALSE

- Faithful Christians will be lost eternally along with wicked people.
- All one must do is "believe" in order to get "into Christ."
- In the moment of death, when Lazarus' soul left his body, angels were standing by, ready to take Lazarus into paradise.
- The Bible also indicates that angels took the rich man away when he died.
- Heaven will be a place of rest from all our labors on Earth.
- God wants all men to be saved.
- God is just.
- Eternal life is for everyone who has ever lived.

SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE

- Those who are "in Christ"

- A place of eternal punishment

- Those "outside of Christ"

- Lazarus met this patriarch in paradise _____
- The rich man begged for this

- Babies are in this condition

- There will be no need for this star in heaven, because God provides light

- Jesus came to Earth to die for this



U O X C N S A Y A M Z
 B G H O J U C E D L M
 W G Z J P E S G M A C
 Q A B C P O T A B C A
 S T T F H N H W V U W
 T S E E F A S N G E M
 H O L H R T I V K X D
 I L R B J Y N P Z H L
 T D A P D B E B T V T

MATCHING

Match the blessing of being "in Christ" with the related scripture

- Salvation
- Spiritual blessings
- Forgiveness
- Redemption
- Eternal Life

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| A. Romans 6:23 | D. Romans 3:24 |
| B. Colossians 1:14 | E. Ephesians 1:3 |
| C. 2 Timothy 2:10 | |

COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)

- "_____ are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may _____ from their labors'" (Revelation 14:13).
- "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they also may obtain the _____ which is _____ Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).
- "Consider the goodness and _____ of God" (Romans 11:22).



Dear Digger Doug,
 Is it okay that babies, who don't know God yet, die and then go to hell because they don't believe in God?



Dear Reader,

Through the years, some people have taught that when babies are born, they "inherit" the sins of their parents. Those same people also teach that, if a baby were to die, he or she would go to hell because of the parents' sins. However, the Bible teaches something very different. God says that babies do not become sinners because of their parents. In Ezekiel 18:20, the Bible says: "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son." Babies cannot sin, because they do not even know what sin is, and they are not able to understand God's will. They aren't capable of "belief" (Mark 16:16). The Bible never says that babies go to hell. In fact, the Bible teaches that babies are in a safe state, which means that they would go to heaven if they were to die. In 2 Samuel 12:23, King David said that his dead infant son would never return to this Earth, but David also said that one day he would go to be with his son. King David was looking forward to the day when he would be able to meet his son in heaven. Also, Jesus said in Matthew 18:3-5 that all people who want to go to heaven must become like little children. And in Luke 18:16-17, Jesus said that the kingdom of God is made up of little children. Regardless of what some people teach, the Bible, which is God's Word, teaches that babies will be in heaven.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



God is a loving God, a heavenly Father Who wants all people to be saved. That is why He sent Jesus to die for us, giving all people the opportunity to have their sins forgiven. Those who obey Jesus are promised a reward in heaven after they die. That's what we would expect from a loving God. But just as surely as God will reward those who obey Him, He will punish those who reject Him. Paul wrote: "Therefore consider the goodness **and** severity of God" (Romans 11:22). God is merciful **and** just. Justice means doing what is right. Though only God perfectly understands justice, we can understand that bad people who reject Jesus should be punished, and that good people who accept Jesus will be rewarded.

The place of punishment is called hell. Hell is a terrible place reserved for the wicked. The Bible describes it as a "lake of fire and brimstone" where the devil will be tormented "day and night forever and ever" (Revelation

20:10). Fire is used to show us how painful the torture of hell will be. Those who go to hell will suffer eternally in a place "where the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:48). As bad as that sounds, the worst part about hell is that all those who go there will be separated from God, Jesus, and all saved people. On the Day of Judgment, Jesus will tell the lost to "depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). One of the worst things about hell will be the bad company!

Fortunately, we can avoid this terrible place. Hell exists because sin must be punished. If we can rid ourselves of sin, we can escape the lake of fire. We have no power on our own to wash away sins we have committed, but God sent His Son to take care of it for us. Because He died, His blood can cleanse us of our sins. If we obey Jesus and live a life of service to Him, we can be sure that we will avoid the fires of hell, and instead, inherit the kingdom of peace and happiness prepared for the faithful from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34).



ANSWERS

COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES: 1. Blessed, rest; 2. salvation, in; 3. severity.
TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-F; 3-T; 4-F; 5-T; 6-T; 7-T; 8-F; 9-F; 10-F; 11-F; 12-F; 13-F; 14-F; 15-F; 16-F; 17-F; 18-F; 19-F; 20-F; 21-F; 22-F; 23-F; 24-F; 25-F; 26-F; 27-F; 28-F; 29-F; 30-F; 31-F; 32-F; 33-F; 34-F; 35-F; 36-F; 37-F; 38-F; 39-F; 40-F; 41-F; 42-F; 43-F; 44-F; 45-F; 46-F; 47-F; 48-F; 49-F; 50-F; 51-F; 52-F; 53-F; 54-F; 55-F; 56-F; 57-F; 58-F; 59-F; 60-F; 61-F; 62-F; 63-F; 64-F; 65-F; 66-F; 67-F; 68-F; 69-F; 70-F; 71-F; 72-F; 73-F; 74-F; 75-F; 76-F; 77-F; 78-F; 79-F; 80-F; 81-F; 82-F; 83-F; 84-F; 85-F; 86-F; 87-F; 88-F; 89-F; 90-F; 91-F; 92-F; 93-F; 94-F; 95-F; 96-F; 97-F; 98-F; 99-F; 100-F.
sin. MATCHING: 1. C (2 Timothy 2:10); 2. E (Ephesians 1:3); 3. B (Colossians 1:14); 4. D (Romans 3:24); 5. A (Romans 6:23).
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