

## Issues That Can Keep People Out Of Heaven

'Jesus said, "Unless a person is born-again he cannot ever see the Kingdom of God ... I assure you most solemnly (seriously), unless a man is born of water and of the Holy Spirit he cannot ever enter the Kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Marvel not and do not be surprised or astonished at My telling you; you must all be born anew from above"' (John 3:3 to 7).

'Stand firm in the faith, for it is through many hardships and tribulations (pressures) that we must enter the Kingdom of God' (Acts 14:22).

'Enter (the Kingdom of God) through the narrow gate; for wide (or spacious) is the gate that leads to destruction (hell), and many are those who are entering (into hell) through it. But the gate (to heaven) is narrow (constricted by pressure) and the way is straightened (or compressed) that leads away to eternal life, and few are those who find it' (Matthew 7:13 & 14).

'Blessed are those who cleanse their garments that they may have the right to approach the tree of life and enter through the gates into the city' (Revelation 22:14). We could say, blessed are those who clean up their lives. They have the right to eternal life in heaven.

What Jesus was saying in Matthew 7:13 & 14, is that there are far more people going to hell than to heaven. 'Many' people are going to hell, and only a 'few' find their way to heaven. There are many issues confronting people in the world today and the deception of some teachings can keep people away from God and thus out of heaven. When people reject God and are involved in wickedness, sometimes He will send a delusion. 'Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, an error ... because they took pleasure in unrighteousness' (2 Thessalonians 2:11 & 12).

We will list a few: Sexual immorality of all persuasions ... God created sex for marriage and all sex outside of marriage is sin.

Unbelief ... If we don't believe in God or His Son Jesus, then we can't be saved and therefore, can't get into heaven.

Smoking, alcoholism and illegal drugs can keep people so bound by the addiction that they have enormous difficulty finding God. If they do become Christian and keep ingesting drugs, the addiction can have a detrimental effect on their walk with the Lord. It is not possible to grow as a Christian when we are giving in to sin. 'Be not drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Holy Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18). We need to glorify God in our bodies – so if it doesn't glorify God – for your own sake, don't touch it.

Another issue that can keep people out of God's will and therefore His Kingdom is woman's liberation. Women involved in this are often aggressively rebellious and find submitting to God's will extremely difficult, and thus it can cause them to miss out on going to heaven. They really don't want to hand over their will to someone else, and as a Christian we must have the attitude, "Not my will but Yours O Lord."

Rock music is sometimes so evil it takes an evil heart to appreciate it. If we want to grow as a Christian we will need to get all secular music out of our life. There is no secular music that glorifies God; therefore as a Christian, we should not fill our mind with it. Secular music lyrics are usually negative and can bring a negative atmosphere, and therefore induce depression, rebellion and sometimes even thoughts of suicide. There is a host of various types of good Christian music that can be enjoyed by all Christians wanting to edify themselves by hearing the Word of God in song. So-called 'Christian' rock music is not Christian at all. It is a deception by the devil to get people 'hooked'

so they will not listen to truly edifying music that does glorify God. If the music you listen to doesn't glorify God – for your own sake, don't listen to it.

Other issues that keep people's interest on worldly things and off God's chosen way for mankind are the great global warming hoax, UFO's, pseudo 'Christian' religions, evolution, the new age movement, eastern religions, false religions, the occult, sport, special interest and minority groups which have hijacked reality. Anybody who believes in any of these things are headed for eternity without God unless they repent of believing in these lies and turn to God the Father.

Have a look at the website (not our website, but another) called 'The Great Global Warming Hoax' for more details about how the whole world is being deceived by a few liars in the media with their own evil agenda. The world heats and cools in its own regular cycles and has done since creation. It is normal and not to be feared. Missing out on heaven is far more of a problem than warm weather!

Evolution is another lie from the devil and is completely contrary to scripture. Read the first two chapters of Genesis which tells us all about the creation story. It is a true story because the Bible is a book of truth, written by Jewish men, who were inspired by God. There is no room for compromise. The Bible is the truth and evolution is a lie. For more information about creation, browse the website called 'Answers in Genesis'. See [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org)

The New Age movement - which has settled down a lot - would have brought many people to the brink of a lost eternity. Believing in a so-called new age or the 'Age of Aquarius' is denying the Sovereignty of God. We can never be gods and will never be gods. We are created beings, made by God for His purposes and plans for eternity. Being a Christian is more than being a holy person on earth; it is God's plan for humans for eternity. If we refuse to accept God's plan of salvation, we will be separated from Him forever. There is no other way of salvation.

The fairly modern phenomenon regarding UFO's is deceiving thousands of people. The Old and New Testaments in the Bible talk about other creations other than the human race and animals on earth, but mankind is the one and only creation to ever be given a Saviour. There are divine armies that are invisible to our sense of sight, that come to earth when the Lord asks them to. Angels are the Lord's messengers to minister to His people (Hebrews 1:14) and sometimes Christians do see them, but only when the Lord chooses to open their spiritual eyes so they can see them (2 Kings 6:17; Zechariah 5:1, 2, 5). Some people have had angels visit them (Luke 1:11; 1:26), some people see angels in dreams (Matthew 1:20; 2:19), sometimes angels eat meals with people without the people knowing they were angels (Hebrews 13:2). Born-again Christians can and do speak in the languages of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1). More scriptures that describe other creations in heaven can be found in the book of Ezekiel. We see that there are things in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities (Colossians 1:16), and wicked things in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). There are evil beings that are lurking around on the earth and in the air (Ephesians 2:2; 6:12). They can do things that delude people (2 Thessalonians 2:9 to 11). Those evil beings will end up in eternal fire (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

The Apostle Paul was taken up into the third heaven and heard things that he could not describe (2 Corinthians 12:2 to 4), so we know there is at least three levels of heaven. All other creations that do not live in the third heaven and above, do not have a way of salvation and are doomed. Certainly they can move around the first and second heavens (the upper atmosphere) as the scriptures tell us, and they appear to be able to 'do wondrous things' (Matthew 24:24), but they can not touch nor hurt a Christian who is covered and justified by the redemptive blood of Jesus. UFO's are real, and they are also really evil. The so-called UFO sightings will increase as evil on the earth increases, but they will never, ever take over the earth. God will not let that happen. All they can do is deceive, delude and frighten people. For your own sake, ignore them. Some foolish people like to believe - and they actually make out - UFO's are more than they really are. To embrace UFO's, is to embrace evil. Science fiction regarding the universe is almost always utterly evil. One only has to look at the 'faces'

of the so-called 'aliens' in the movies to see that. The current Mir space station that is being regularly added to, is not of God and one day He will destroy it; because He created the earth to be inhabited, not space (Isaiah 45:18). If UFO's frighten you then perhaps you need to accept Jesus as your Saviour. Only He can save us and protect us from all the evil that will be coming upon the whole earth (Matthew 24:31). Jesus said not to allow ourselves to be misled (Matthew 24:4; Mark 13:22).

False religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikh-ism, Scientology, Jehovah's Witnesses, Raelians, witchcraft/warlocks, Wicca, the occult, Satanism, Reiki, Yoga, idolatry, Jainism, Confucianism, Zen, Freemasonry, order of the skull and bones, Fabianism, Rosicrucians, astrology, teacup reading, compilers and readers of horoscopes, 'Christian' science, meditations other than meditating on the Bible are all going the wrong way and those who practice such things need to repent of their sin or they will perish. They cannot enter the Kingdom of God. All of these beliefs are doctrines that demons teach (1 Timothy 4:1). All of these false religions and beliefs lead away from God, and thus away from heaven. It is a sad fact, but to comprehend the scripture regarding the wide and narrow gates (Matthew 7:13 & 14), is to understand that only a few will find their way to heaven and most people will end up in hell, and after the final judgement – the lake of fire. Don't allow yourself to head for destruction, but accept Jesus as your Saviour without delay.

How can we be saved? How can we live without fear? How can we enter heaven? The one and only way to enter heaven when we die is by becoming a Christian and accepting Jesus as our personal Messiah and Saviour. Absolutely nobody can enter heaven except first we repent of our sins and false beliefs and accept God's provision for salvation. The Bible says God has provided the one and only way of eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life and nobody comes to the Father except by Me" (John 14:6).

If you are involved in any of the false religions mentioned above, or if you are involved in any belief other than Christianity, then you need to repent, turn away from the false beliefs and ask the Lord God our Father and His Son Jesus into your life. That is the one and only way to get into heaven. To believe in a false religion is to disbelieve the truth. You are believing in a doctrine taught by demons, spoken by the father of lies, the devil (John 8:44). 'He who believes in the Son of God has Jesus' testimony within him. He who does not believe God, has made Him out to be a liar because he has not believed the evidence that God has borne, regarding His Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who possesses the Son has that life; he who does not possess the Son of God does not have that life' (1 John 5:10 to 12).

Even a 'religious' person can be kept out of heaven by trusting in their religion, rather than trusting in Jesus. We can read in all the four Gospels, how the religious people of Jesus' time (the scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees) mocked Him, were hostile to Him, and we can also read Jesus' anger towards their strong religious beliefs. Jesus said our righteousness must be more than that of the religious people or we will never enter heaven (Matthew 5:20). Jesus said 'woe to them' for their sin was keeping them and others out of heaven (Matthew 23:13 to 29).

Another false 'god' that can keep people out of heaven is sport. Have you seen how the fans stand, raise their arms in the air then bow en masse to the sports team? That is idolatry. The people are worshipping the 'god' of sport. We can't serve two masters. Either they will serve the sports team or they will serve God. If they are worshipping the 'god' of sport by raising their hands and bowing then it is impossible for them to be worshipping the Lord God at the same time. They all need to repent and turn to God. Playing sport is not a sin. In fact it is good for your health and is good for enhancing self discipline. It is the worship of sport that is wrong; and it is the love of sport that is wrong. We need to love the Lord with all our hearts, all our soul, all our minds and all our strength (Mark 12:30). We can enjoy sport, but we must love the Lord.

Wealth can also keep people out of heaven. 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven ... With men this is impossible, but all things are

possible with God' (Matthew 19:24 & 26). 'How hard is it for those who are wealthy and trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God? ... It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God ... but all things are possible with God' (Mark 10:23, 25, 27). 'It is easier for a camel to enter through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God ... What is impossible with men is possible with God' (Luke 18:25 & 27). In order to get into heaven, we need to trust in the Lord and not in our wealth. It is not wrong to be wealthy but is wrong to trust solely in our wealth because we can lose it in an instant. It is not money that is the root of evil; it is the love of money that is the root of all evils (1 Timothy 6:10). Besides this, it is God who gives us the power to get wealth in the first place. 'Beware lest you say in your heart, my power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. You shall earnestly remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the power to get wealth' (Deuteronomy 8:17 & 18). The Lord gives people the power to gain wealth but we, as God's stewards on earth, have to use it wisely. Remember, all the money in the world belongs to God and He gives it to whomever He wills. What we do with it, is what counts, not how much we have or don't have.

Reincarnation is another issue that keeps people from accepting God. They think if they 'blow it' in this life then they may succeed in the next – so they think there is no need for salvation. That thought is very wrong. Some religions believe they might be reincarnated as rats or insects! They would have to be very far away from God for Him to allow them to be so deluded, because He wants to save them. There is no reincarnation – there is no second chance – we must be born-again in this life – we only have one chance – and one chance only. 'It is appointed for all men (and women) once to die, and after that comes the certain judgement' (Hebrews 9:27).

Illness is another issue that keeps people out of heaven. Even when faced with death, some people still refuse to turn to God, and dead people can't ask God into their lives when there is no more life. If you are facing death through illness, then you need to turn to God, or you will be lost. We only have one chance. If you are a parent who has lost a young child, don't worry. All children go straight to heaven when they die (2 Samuel 12:23). It is only the adults, who have a knowledge of sin, of good and evil, and choose to ignore God's cleansing power, who will be lost forever if they don't repent.

To accept Jesus and form a loving relationship with God the Father, through Jesus His Son, is to know peace and to be free from the anxieties of this world. People who don't know God, don't have peace. 'There is no peace for the wicked' (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21). To get to heaven, we must have a deep, personal relationship with God, we must be born-again of God and we must be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit as Jesus said (John 3:3 to 7). Remember Jesus said not to be surprised or astonished at His telling us that. We should not be surprised that we have to adhere to the way of salvation chosen by God. It was His choice to offer salvation, and His choice to do it through Jesus. Jesus was saying we are not to be surprised that His conditions for our salvation, is to be truly born-again of the Spirit of God, not just become a religious person. To be born-again is to take voluntary steps towards God. What steps? Let's have a look.

Step one: Believe. If we don't believe in God or Jesus or salvation, it is impossible to be born-again and therefore impossible to get into heaven. 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household' (Acts 16:31).

Step two: Ask God into our life. He stands waiting for us to invite Him into our life. He will never push His way in. It has to be our choice and our free will. We have to invite Him in. Read the wonderful, inviting words of Jesus in this fantastic scripture; "Behold; I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to them, and will eat with them and they will eat with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

Step three: Repent. That means to turn away from our old life and begin a new life with God. The word 'repent' means more than simply turning over a new leaf. It is much more involved than that. To repent is to change our mind for the better and heartily amend our ways, with abhorrence of our past

sins. We can read Jesus' double call to repentance, and that tells us He was very serious about repentance; "I tell you; unless you repent you will all perish and be lost eternally ... I tell you; unless you repent you will all perish and be lost eternally" (Luke 13:3 & 5).

Step four: Be baptised. Jesus was baptised and in obedience, we also need to be baptised. Everyone has to be baptised; not just some of us, but everyone. If we are not baptised, we are not being obedient. Repentance and baptism go hand in hand. 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus our Messiah for the forgiveness from your sins; and you shall receive the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:38).

Step five: Find a church that will support your new life and attend regularly. The Lord expects us to fellowship with other believers. 'Do not forsake assembling together as believers, as is the habit of some people' (Hebrews 10:25). If for some reason you are unable to attend a church, then find someone who is born-again and ask them to fellowship with you and guide you.

Step six: Grow in grace. As you spend time with God, praying, listening to Christian music, attending church, reading the Bible and fellowshiping with other Christians, so you will become more like Jesus, which is our ultimate goal. 'But grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus our Messiah, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen' (2 Peter 3:18).

There are many more issues that keep people out of the Kingdom of God; more than we could possibly list here, but the main issue is unbelief. There is only one way into heaven and it is simple; believe in Jesus, accept Him into your life and you will be saved. The only answer to all the judgement that will come upon the whole earth is for people to seek God and believe in Jesus His Son. People must repent of their sins, turn from their self-centred ways and receive the blessing of eternal life with God.

We do hope and pray this text will open the eyes of unsaved people, so that they will turn from their false beliefs and accept Jesus and become born-again as the scriptures say. Do you know heaven rejoices every time a sinner repents? Jesus said there is joy in heaven every time someone turns away from sin and turns to God. "Thus I tell you; there will be more joy in heaven over one who repents than over 99 righteous people who have no need of repentance. Even so, I tell you; there is joy in the presence of the angels of God, over one who repents" (Luke 15:7 & 10).

Amen and God bless you.

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