

# How to obtain Eternal Life

David 2011

## What Jesus Said

Many people have wondered how actually you receive eternal life and go to Heaven.

The Bible may not always seem clear but Jesus directly deals with this issue.

In Luke 10:25 a Pharisee asks Jesus, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" In verse 26 Jesus replies with "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"

## The Mosaic Law

The Law was a set of 613 commandments for how to live. What Jesus is saying here is to obtain eternal life, you must keep the Law.

Leviticus 18:4-5 "You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the LORD your God. So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 18:9 "if he walks in My statutes and My ordinances so as to deal faithfully-he is righteous and will surely live," declares the Lord GOD.

If you want to live forever in Heaven, what you must do is keep the Law. But keeping the Law is not like being a good person. The Law is a single set of governing rules, and you must keep the whole set.

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."

## 10 Commandments

To see if you have kept the Law lets go through some of the 10 Commandments: the most well-known part of the Law.

The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment says, "You shall not lie." Have you ever told a lie? What does that make you? A Liar

The 8<sup>th</sup> commandment says, "You shall not steal." Have you ever stolen anything? Irrespective of its value? What does that make you? A Thief

The 7<sup>th</sup> commandment says, "You shall not commit adultery." Seems like an easy one right? But Jesus says in Matthew 5:27-28, "I say to you that everyone who looks at a

woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Have you ever lusted after someone? What does that make you? An adulterer at heart

The 6<sup>th</sup> commandment says, “You shall not murder.” This one also looks like an easy one, but the Bible says differently. Jesus also says in Matt 2:22, “I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.” Also 1 John 3:15 says, “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” Have you ever hated someone or been unjustly angry with someone? If so, then you are a murderer at heart.

If you said yes to any of these, if you are a liar or a thief or an adulterer or murderer at heart, then you have broken God’s Law. (and this is only 4 of the 613 commandments) Remember James 2:10.

### **The Problem**

If you’ve broken God’s Law, you cannot inherit eternal life. God is a perfect and righteous judge; He must judge sinners. God says the penalty for sin is death: eternal separation from God in hell. Romans 6:23.

### **The Solution**

According to this the situation looks grim. Being perfect, God must judge sinners. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that everyone has sinned. If that’s the case, how can anyone go to heaven?

Romans 3:21 says, “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been made known.” Jesus Christ kept the whole Law and yet He died. He died to pay your penalty. Since He was perfect, He didn’t have to pay a penalty of death, He could pay your penalty.

Think of yourself in a courtroom. You are guilty of a serious crime and the sentence is a \$1,000,000 fine or life in prison. You don’t have the money so the judge has to send you to jail. Then someone you don’t even know steps up and says he’ll pay the fine for you. The judge counts the money and sees that there is \$1,000,000 there. He then says that your fine has been paid and you are free to go.

That is what Jesus did for us at the cross. We are guilty before God of breaking His Law, and we have nothing to offer as payment for that. God then has to sentence us to death, but before he does that Jesus said, “I’ll pay their penalty; I’ll die for them.” God then sees that as adequate payment for our sins.

## **Application**

So Jesus paid my penalty, does that mean I'm going to heaven? NO. To inherit eternal life there are two things you must do. You must repent (turn away from) your sin and believe in Jesus.

Repenting means being remorseful for your sins and asking God to forgive you. Believing in Jesus means that when you ask God to forgive you, you trust that He will. Repenting includes turning away from your sin and surrendering your life to God and choosing to life for Him.

You need to believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You need to trust Jesus, like you would trust a parachute. You need to transfer your trust from yourself and your righteousness and place it in Jesus and His righteousness and grace.

## **Believe**

John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

Acts 16:31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

## **Repent**

Mark 1:15 "repent and believe in the gospel."

Acts 3:19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away"

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, unless you repent, you will perish."

Acts 17:30-31 "God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed (Jesus), having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

## **Summary**

The Bible makes it clear that everyone has sinned and because they have sinned everyone deserves death in hell. But Jesus paid that debt on the cross. All you must do to have that death credited to you is repent of your sins and trust Jesus as the savior of your soul.