

Can You Miss Heaven By 18 Inches?

Gospel of John

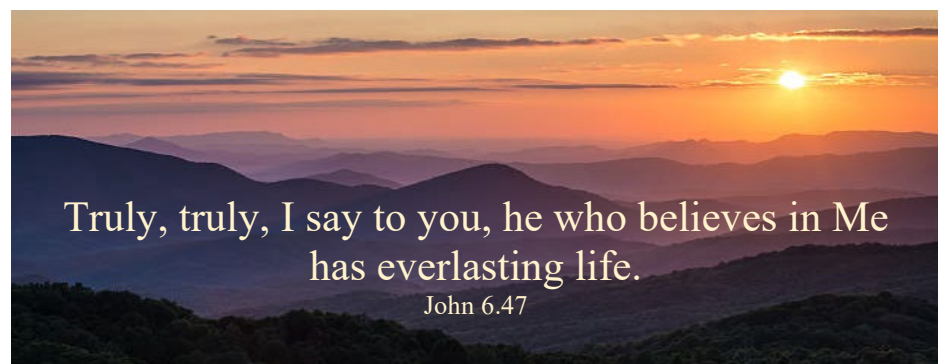
Throughout history, people have wondered about life after death. Will we live forever? Jesus said that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (will be in heaven). But theologians have confounded what Jesus made simple! Time to let the Gospel of John clear up what we have confused...

Four Ultimate Questions Satan Seeks to Confuse

- Where did I come from? (the question of origin)
- Why am I here? (the question of meaning)
- What is required of me? (the question of purpose)
- Where am I going? (the question of destiny)

John's Gospel Corrects Three Common Errors

- *Believing will 'justify' you, but it won't get you into heaven!*
- *Believing is fine, but you must repent of sin to get into heaven.*
- *If you only have 'head faith', you'll 'miss heaven by 18 inches'!*



1. In his book *The Grace Awakening*, Chuck Swindoll wrote, “Man is incurably addicted to doing something for his own salvation.” This was true in the first century, and it is true today. Paul’s first epistle was to the Galatian Christians, who were seduced by “Judaizers” who said they needed to perform works (of the law) to show they were *really* saved. Read these verses from Galatians: 1.6-9; 2.4-5, 16, 20-21; 3.1-14, 23-26; 5.1; 6.14. How does Paul guard the free gift of salvation by grace through faith in Christ, while at the same time exhorting his Christian readers to godliness?
2. Some Calvinist theologians say good works are necessary for eternal life – you can believe in Jesus and be *justified*, but if you don’t live a holy life, you won’t get into heaven! What does ‘justified’ mean? The Greek verb δικαιόω (*dikaioō*) means “acquitted, pronounced righteous.” It’s related to the noun δίκαιος (*dikaios*), which means “righteous” (= ‘right with God’). What is required to be justified – to be ‘right with God’? See Rom. 3.21-28; 4.1-5. What does everyone who is justified have? See Rom. 5.1-2; Titus 3.5-7.
3. It’s clear that we are ‘justified’ by faith (believing in Jesus). What does the Gospel of John say is required for a person to have eternal life (get into heaven)? See John 1.12; 3.14-16, 36; 5.24; 6.29, 40, 47-51; 11.25-26; 20.31. Is there any biblical difference between the requirement for justification, and the requirement for eternal life? Why do you think some theologians want to say that there is?
4. John uses the word “believe” 99 times in his Gospel, but doesn’t use the word “repent” once! Why is this significant? What was his goal was in writing his Gospel (see Jn. 20.31)?
5. Some say believing “in” Jesus to save you = ‘heart faith’ (it saves you), but believing “that” Jesus saves you = ‘head faith’ (it doesn’t save you). How do they say you know if you have the right kind of faith? What does John say you receive if you believe “that” Jesus is God’s Son, who forgives sin and gives eternal life? See John 4.42, 50; 5.47; 6.69; 8.24; 10.38; 11.25-27, 42; 13.19; 16.27, 30; 17.7-8, 21; 20.31. Is this any different than believing “in” Jesus?