

Getting to Heaven...
Or... Why Being "Good" Doesn't Cut It.
Matthew 5:48

What is the purpose of religion? Ultimately religion exists to deal with the issue of _____ when they die.

I. What Is Your Hope Of Life After Death?

- A. Some base their hope on _____.
- B. Some base their understanding of life after death upon their _____ or understanding.
- C. Related to both of these concepts of eternal life is the pervasive belief that if one is _____ they will go to Heaven.
- D. Question and challenge - If being "basically good" gets one into Heaven...
 - 1) What does that goodness look like? What is the standard of goodness? What is its _____?
 - 2) How much "good" is required to get into Heaven - _____?

Do you define goodness as the absence of evil or bad deeds? Is it only based on one's outward actions? What about _____?

II. What Does God Require Of Us To Go To Heaven?

- A. (1) Why do some people get weird and/or offended at suggestions that God, our Creator, has a standard or conditions for _____?
(2) How can people persistently misquote, misapply, or choose to ignore significant sections of the Bible, yet claim to be _____?

For thought: If something in the Bible is not true, how can you know that any of it is true? _____ one thing is true but another isn't? (c.f. 2 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 3:4)

- B. What does God have to say about our going to Heaven, of being a genuine _____? (Matt. 5:48)
- C. "Perfect": "Carried through to completion in every detail; in a state proper to a thing when completed; having all essential elements or characteristics; lacking in no respect; complete; in a state of complete excellence; without blemish or defect; faultless; of supreme moral excellence; completely skilled or versed; having learned one's lesson or part thoroughly; completely corresponding to a type or description; exact; as, a *perfect* sphere; correct in every detail; as, a *perfect* copy; entire or unqualified; pure or unmixed; as, *perfect* yellow..." (New Webster's Dictionary)
- D. Perfection as commanded by Christ has an objective standard - _____.
- E. Jesus sets an _____ standard to enter Heaven - perfection! (c.f. James 2:10; John 3:13)

III. What Hope Do We Have Of Eternal Life?

_____ (c.f. 2 Cor. 5:21; John 3:16; 1 John 5:13; Rom. 3:10-12 [see Ps. 14:1-3; 53:1-4]; 6:23; 10:9-10, 13)

Conclusion and Application...

God doesn't grade on a curve, He grades on the cross.

What is your hope of Heaven? How Certain are you?