

THE WAY TO HEAVEN

(Jer. 10:23)

Introduction:

1. The only way to heaven (where God dwells) is the way detailed by God in His word.
2. The way to heaven can be condensed down to three main directions: seek God; come to Jesus; and obey His word.

Discussion:

I. Read Matt. 19:16-26.

II. Seek God.

- A. This rich (Matt. 19:22) young (Matt. 19:20) ruler (most likely a ruler over a synagogue or a member of the Sanhedrin) was a blessed man.
 1. One might wonder how he became a rich ruler, but it probably has something to do with his love of God (Matt. 19:20; Mk. 10:21).
 2. It would have been via his devotion to God that he would have been a ruler of a synagogue or a member of the Sanhedrin. God blesses those who love Him (Ps. 1; Ex. 20:6).
 3. Even though this young man was rich, he was still God-minded.
- B. We too, if we would be pleasing to God must seek Him. Consider...
 1. Heb. 11:6 = we must believe that God is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.
 2. Matt. 7:7-11 = God will be found by those who seek Him, and He will reward them.
- C. God has made many promises regarding this wonderful truth (Gen. 4:7; Deut. 4:29; 2 Chron. 15:1-15; Amos 5:4-6, 14; Matt. 6:33; Luke 19:10; et al).

III. Come to Jesus.

- A. This blessed rich young ruler came to Jesus. Why?
- B. Because seeking God points one to Jesus.
 1. Jesus is the theme of the Bible, the purpose of Israel, and the purpose of our lives (Col. 1:13-20).
 2. An honest student of the Law of Moses would have recognized Jesus and sought Him out (John 1:45; 5:46).
 3. Notice how this fine young man came to Jesus: running and kneeling (Mk. 10:17).
- C. We too, if we would be saved, must come to Jesus (Matt. 11:28-30).
- D. For there is no other name under heaven by which we MUST be saved (Acts. 4:12; John 14:6).

IV. Obey His Word.

- A. Unfortunately the rich young ruler went away from Jesus not having obeyed **all** that he had commanded (Matt. 19:22). It appears he reached a point where his own desires conflicted with God's and he left both (Jesus and God, who are one).
- B. Unfortunately many today do the very same thing, whether consciously or not. To have Jesus as Lord and Christ is to obey ALL that He has commanded us (Jas. 2:10). If we do obey all, we will rejoice, not go away sorrowful. Remember the haunting words of Matt. 7:21-23 and Luke 6:46.
- C. The message of the Bible is "S" simple = Seek the Savior, Submit and be Saved!

Conclusion:

1. Truly there are ways that seem right to man, but they lead to death because they are not from God (Prov. 14:12).
2. Let us be wise, not fools, and seek salvation according to God's directions. Let us be God minded, seeking Him and His ways always. Let us recognize our Lord as our Lord; and let us happily serve Him unto heaven.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “THE WAY TO HEAVEN”

1. To be with God in heaven we must...
 - ▶ Be mindful of Him.
 - ▶ Desire to be with Him.
 - ▶ Pursue that desire with our lives.
 - ▶ Go where He directs us.
 - ▶ Serve whom He commands we serve.
 - ▶ Submit to the things He commands.
 - ▶ Become as much like Him as possible in the flesh.
 - ▶ Die having made God our life.

In other words, to be with God in heaven we must be with God, like God, here on earth.

2. The Bible is the only inspired source (God-sourced = 2 Tim. 3:16) for information about God and His Way; thus, the paramount importance of Bible understanding.
3. Jesus was God in the flesh, and so nothing has changed it has been clarified (John 14:9; Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15). Jesus paid the price for our sin, but also completed the picture of God for us to pursue. It is all about targets, aims, and success or failure.
4. Once Jesus is found and His word discovered, then the battle truly begins.
 - ▶ God’s will/way or our own?
 - ▶ God on the throne or us?
 - ▶ God as God or not?
 - ▶ Jesus as both Lord and Christ or not?
 - ▶ The pleasures of this physical existence or the eternal bliss of heaven?
 - ▶ Preeminence of the corrupt or the incorruptible?
5. This is not an easy way to walk, thus the many admonitions to be strong and of good courage (Josh. 1:1-6, 7, 9), the constant focusing of God’s people on the goal (Col. 3:1-5); and the constant reminder of who Jesus is and what He has done (Heb. 12:2).
6. As the great theologian O. Osborne quipped, “my good intentions paved a path to hell”. Truly the way to hell can be paved with good intentions. It is not about good intentions, it is about God intentions. And, they are the epitome of good. Brethren, save yourself from this perverse generation, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, placing all your hope in Jesus-for that hope does not disappoint.