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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

YOU CAN GO TO HEAVEN!

Do you want to go to heaven? You can! Most of us have grown up hearing about heaven. The Bible is clear that heaven is an actual place where God dwells and where those who accept His offer of salvation will exist in eternity. In his prayer to God Solomon uttered the words, "...Hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive" (1 Kings 8:30). In view of His coming death and His return to heaven, Jesus promised His disciples "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). The reference to Jesus' Father's house is clearly where God dwells which is heaven. Paul wrote to Christians these reassuring words, "For our citizenship **is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself" (Philippians 3:20-21). Yes, heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

Not everyone is going to heaven. Jesus said many are walking the broad way that leads to destruction while only a few are traveling the strait and narrow way that leads to life (Matthew 7:12-14). Those who persist in the practice of sin will not be allowed to enter into heaven. "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8).

To prepare for heaven one must be willing to hear and follow the directions of the written Word of God. This preparation requires faith in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24), turning from sin in repentance (Luke 13:3), confessing one's faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and being immersed in water into the death of Jesus there to reach His cleansing blood which washes away sin (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). However, these initial steps are only the beginning of a new life of spiritual growth and faithful service in preparation for heaven. Heaven, the "crown of life" is reserved for those who are "faithful unto death" (Revelation 2:10).

Do YOU want to go to heaven? You can if you are willing to follow God's plan and live daily for Him. call us at 270-978-7569 or email greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org. Thanks for reading!