Have you ever noticed what people say when someone dies?

“They’re in a better place.”

“At least they’re not suffering anymore.”

Or perhaps you’ve seen the familiar letters **R.I.P. - Rest in Peace.**

I understand why people say these things. Nobody wants to think about someone they love facing judgment after death.

But here’s something you need to consider.

Who told you that everyone who dies goes to Heaven?

Certainly not the Bible!

The Bible tells us:

> *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Hebrews 9:27 (KJV)

Did you catch that? After death comes judgment. Not an automatic entrance into Heaven.

Yet people seem to think that dying somehow makes a person righteous.

Someone could spend an entire lifetime rejecting God, ignoring His Word, and living however they please. But when they die, suddenly everyone assumes they’re in Heaven!

On what biblical authority are you making that assumption?

HARD QUESTIONS. STRAIGHT ANSWERS.

Here's What Really Matters

Rather than assuming everyone goes to Heaven, shouldn’t you be concerned about whether YOU are going there?

You cannot change the eternal condition of someone who has already died.

But while you're still alive, you can examine your own standing before God.

So let me leave you with one question.

If you were to die today, what biblical reason do you have to believe you would spend eternity in Heaven?

Hard Questions. Straight Answers.

An Acceptable Offerings Bible Tract

AcceptableOfferings.com

Scripture quotations: King James Version (KJV)



But They Were Such a Good Person!

How many times have you heard that?

"He was a wonderful person! He volunteered at the food pantry, gave generously to charity, helped his neighbors, and would do anything for anybody."

That's wonderful. Those are certainly admirable things.

But none of those things earns someone a free pass into Heaven!

Think about it. Does giving money to charity cancel out your sins? Does volunteering at the local shelter make you righteous before God? Does being better than your neighbor somehow make you good enough for Heaven?

Absolutely not!

The Bible says:

> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*
>
> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Ephesians 2:8–9 (KJV)

You can spend your entire life doing good things for other people, and you should do good things! But those works cannot purchase your salvation.

If good works could get you into Heaven, why did Jesus Christ have to die for your sins?

HARD QUESTIONS. STRAIGHT ANSWERS.

Let's Get Something Straight

God doesn't operate according to our opinions.

GOD IS NOT ONE OF US!

He's the Creator. We're His creation. We don't get to decide who enters Heaven based on whether we thought someone was a good person.

God has already established the requirements for salvation.

Jesus Himself said:

> *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

John 3:3 (KJV)

Now think about that.

If everyone automatically goes to Heaven when they die, why would Jesus say that a person must be born again?

And why would He warn that the broad way leads to destruction while the narrow way leads to life? (Matthew 7:13–14)

The answer is simple. Not everyone goes to Heaven.

HARD QUESTIONS. STRAIGHT ANSWERS.

So Who Does?

Jesus made the answer perfectly clear:

> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 14:6 (KJV)

Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. God calls sinners to repentance toward Him and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Acts 20:21).

And here's something else.

Writing "Rest in Peace" beneath someone's photograph doesn't determine where they spend eternity.

We don't have the authority to declare the eternal destination of every person who dies. That's God's judgment, not ours.

But we do have His Word telling us how a person can be saved.