

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Is It Possible to Be Forgiven?

Bill Brinkworth

An important question was asked in Psalm 24:3, "*Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? ...*" Where will one spend their eternal future was the query. Will it be with the Lord or separated from Him in Hell?

The answer to that question is in Psalm 24:4: "*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*" Although I have never heard anyone use Psalm 24:4 to falsely justify that the only way to be with Jesus is by good works, this verse's explanation may have one wondering.

When verse four is first read, one may interpret that to be with the Saviour one has never to sin, which would make one's "hands" free from iniquity. One may also think that he has to have a sinless, pure heart, never done anything that was not of spiritual value ("vanity"), and never said bad words. Believing that is what is taught in this verse, however, is wrong.

The Bible teaches that all are sinners (Rom. 3:10, 23). We sin and are born (Rom. 5:12) sinners. Sadly, there is no one that "... *hath clean hands* ..." by his own merit.

Are we without ever having hope that we can "ascend into the hill of the LORD"? Fortunately, God has made way for all to have "clean hands" between them and the Lord.

God has sent His only son, Jesus, to be payment for ALL our iniquities. There is nothing we can do to pay off our sin debt because Jesus paid it for us when He died for our sins on the Cross.

When we read or hear of God's salvation plan from His Word and believe it, we can be spiritually cleaned. All our sins can be forgiven and forgotten (Psalm 103:12), and we can know for sure that we will be with Him one of these days.

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church [those that are born again into the family of God], not having spot [sin], or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Eph. 5:26-27

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

1 Peter 1:22

We can be clean from the destructive stain of sin. Our faith in what the Bible teaches about trusting Jesus as our Saviour can make us “clean” and have a “pure heart.” There is nothing anyone can do to earn such an eternal gift but to accept what Jesus has done for us.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:7-8

“God hates the sin, but He loves the sinner.” — D. L. Moody

Are You Sure?

Bill Brinkworth

I have prayed for many people to be saved and have talked to many about what the Bible says one must do to know for sure that they will one day go to Heaven. Some of them are secure in their religion. Many adhere to their own beliefs, even when they are shown Bible verses that teach contrary to what their religion encourages. Often, they will not be swayed to turn to God’s way.

I was thinking the other day that they will not be moved because they are convinced that their religion is right. Often they cannot fathom that as large, popular, or as old as their cult is that it could be wrong. However, as anchored to their beliefs as they are, not one of those that I have witnessed to has ever made one effort to sway me to their beliefs. It would seem to me if they were convinced they were following correct doctrine, they would not want anyone else to go in a wrong eternal direction.

The logical reasons for their not sharing their beliefs with others must be because:

1. They are trusting wholly on what their religion teaches and that it is right. However, they still harbor some doubt.
2. They may not really know all their religion believes, and they do not want to be challenged.
3. They may not be convinced that the Bible is God’s Word and that its teaching is His only way.
4. They do not really care for my soul. They are only concerned about themselves.
5. They may believe, as they were taught, that no one can know for sure that they would go to Heaven when they die.
6. They may believe that there is one God but many ways to get to His Heaven. Because of the false assurance, they are not concerned that Bible-believers believe differently than they do!
7. They may believe there is no Hell, and that all will go to Heaven or a place like it.
8. They do not take the after-life seriously!

Whatever the reason, it seems many with beliefs not in alignment with what the Bible teaches do not have the burden to reach others. It may be just as well so their false teachings are not spread to confuse more people and hinder so many from being saved and having God's promise of an eternity with Him.

Are you sure what you believe is correct? Many are trusting their eternal soul with teachings that are recent, ever-changing, and are often just a man's or an organization's beliefs. A real, reliable faith should be based on a source that comes straight from God, has been around since man's beginning, and has been proven reliable throughout all ages. The only media that still exists today and fits that description is God's Word, the Bible.

Does what you believe about God, and eternity line-up with God's preserved word, or are you trusting on an unreliable, man-made religion? Are you sure?

“The appearance of religion only on Sunday proves that it is only an appearance.” — Adams.

“I Will Forgive, But ...”

W. Hamilton in The King's Business

I remember once rebuking a Christian worker for manifesting an unforgiving spirit toward another. At length, she said, “Well, I forgive her, but I never want to have anything more to do with her.”

I stopped and said, “Is that how you want God to forgive you? Do you want Him to say He will forgive you, but He will have nothing more to do with you?”

“I can forgive, but I cannot forget,’ is only another way of saying, ‘I cannot forgive.’” — Beecher

How to Know You Are Saved

- **Know** all have sinned — including you:
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23
- **Know** that eventually, there is a cost that has to be paid for your sin:
“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23
- **Know** that the price for your sin has already been paid, no matter what you have done:
“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8
- **Know** that you can apply Jesus' payment to your sin account:
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9 (Confessing your sin is admitting your faults to God in prayer.)

- **Know you are saved** after you have done what God requires one to do to have His promise of Heaven.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” I John 4:9