

August 8, 2018

**“Hard Questions: How does one gain entrance into Heaven?”**

**David Self**

## 1. The Principle of Grace

- A. Heaven is a Free Gift (Ephesians 2:8-9) ***“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift-- not from works, so that no one can boast.”***
  
- B. Heaven cannot be Earned or Deserved (Romans 6:23) ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

## 2. The Problem of Sin

- A. Sin is Universal (Romans 3:23) ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***
  
- B. Sin prevents us from being able to save ourselves (Matthew 5:48) ***“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”***

## 3. God's Character

- A. God is merciful and doesn't want to punish us (Jeremiah 31:3) ***“the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you.”***

The same Bible that reveals God's love also states that:

- B. God is just, therefore must punish sin (Exodus 34:7) ***“maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.”***

#### 4. Christ is the Answer to our Problem

- A. Jesus Christ: The Infinite God-Man (John 20:28) *Thomas responded to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*
- B. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase a place in heaven for us. (Isaiah 53:6) *"We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all."*

#### 5. The Gift of Heaven must be received by Faith\*

- A. It's not just temporal faith or intellectual assent. (James 2:19) *"You believe that God is one; you do well. The demons also believe--and they shudder."*
- B. Saving faith is trusting Jesus alone for salvation. (Acts 16:31) *"So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."*

\*This lesson is based on the **Evangelism Explosion** outline developed by the late Dr. D. James Kennedy and now implemented in over 100 nations.

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