

## **How Can I Know I'm Going to Heaven?** **2 Peter 1:2-11**

Intro: Article in Newsweek on "Heaven". How can we know we are going there?  
For an answer let's turn to 2 Peter 1:2-11.

There is a way by which we may know that we are going to heaven: "In this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you"

What is this way to heaven? How can we know for sure?

### **What God has done to assure us!**

*"He has called us..." (v. 3) How?*

*He has given us the information we need--v. 2-3*

**He has given us the knowledge of Himself. Peter begins with God. He is a God of glory and excellence (virtue). Through his power He has revealed himself to man through his word and in the person of Christ, so that we can have a true knowledge of Him! He has thus given us the knowledge of how to live. In knowing him we have all things to truly live and be godly. God has not failed to reveal anything we need to know to grow spiritually. His word is sufficient.**

*He has given us the motivation we need--v. 4*

**God has given us great (megista) and magnificent (timia) promises  
The forgiveness of sins  
He answers our prayers  
His provision for every spiritual need  
Eternal life in the world to come  
These supply the motivation to leave sin and obey Him!**

### **What we must do to assure ourselves!**

*Making your calling and election sure! "Make certain about His calling and choosing you"! (v. 10) How?*

*Respond in faith to the gospel*

**By faith we are justified. Cf. v. 1 A faith of the same kind through the righteousness of God. This is the heart of the gospel message. We are forgiven by faith in Christ. When we respond to the gospel our souls are purified and we escape the corruption of the world that comes by means of lust. If we believe the information and the promises that motivate, we will respond in gospel obedience! Have you?**

*Now we can supply or add to our faith the qualities that make us have the divine nature.*

Become partakers of the divine nature (i.e. put on the characteristic/qualities of God as He has revealed himself). The objective of salvation is "godlikeness"!

But now with faith we must supply! "epichoregeo" (to supply a chorus)

Here are those qualities:

moral excellence--(KJV "virtue") a military term for excellence, particularly courage.

knowledge--meaning self-evident, knowledge of God

self-control--mastery of self

perseverance--"to abide under", endurance in problems

godliness--"well devoted", piety, personal devotion to God

brotherly kindness--philadelphian, Care for brethren

love--agape, seeking the highest good of others

*We have to work at it! "diligence"*

**Our response to God's provisions determines our assurance!**

*When we don't supply these things...*

**We are blind**

The first word means "blind", the second is the word from which we get "myopia", short-sightedness!

Perhaps Peter is saying this with reference to the past. The person who does not continue to grow spiritually cannot "see" back far enough--to the time when he became a Christian and the blessings he received. He is "blind" to what God did for Him. He has forgotten "his purification".

Perhaps Peter is saying this with reference to the future. The person who is not adding to his faith the qualities of the divine nature is not looking far enough ahead--to heaven and the blessings that will come to the faithful.

*When we do...*

**We are useful. Those who are growing spiritually are useful to God (not useless to God)--A growing Christian is a man God can use! One who is not is useless to God!**

**We are fruitful--Just as we were called to God, attracted to Him by his glory and excellence; others now are attracted to Him through His qualities in us!**

**We will never stumble!**

**A promise that we will not apostatize!**

**Wouldn't you like to know that sometime in the future you will not quit serving God? Well you can know that if you commit yourself to God's plan for growth?**

**Entrance into the eternal kingdom will be abundantly supplied!**

**We are in the kingdom of God as Christians. But there is future aspect to the kingdom. The eternal reign of God in**

**heaven. Entrance will be abundantly supplied! (Same word as v. 4, when we supply spiritual growth, God supplies abundant entrance into heaven).**

**CONCLUSION: I am amazed that a Muslim is so sure about His eternal hope that he would willingly give his life to enter into it! Are you sure about your relationship with God? It's can't be because of what God hasn't provided. It can only be through what you and I haven't supplied!**

**Are you willing to make the changes you need to be sure?**