

## Ultimate Question #6

### What Assurance Do You Have Of Entering Heaven?

**Intro:** We have been looking together at the big questions we must all ask. It all comes down to this, bottom line: When Jesus comes, all of us will stand before him and give an account of our lives to him. We will either be welcomed by the Lord into the new Jerusalem and live with God forever; or, we will be separated from the presence of the Lord forever in hell.

Now let me ask you one very simple and direct question: “What assurance do you have that when you face the Lord in judgment you will be accepted into God’s heavenly kingdom?” What would you offer that you are right with the Lord and an heir of the new Jerusalem?

Some possible answers:

*Some might offer a moral defense based on their character: I am a good moral person. I am not wicked like many people are. In fact, I am better than some who go to church every Sunday. I love my fellowman and my family. I make regular contributions to charity. I pay my taxes. I do my job and provide for my family. Sound familiar.*

*Others might offer a spiritual defense based on a past religious experience: I believe in God and I try to live a good life. I believe in Jesus Christ; in fact, I was saved in a revival many years ago and though I don’t go to church like I should, I know I’m saved because I asked the Lord to come into my life and save my soul.*

*Are these accurate bases for assurance? I do not believe they are.*

The reason why these reasons are insufficient is because:

**All of us are accountable to the law of God.**

We are born into this life unaccountable. We are innocent of wrong doing and incapable of understanding our responsibility to God.

Some never pass beyond this condition and they are safe. They are not accountable; they need nothing done for them or to them.

That’s not where you and I are. Paul describes our experience (Rom. 7:9-11). From the beginning God has revealed to man his law. We reach a state in life when we can understand what God’s will has been for us and that we have disobeyed it.

**All of us have violated the law of God.**

In Romans 1, Paul reveals the reasons why God’s wrath was revealed against the Gentiles of His own day. If we were to have every accountable person stand up and listen to this record and then sit down when they heard something they had done, when I got through every accountable man, woman, boy and girl would be sitting down (except the Lord who never sinned).

**All of us stand condemned by law.**

Because all of us have violated this law we are condemned by it to eternal death (Rom. 6:23). None of us can boast of legal righteousness by perfect obedience. None of us can hope to enter heaven on the basis of works (Rom. 3:19-20).

*This is why a moral basis for assurance is not adequate. The only way one can go to heaven based on one's own goodness is to obey the law of God without sin! To claim to go to heaven in this way demands perfection! Since this is not possible, the only hope we have is pardon or salvation from sin.*

**Only God's grace can save us from the wrath to come.**

*The hope of salvation is offered in the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17).*

*None of us can expect to enter the eternal kingdom unless we have been forgiven of sin. Christ died to redeem us from our sins. (Rom. 3:22-26) His plan of salvation offers forgiveness to all who believe, who put their trust in Jesus Christ.*

**The faith response to the gospel involves several more specific attitudes and actions:**

*Acknowledge my accountability, sin, and worthiness of death! (Rom. 3:23).  
Acknowledge God's own provision for my salvation through Jesus' sacrifice (Rom. 5:8-9)*

*Be genuinely sorry for my transgression against God's law and repent (Rom. 2:4).*

*Turning to the Lord, confess Him as God's Son and my savior and Lord (Rom. 10:9-10).*

*Putting my trust in the sacrifice of Christ, be baptized into Jesus' death, calling upon His name (Rom. 6:1-4; Rom. 10:13).*

**The result is salvation from sin**

*Upon these conditions God has agreed to cleanse us and purchase us so that we belong to him. By these things we become:*

The child of God and heir of eternal life (Gal. 3:26-27).

*Take a closer look at those who will enter the new Jerusalem:*

Those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27).

Those who wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb--Rev. 22:14.

**Conclusion:** Let me urge you now to take a serious and honest look at your own life. This is not about anyone else but you and God. If you were to stand before Him based on what you have done right now, where would you stand with Him? Have you obeyed the Lord?