

Our Only Chance

by Jere Frost

The life that we now have is our only chance to prepare for eternity. There is no turning back the clock of time and walking again the pathway of childhood and youth. Life's day shall flower but once and the journey into the sunset is a singular one for every soul. The moments that are fleeting by are taking with them the only chance that we shall ever have to make ready for final judgment.

The fact that there can be no profitable "second-guessing" with a corresponding opportunity to make corrections the next time around (since there is no next time) compels us to make our calling and election as sure as we can. What are our chances of going to heaven?

As "chances" go, we have none at all — no man will go to heaven accidentally or on a "happen-stance" basis. It is an utter impossibility and hence there can be no mathematical quoting of odds which do not exist. This is not to say there is no possibility of our going to heaven — it is only to say that our going to heaven or hell is not the result of fate or to be determined by "how the chips fall." The destiny of our souls is rather dependent upon our ability to free ourselves of our sins and to live in a state of life approved by God.

God has offered us one course, and only one — a chance — by which to be forgiven of our sins. In order that we might have that one chance He sent His own Son, Jesus, to die on our behalf and in our stead. His death was the price for our sins, and the benefit of the price (his blood) becomes ours IN Christ. The Bible clearly affirms that redemption is "through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins," and that "all spiritual blessings are in Christ" (Col. 1:14; Eph. 1:3). Therefore the only possibility of being saved is by our contacting that blood and being in Christ.

The best man in the world, if he refuses to believe in Christ or stubbornly rejects the means by which the blood is reached, has no chance at all of going to heaven. If he does have a chance, then he is being saved out of Christ and the Bible is found false! But if God be true, and the Bible is His word, such a man (all his moral goodness notwithstanding) cannot be saved. We need to realize that we do not deserve heaven, that salvation is not of merit, and that this is why salvation must be of grace. God has the right to set the conditions upon which man can be saved, and he has unequivocally said that he who does not believe (John 8:24), or repent (Luke 13:3), or obey the gospel of Christ (2 Thess. 1:8) shall die in sin and suffer everlasting destruction. That gospel commands baptism into Christ and his death and a "newness of life" (Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:3-6).

The conclusion is inescapable. The ONLY chance any of us has of going to heaven is by believing and obediently acting upon the gospel. And certainly no one of us has the right to speak for God and make exceptions to that which God has already spoken. And when we do what God has commanded, we have more than a chance—we have his solemn word, a guarantee!

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