

Can Sin Keep You Out Of Heaven?

It's amazing to me how fast life flies by. It seems like yesterday I was 21, in the prime of life. Suddenly, I wake up married with three kids and I wonder how that happened? I have chatted with seniors in their nineties, and found out they feel the same way. I now realize that no matter how long you live, life is short.

We make choices everyday in our short lifetime from what we wear, to our education, our life partner, and the list goes on. But we never chose the time or place we were born, and we can't choose the day we will die. The one absolute in life is that one day we will all die. What happens after we die is the greatest choice that we face in our short lifetime.

The truth is that no one is good enough to earn heaven. God does not own a scale that measures our good against our bad. There is only one sure way to have confidence of our eternal destination, and you may be surprised to learn that it is not by asking God to forgive you of sin and come into your heart.

What if I told you that God has already forgiven you of every past, present, and future failure? Would you believe me? Yet when Jesus took the punishment of sin when He died on the cross, that is exactly what took place. Every past, present and future sin has already been forgiven by God whether we have asked Him for forgiveness or not. The truth is that if sin could keep us out of heaven we all are hopeless.

Does that mean every person will go to heaven because Jesus died for all sin? The answer is "NO". Your sins are forgiven, but that does not make heaven automatic. Did He ever say repent of your sins, turn your life around, and you will go to heaven? No, Jesus said that believing in Him is the only way to heaven. John 3:16 does not say, repent of your sin, turn your life around, and you will have eternal life. Rather it simply says believing in Jesus will guarantee us eternal life.

At the cross Jesus did what seemed impossible to make access to heaven easy. The apostle Paul writes, "Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead." Does that seem too easy? I want you to know it really is that easy to guarantee your place in heaven when your life ceases to exist here on earth. The most important choice we can ever make in life is the choice to believe in Jesus. He is the only one that can offer us eternal life in heaven.

Kevin Shiach
Pastor – Melfort Apostolic Church