

Dear Friend, do not take a chance with your eternal future. If you cannot give an honest Bible reason why God should let you into Heaven, then you are not saved. God's word is final and all are judged by it.

First - You must realize that you are a sinner, guilty and doomed before a holy God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Second - agree with God that you cannot save yourself from an eternal Hell. You need a Savior. John 14:6 states, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." This verse removes any confidence you may put in church attendance, church membership, or being baptized. It is all **Christ** and the shedding of His blood for your sin.

Third - Call on Jesus now. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Hebrews 7:25 says, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

John 1:12 states, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that

believe on his name."

Jesus will give you the faith and power to believe His word.

The outcome of those who believe is found in John 3:15, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The outcome of those who DO NOT is found in Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

*Repent or Perish
It's Your Choice!*

- Cecil Helms



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REPENT
or
PERISH

Dear Reader,

There are many ideas today about God. But apart from God's word, you have no true understanding of who God is or how to have a relationship with Him. There are many ideas, but only one Bible way - the way of repentance and faith.

The word "repentance" is mentioned 111 times in the Bible. The basic definition is "to change one's mind," "to think differently," "to reconsider." When Jesus tells us in Luke 13:5 to "repent" or "perish," He is saying to change your way of thinking or reconsider the course you are on.

God gives you an example of true repentance in Luke 23:39-45. This passage tells of two thieves that hung on either side of Jesus to be crucified with Him for the deeds they had done.

The unrepentant thief said to Jesus, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the repentant thief replied, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed **justly**; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." Mark 15:32 and Matthew 27:44 reveals that both thieves mocked Jesus in the beginning, but the one changed his mind about this Man on the

middle cross. In Luke 23:42, the repentant thief asks Jesus to "remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." He looked at Jesus differently because he REPENTED, not to get off the cross but to have his sin forgiven. What had brought about this change? It was a heart attitude of FAITH AND REPENTANCE.

Friend, repentance is not just sorrow for sin or "turning over a new leaf." It is not turning from sin only. True REPENTANCE is seeing your sin as God sees your sin and trusting Him in confidence to do what He says He will do in His word. To desire God for purely selfish reasons is not to desire God at all. II Corinthians 7:9,10 states, "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner; that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

As you receive wages (or payment) for your work, the wages of your sin is death - eternal separation from God in Hell. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Through repentance you change your mind about sin, salvation and God.

Trust and believe the Bible is true and that Jesus is the only way for a person to receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life. The Bible states in John 3:18, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Belief affects behavior. You respond to what you believe. If you believe that Jesus will do what He said, you will call on His name in faith and repentance. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The repentant thief saw himself needing a Savior. *How do you see yourself . . . good enough, not as bad as others, pretty good?* You must change your mind about your sin and disobedience toward God. A change of heart will result in a changed life. John 6:37 states, ". . . and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Jesus is ready and able to save. You must be like the repentant thief when he said, "remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).