

GETTING CLOSER TO GOD

How Close Am I?

He wore his raincoat when it rained.
He brushed his teeth twice a day with a nationally advertized toothpaste.
The doctors examined him twice a year.
He slept with the windows open.
He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables.
He relinquished his tonsils and traded in several worn-out glands.
He golfed, but never more than eighteen holes at a time.
He got at least eight hours of sleep every night.
He never smoked, drank or lost his temper.
He did his “daily dozen” daily.
He was all set to live to be a hundred.

The funeral will be held Wednesday.

He’s survived by eight specialists,
three health institutions,
two gymnasiums,
and numerous manufacturers of health foods and antiseptics.

There was nothing wrong with the things he did, but they not prepare him for death.

He made one mistake.
He forgot God.
And now he is in hell.

Are you making the same mistake? A lot of people are!

— from *The Ambassador*

1. Will most people go to Heaven?



MATTHEW 7:13-14 “Enter through the *narrow* gate. For *wide* is the gate and *broad* is the road that leads to *destruction*, and *many* enter through it. But *small* is the gate and narrow the road that leads to *life*, and *only a few* find it.”

MATTHEW 7:21-23 “*Not everyone* who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. *Many will say* to

Me on that day (Judgment Day), ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘*I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!*’”

The path leading to God’s beautiful heaven is not for most people or even necessarily for religious people, but for few people. According to Jesus **most people** walk the wide road leading to destruction and few people are on the narrow road to heaven. On the great Day of Judgment Jesus will tell **most people** the shocking truth — they cannot enter heaven, but will perish forever in hell.

2. Are you sure you are going to heaven?

To get close to God now and in eternity, we should ask two basic questions. The first question: Do you know **for sure** that if you died today you would go to heaven? Most people would give one of the following answers. Which one comes closest to yours? Be very honest.

- Yes, I am sure
- I don’t believe that anyone can really know for sure
- I hope so, but I have some doubts
- I wish I could be sure



3. Is it possible to know for sure that you have eternal life?

1 JOHN 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that *you may know that you have eternal life.*

JOHN 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you hold to My teaching, *you are really My disciples.* Then *you will know* the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

We can know for sure that we have eternal life; in fact, **God wants us to know.** We should have this certainty so that life can be more fulfilling now and forever in heaven.

4. Why will you get to heaven?

The second basic question is: Suppose that you would die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, “Why should I let you into My heaven?” The answers below are samples of how many people hope to get close to God here and in heaven. Could you agree with any of these answers to the question, “Why should I let you in?”

- God, I tried to do the best I could
- I believe in You, God, and I have lived according to the Ten Commandments, and I hope you will take me in
- Nobody is perfect, God, and I’m afraid You shouldn’t let me in
- I have lived a better life than a lot of people

5. Is salvation something you can earn?

- MATTHEW 5:48 “*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*”