REQUIREMENTS TO GET INTO HEAVEN

What are the requirements to get into heaven? ⇒ **Perfection**...no sin.

• God is absolutely holy. 1 John 1:5: God is LIGHT, and in Him is NO DARKNESS AT ALL.

So is there anybody in heaven right now? ⇒ Yes ⇒ How can that be?

Nobody's perfect. We all fall short of God's perfect standard.

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

We are ALL GUILTY AS SINNERS...and our sin separates us from God.

The God of the Bible, the Creator of everything, IS HOLY, RIGHTEOUS & JUST.

But God can't just ignore our sin...because then He would be unjust & He's not unjust.

We are guilty before a Holy & Just God & sin has consequences.

Romans 5:12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Romans 6:23a: For the wages of sin is death...

But God is **rich in mercy** and He desires to "**save**" sinners...<u>rescue us & restore us</u> ... to enjoy a <u>personal relationship with Him</u>.

Ephesians 2:4-5

- ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us,
- ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;)

 Ephesians 2:8-9
- ⁸ For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 17:3: And this is <u>eternal life</u>, that they might <u>KNOW YOU</u>, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

His plan from eternity past was to send His Son in human flesh to be a representative, a "substitute" for you & me...to take our place...to take the <u>just punishment we deserve</u>

When Jesus, the perfect Son of God, was on the cross

- paying the price for our sins, as OUR SUBSTITUTE...
 - God treated Him as if He was a sinner
 - He took our place AS IF HE LIVED OUR LIVES.

God, who punished Jesus for our sins ...turns right around

AND TREATS US AS IF WE LIVED HIS LIFE

2 Corinthians 5:21: For **He** [God] has made **Him** [Jesus] **To Be Sin For Us**, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

If you will repent of your sin, admit your guilt & responsibility for your sin

...and then **TRUST** in Jesus as your <u>ONLY HOPE for eternal life</u>, **RECEIVING** Him <u>as Your Personal SAVIOR</u>...

◆ He makes you "perfect in Christ"

Colossians 2:10a And you are COMPLETE IN HIM...

- YOU RECEIVE COMPLETE FORGIVENESS of all your sin
 - and He gives you <u>His COMPLETE RIGHTEOUSNESS</u>
 - and the gift of eternal life!

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 1:12: But as many as <u>RECEIVED</u> HIM (Jesus), to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on His name.

Romans 10:9-10, 13

- That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED.
- ¹⁰ For with the **heart** man believes unto righteousness; and with the **mouth** confession is made unto salvation.
- ¹³ For whosoever will <u>CALL</u> upon the *name of the Lord* will be <u>SAVED</u>.

Call out to God in a heartfelt prayer right now:

Dear God,

- I know that I am a sinner and there is nothing that I can do to save myself.
- I confess my complete helplessness to earn my way to heaven.
- I repent of my sins of selfishness, rebellion, willful ignorance, pride, lying, stealing, lustful thoughts and covetousness — turning away from what I know is wrong & trusting Jesus to forgive me of all my sin.

- At this moment I trust Christ alone as the One who took my sin and punishment for me when He died on the cross.
- I believe that He did all that ever will be necessary for me to stand in Your holy presence.
- I believe that Christ rose from the dead as a guarantee of my own resurrection.
- Simply by <u>believing what You promise</u> in Your Word, I now transfer my trust to Jesus Christ, and I receive Him as my Savior.
- I am grateful that He has promised to receive me despite my many sins and failures.
- Father, I take You at your word.
- I thank you that I can face death now that Jesus Christ is my Savior.
- Thank you for the assurance that you will walk with me day by day.
- Thank You for hearing this prayer. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

If you spoke in faith to Jesus Christ just now, He has heard you and you can trust His promises:

Romans 10:13: For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.