

# How do you get to Heaven?

Most people respond by saying something like "Do the best you can, Live a good life, observe the "golden rule," keep the "ten commandments," etc." But I'd like to ask you, "Has anyone really kept the ten commandments?" The ten commandments are indeed God's standard of righteousness (*Romans 7:12*), but who has ever kept them?

Most of us have a tendency to compare ourselves with other people. If you compared yourself to me or some church member that you've known, you may look pretty good. But have you ever compared yourself to God's standard of goodness, the ten commandments?

The ten commandments are found in both the Old & New Testament Scriptures (Exodus. 20; Romans 13:9-10; James 2:10-11).

Instead of comparing our lives to others, let's look at the 10 commandments and see how we do.

## YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

Has God **always** been first in your life? Do you love Him more than your closest earthly relationships? Jesus said our love for God must be first, compared to all other relationships (*Luke 14:26*). What about it, have you broken this commandment?

## YOU SHALL NOT MAKE YOURSELVES ANY IDOLS

This doesn't just mean bowing down to a carved statue. We can make idols out of celebrities or our possessions. Anything that we exalt instead of God is an idol in our lives. Any false representation of a god of our own making is an idol. Many people's idea of God is that He doesn't mind a lie, or even if we steal, as long as it's something insignificant. Many people say that "their god is a god of love who would never send anyone to Hell." Even a brief reading of the New Testament will reveal this as a god of their own creation. Have you broken this commandment? Have you put something else in the place of the true God?

## YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.

Have you ever used the Name of Jesus Christ as a curse or a "4-letter word"? Even Hitler's name wasn't despised enough to be used as a curse word. Are you guilty or innocent of breaking this commandment?

## REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY

Have you always set aside a time, a day, to honour & worship the Lord?

## HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

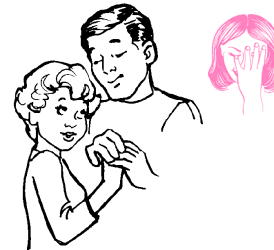
This is the first of God's ten commandments that ends with the

promise of long life on this earth and days full of blessings (*Ephesians 6:2-3*). Whilst it is easy to say that you love your parents, have you always given them the respect that was due? What about the sins of your youth? Did you always honour your father & mother then?

## YOU SHALL NOT KILL

Jesus said that ANGER is the real heart of this commandment (*Matthew 5:22*). When we are angry with another we are saying, "You are my problem. If you were not here I wouldn't have this problem." Jesus says this is the same as murder. What about it, who has not been guilty of breaking this commandment?

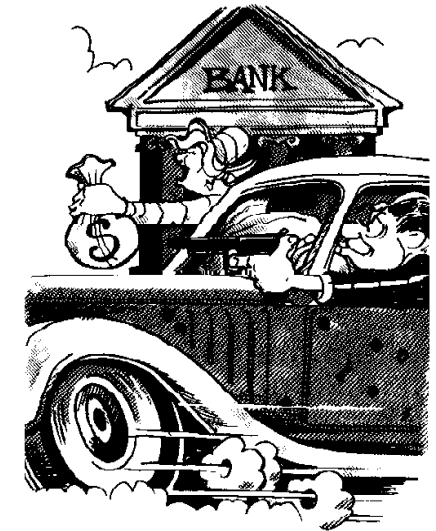
## YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY



Jesus interpreted this to mean that even looking upon someone with the view of lusting after them is the breaking of this commandment (*Matthew 5:27-28*). If you've lusted after, or sexually desired someone that you aren't married to, then you've already committed adultery with them in your heart.

## YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

Have you ever taken something that belonged to someone else? Someone's wife, someone's possessions, a pencil, anything, irrespective of its value? Have you "borrowed" something without the owner's permission? Then, the Word of God classifies you as a thief. It also says that no thief will enter Heaven.



## YOU MUST NOT LIE

Ever told a lie? How many lies does it take to make a liar? Have you always told the truth? Being honest with ourselves, we realise that we have lied, fibbed and weaseled our way through our entire life. The Bible says that all liars have their place in Hell.

## YOU SHALL NOT COVET

To "Covet" is to DESIRE to have what belongs to someone else. Your neighbour's house, wife, possessions, anything. Have you ever looked at someone else's property and said "*I wish I had one of those?*"

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The only problem with trying to be good enough to go to Heaven by our own merit is the fact that not only have we broken the ten commandments, we have also transgressed a good proportion of the many other commandments in the Old Testament and others in the New Testament.

*James 2:10* in the New Testament says that whoever keeps the whole law, yet messes up on just one point is GUILTY of breaking the whole law. No one will ever be good enough to go to Heaven by keeping God's law; for His law only reveals our sin (*Romans 3:19-20*). In fact, by declaring that we are somehow good enough to get to Heaven by ourselves, we dishonour God, who tells us, in the Bible, that we can't. The law is there to show us just how bad we are in the sight of a holy and just God.

God must punish sin. He is righteous and holy and cannot allow sin in His presence. If God were to allow you into Heaven based on the fact that you've only broken, say, five of the ten commandments, which five would be the ones that constitute the "pass

mark". God's standard is perfection – 100% - no mistakes at all.

We have **all** sinned by breaking at least one of the commandments, If we say we have no sin, we make God a liar. We have **all** sinned and fallen short of the standard that God requires (*Romans 3:23*) In short, we are all condemned to Hell – for ever!

This is why Jesus came! We all need a Saviour! The word "Saviour" has the idea of "one who can rescue you from the penalty of your sin." Jesus rescues people from perishing so that they might have eternal life (*Matthew 1:21*).

My friend, to be good enough to go to Heaven we must have a righteousness that equals God's (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). The "good news" of the gospel is that not only will Jesus forgive your sins, but He is also offering - freely - His very own righteousness as a gift (*See Romans 5:17*). Do you need a new start in life? A relationship with the God of Heaven who loves you so much? God loved you so much that He gave His only-begotten Son to die in your place so that you could have eternal life (*John 3:16*) God is ready to have compassion on you (*Luke 15:20-24*). Would you consider turning to Him through Jesus Christ?

In order to receive His gift of salvation and be assured of a place in Heaven, you must repent of your sins. Turn your back on that life of idolatry, dishonour, murder and deceit and trust in the

precious gift of eternal life that is yours through the shed blood of Jesus.

So that you and I could live forever in Heaven, Jesus came to this world and suffered an unbelievably harsh and torturous death, shedding His own blood as the spotless sacrifice that God required as the price for our sin. All through the Old Testament of the Bible, you will read of animal sacrifices that God set up so that we would be able to recognise the perfect sacrifice that He would make on our behalf.

He then rose from the dead to proclaim victory over death itself. (*1 Corinthians 15:20*)

To receive the gift of salvation from penalty that we deserve, repent and trust in the death of Jesus Christ.

If you have done this, please find a church, or group of Christians, who are trusting in Jesus and are guided by His Word in the Bible.

NB. Supporting Bible references are given in the generally accepted format eg. *Romans 3:23* – meaning the book of *Romans*, chapter 3 and verse 23.

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# Are You Good Enough



*for*

# Heaven

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