



If I Am A Good Person, I'll Go To Heaven...Won't I

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A. Introduction.

1. Why did Jesus have to die?
2. What kind of God would come up with a system that would require His Son to die?

B. The significance of the death of Jesus.

"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known to which the Law and the Prophets testify." Romans 3:21 (NIV)

1. The word righteousness here means a righteous standing with God.
"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference." Romans 3:22 (NIV)
2. This righteous standing is from God through our faith in Jesus Christ.
"...There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:22-23 (NIV)
3. Somewhere in your past you have sinned and consequently in this present time you are falling short of God's standards and requirements.
"And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:24 (NIV)
4. We are made right with God freely by His grace through the payment of the death of Jesus Christ.
"God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Romans 3:24 (NIV)
5. The word atonement means to cover our sins through our faith in His blood.
"...He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished." Romans 3:25 (NIV)

6. The reason why Jesus had to die is because God is by nature just, and when you have pure justice someone has to pay.
 - a. In God's mercy God could overlook sin for a while, but because God is just by nature eventually someone had to pay.
"He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus." Romans 3:26 (NIV)
7. God says I am a God of mercy, justice, and grace.
 - a. In His mercy he delayed payment.
 - b. In His justice he demanded payment, somebody had to pay.
 - c. In His grace He made the payment.
8. We underestimate the significance of our sin.
9. The next time Jesus comes to earth he will be coming as a judge.
 - a. If you have trusted Jesus to pay for your sins, you don't have to pay for your sins.
 - b. If you have not trusted Jesus to pay for your sins, then you get to pay for your sins.

A Prayer

Heavenly Father

I believe that Jesus is the Son of God
I believe in your mercy you have been patient with me
I believe that somebody has to pay for my sin
I believe that I can't be good enough to pay for my sin
I believe that Jesus has already paid for my sin
Right now I accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior
I repent of all my sins
I accept Him as the payment for my sins
I am putting all my trust in what he did
I am no longer going to trust in what I can do
Thank you for receiving me into your family
In Jesus name amen.

(For entire four-part series, go to www.stonehavenfmc.org)