

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Who Is Going To Heaven?

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**M**ost members of the church of Christ have heard skeptics say, “*Oh, you are the people who think they are the only ones going to Heaven.*” While it is not our place as fellow human beings to determine who will or who will not go to Heaven, we can appeal to God who has revealed to all in His Word the answer to this most important question.

If you have never committed a sin, you are on your way to Heaven. The wages of sin is “death”, not eternal life in Heaven. (*Romans 6:23*). God makes it clear that those who have committed such sins of the flesh as fornication, adultery, jealousy, wraths, drunkenness, homosexuality, stealing and covetousness “*will not inherit the kingdom of God*” (*Galatians 5:19-21, I Corinthians 5:9-10*). It is a fact that somewhere along our daily walk, we all have sinned and are therefore separated from God and the inheritance of Heaven (*Romans 3:23*). But the new born baby and the child who is still innocent from the act of sin can be assured that they are going to Heaven. They are still “alive” spiritually (*Romans 7:9*).

Will only the babies and young children who have died in innocence be the only ones in Heaven? God tells us that we who have sinned can be justified from our sins and have hope for Heaven. Because Christ, who was sinless and blameless, died for our sins, we can be “*justified by His blood*” (*Romans 5:9*). Penitent believers being “*baptized into Christ*” or “*His death*” have forgiveness. In dying to sin one is justified before God (*Romans 6:3-7*). Through such obedience of the truth of the gospel or word of Christ, one is “begotten again” (*I Peter 1:23*). Because Jesus was raised from the dead, those begotten again have a “*lively hope*” characterized as “*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away* (*I Peter 1:3-4*).

Those baptized into Christ for the remission of sins are “*saved*” and “*added to the church*” (*Acts 2:38, 41, 47*). Notice it is “the church” not “churches of your choice.” Jesus promised to build his church (*Matthew 16:18*), and his promise became reality in the first century as recorded in *Acts 2:47*. “*The Lord*” himself adds the baptized believer to the one church He

built. Spiritually speaking, this church is the “*body*” of Christ (*Ephesians 1:22-23*). Why is it important that we make sure we are in this “*one body*” (*Ephesians 4:4*)? God tells us through Paul that Jesus is “*the saviour of the body*” (*Ephesians 5:23*). God has never promised in his Word that He is the saviour of anyone outside of his spiritual body, but has clearly told us which body of which He is saviour. Therefore, only those in a saved relationship with God whom the Lord has added to His one body, the church of Christ found in the Scriptures (*Romans 16:16*) are going to Heaven.

But one in Christ who is in His church must then remain faithful the remainder of his or her life. The crown of life in Heaven awaits only the faithful, even if they are threatened with death (*Revelation 2:10*). Paul knew that because he had “kept the faith” the Lord at his appearing will give him “the crown of righteousness.” We, who in like manner love the appearing of the Lord can expect the same reward (*2 Timothy 4:7-8*). Heaven is reserved for the innocent child and forgiven adults who are in the one body belonging to Christ, daily keeping the faith.