

How to Make Heaven Your Home

Jon Redmond

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

I've never met anybody who didn't want to go to heaven. After all, it certainly beats the alternative. Anyone in his or her right mind would rather spend eternity in the beauty of heaven than in the agony of hell.

Let's think for a moment about some of the differences between heaven and hell. The Bible paints a clear description of both places. As we read the Scriptures, we discover that heaven is a place of indescribable light while hell is a place of unimaginable darkness. Heaven is a place of absolute perfection while hell is a place of unending pain. Heaven is a place filled with laughter and joy while hell is a place filled with weeping and tears. Heaven is a place filled with rejoicing while hell is a place filled with regret. In heaven, our greatest dreams will be fulfilled. In hell, people's greatest fears will be experienced.

You say, "Jon, are you trying to scare me into going to heaven?" I wish I could. As one pastor said, "I would rather scare you into heaven than lull you into hell." I feel the same way!

Heaven is going to be wonderful. Hell is going to be horrible. Those who end up in hell will wish that someone would have warned

them about it. They will wish that someone would have explained to them the importance of preparing for their eternal residence. They will wish that they could go back in time and rethink this whole matter of eternity, but it will be too late. Their destiny will be determined. Their fate will be sealed. There will be no way to go back in time and make the decision they should have made on this side of the grave. Once the heart stops beating, the opportunity to be saved has passed forever.

Where you spend eternity is serious business. When we come to the end of our time on earth, it really won't matter whether we were Democrats or Republicans, Baptists or Methodists, rich or poor, well-known or unknown. The only thing that will matter is whether or not we are saved.

Most People Aren't Going to Heaven

I wish I could say that when it's all said and done that everybody will end up in heaven, but that isn't true. I wish I could even say that when it's all said and done that most people will end up in heaven, but that isn't true either. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and

broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

According to Jesus, the majority of people are on the road leading to eternal destruction while the minority are on the road leading to eternal life. He used the words “many” and “few.” In other words, He was saying that “many” people are going to hell and that “few” people are going to heaven. Jesus never pulled punches in order to promote His popularity. He always spoke the truth whether it made Him popular or not. And speaking the truth didn’t make Him popular. It got Him crucified. But it was through His crucifixion and resurrection that He was able to pave a narrow, yet accessible, road to heaven. This road is often neglected, but it remains open for all who wish to travel on it.

So which road are you on? Are you on the broad road leading to hell? Or are you on the narrow road leading to heaven? Or if you were totally honest, would you have to say, “Jon, I’m not sure which road I’m on. I hope I’m on the road leading to heaven. That’s where I want to

end up. But I'm just not 100% certain whether I'm really on that road or not."

Well, the purpose of this little booklet is to help you determine which road you are on! And when we come to the end, if you discover that you are on the wrong road, I'm going to give you a chance to exit and get on the right road, the narrow road, the road that leads to heaven itself.

Who is on the Broad Road?

The broad road, the road leading to hell, is made up of a lot of different people from a lot of different backgrounds. These people are on this road for a lot of different reasons, but they are still on the same road. So, who are these people?

Well, first of all, there are some people on this road who don't believe in God at all. They are atheists. For whatever reason, they have concluded that there is no God. Maybe they can't accept the account of creation as recorded in the Bible. Maybe they were influenced by a smooth-talking university professor or some pseudo-sophisticated friend. Maybe they were hurt and can't understand why God, if there

were a God, would allow such pain. Maybe they just refuse to embrace a God Whom they cannot see. Or maybe they have been turned off by the Christians they know personally...who preach one thing and do another. Whatever the reason, the first group of people on the broad road is made up of atheists.

The Bible has something to say about these people. The Bible says they are fools. Listen to this verse: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘*There is no God*’” (Psalm 14:1). That verse literally says, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘No God!’” In other words, the atheist has looked at the creation story, and because he cannot wrap his mind around it, has said, “No God.” He has looked at the pain and suffering in this world and concluded, “No God.” He has seen the inconsistencies in so many of us who call ourselves “Christians” and said, “No God.”

For different reasons, atheists wrongfully reach the same conclusion...and that is that there is no God. Instead of trusting God with what they cannot understand, instead of embracing a God Whom they cannot see, and instead of accepting the fact that not even the best Christian is anywhere near perfect, the

atheist has rejected God altogether. And, as a result, he is on the broad road marching to hell.

On this same road, we find another group of people. This second category consists of people who believe in God, they just don't live like it. For our purposes, we could call them "practical atheists." They would never say that there is no God, but they deny His power over their lives in their daily decisions. Some of these people are immoral. Some are vulgar. Some are thieves. Some are liars. Some hate God. And some hate everybody around them.

Again, they are not atheists, but they are shameless sinners. "It is my life," we can hear one of them say. "And how I live it is not anybody else's business." Many in this group have been so bad for so long that, deep down, they don't even know if they can still be saved. We know they can, but they don't. Their hearts have hardened, and their external behavior is merely a reflection of what is happening on the inside. They are so enmeshed in their sins that they have forgotten about God, and they have thrown off all restraint. These blatant sinners make the most noise and seem to have the most fun on the broad road to hell. But all that "fun" will one day end.

Now the third category of people on the broad road is a most interesting group. Whereas the group I just described is so bad that they don't know if they **can** be saved, this third group is made up of people who think they are so good that they don't **need** to be saved. This group is actually in a more dangerous condition than the previous group. It was to this self-righteous crowd that Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you" (Matthew 21:31).

At least an openly, flagrant sinner knows he is doing wrong. He may not care. But at least he knows. The self-righteous bunch, on the other hand, is not even aware of their sinfulness. They are just glad they are better than everybody else, at least in their own minds.

In Bible times, these were the Pharisees. Jesus told an interesting story one day of a Pharisee and a tax collector who both went to the temple to pray. Most tax collectors in that day were dishonest. Most Pharisees were self-righteous. The Pharisee prayed, and listen to the arrogant tone of his prayer. He said, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this

tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess” (Luke 18:11-12).

What kind of prayer is that? No repentance, no asking for forgiveness, no acknowledgement of any wrong doing. Just a whole lot of, “God, thank You that I’m so good.” Yuck!! That’s why I say the self-righteous person is in a more dangerous condition than the blatant sinner. At least the blatant sinner, deep down, knows he’s doing wrong. But not the Pharisee. He is not only self-righteous, but he is also self-deceived. He has convinced himself that he will make it to heaven by his own goodness. In reality, he is strutting to hell.

In our day, I fear there are many people like this. They are generous. They are benevolent. They make our cities better places to live. But that’s the problem. They are placing their hopes for heaven in their own goodness instead of coming clean with God about their actual badness. The Bible says that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But this group of “do-gooders” can’t see their sin. And even if they could, they wouldn’t think that it’s as bad as everybody else’s sin. That is so sad to me.

Another group traveling along the broad road consists of people who believe in God, but who have rejected Jesus. This is a large number of people. They are from a lot of different religions. They are devout. They are sincere. They are religious. But they are lost. They are lost because they have never bowed their knees to Jesus Christ. They have never surrendered their lives to Him.

The people coming out of these different religions hate what they call the “narrow-mindedness” of Christianity. They think that all roads lead to heaven. According to Jesus, though, they are wrong. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). That’s the verse that non-Christians cannot take. They say that Jesus was being narrow-minded. Well, He was. But He was also being honest.

You may have never thought about it before, but all truth is narrow. Mathematical truth is narrow. In math we learned that (π) pi=3.14. Not 3.15 or 3.13...but 3.14. Now when we were learning that in school, we didn’t think that was narrow; we just accepted it as fact. Scientific truth is also narrow. Water is H₂O. Not H₃O or H₄O, but H₂O. Recipes are made

up of specific ingredients and specific amounts of ingredients. Good cooks may be wide-waisted, but they are narrow-minded!! And when the pilot of my plane is approaching the runway, I certainly hope he's narrow-minded. If not, we may land in the ocean!!

So when Jesus said that He was the only way to heaven, He was indeed being narrow-minded, but He was also being honest. He was saying, in effect, "I came from heaven. I'm going back to heaven. I know the way to heaven. I know how to get you to heaven. But you have to come through Me." For the life of me, I cannot see the problem people have with that. Now if Jesus had said, "Only some of you can come to Me," there would be a problem. That wouldn't be fair. But He didn't say that. In fact, He said just the opposite. He said that salvation is available to us all. The most famous verse in the Bible contains His gracious words. Listen to them: "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 3:16, emphasis mine). Notice that wonderful word "**whoever**." Anybody can come to Jesus. The black, the white, the rich, the poor, the Baptist, the Catholic, those who were raised Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist. We can all come to Jesus.

And if we want to go to heaven, we **must** come to Jesus. The Bible says, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). And friend, that Name is Jesus. Jesus is the only way to heaven because Jesus is the only Person Who has paid for our sins. That’s why **His Name** is the only **saving Name**.

But those on the broad road have rejected that Name. They are trying to make it to heaven some other way. The end of the road will be a huge disappointment for them. When it’s too late, they will discover the truth of Jesus’ words when He said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved” (John 10:9). But sadly, they went through the wrong door and ended up in the wrong place. Friend, not all roads lead to heaven. There’s only One that does.

Now the next group of people on the broad road has absolutely no idea that they are even on it. They are the ones who are faithful members of Christian churches, but who are not Christians themselves. Many of them have been attending church all of their lives. They are active members of their Sunday School classes. They serve on various committees.

They sing in the choir. Some are deacons. Some are even ministers. They have been baptized by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. They have been under the water, but they have never been under the blood. They are unsaved church members. They are tragically lost.

Certainly, Jesus had this category of people in mind when He said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 7:21). This group has mistaken “religiosity” for being born again. They have never received salvation. They have not become what the Bible describes as “partakers of the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4). They have never repented of their sins. They have never trusted Christ to save them. Instead, they are trusting the fact that they are such important members of their churches. They are trusting their church involvement. They are trusting some experience they have had. But they are not trusting Christ. And, as a result, they are unsaved and traveling unknowingly down the broad road to hell.

At their side is another group of people. These people believe in God. They believe in Jesus. They know they aren’t saved. They know they need to be saved. And they intend on getting saved one day. They just keep

putting “one day” off longer and longer. They are, in plain English, procrastinators. They plan on getting saved...tomorrow. But as we all know, tomorrow never gets here. No one has ever woken up and said, “It’s tomorrow.” But these procrastinators plan on getting right with God then.

The problem is that the longer they put off getting saved, the less likely they are to get saved. That’s why the Bible says, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). They don’t realize that tomorrow their minds may be occupied with things other than getting saved. That is why the Bible says, “*Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts*” (Hebrews 3:7-8). Tomorrow may occupy your mind with other things. And tomorrow your heart may not be as tender as it is today.

And consider this, tomorrow may never even come. That’s why the Bible says, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that

appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:13-14).

Most people think they are going to live to be 110 years old, but that’s not true. Not one of us knows how long we will live. That is why we must make peace with God today. That is why the Bible says, “Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2, emphasis mine). I have recently preached funeral services for two young men in their twenties. They were in the prime of their lives. Neither of them thought death was near. But it was.

Did you know that you have never been as close to death as you are right now? And if you are putting off getting saved, you are one day closer to hell today than you were yesterday.

One day, the apostle Paul was sharing his faith with a governor named Felix. The more Paul talked about heaven and hell, and about sin and salvation, the more anxious Felix became. He knew he was a sinner, and he knew he needed to be saved. But he just couldn’t bring himself to ask Jesus to save him. Even though he was afraid for his own soul, he put off being saved. He said to Paul, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will

call for you” (Acts 24:25). We can only hope that Felix got saved before he died. But as far as we know from the biblical record, he never did. As far as we know, he’s in hell now. He’s in hell because he put off making a decision he knew he should have made. And in hell, he has no doubt replayed that conversation with Paul a thousand times in his mind and thought to himself, “Why didn’t I get saved when I had the chance? Why did I wait for a more convenient time? A time that never came.”

Friend, the broad road has a lot of people on it. From a distance, it may look like an open-minded, appealing, and fun road. But the truth is, it is made up of restless people who are headed to a tragic end. Are you on that road? Are you an atheist, a blatant sinner, a self-righteous person, a follower of another religion, an unsaved church member, or a procrastinator? If so, you are on the wrong road, and you are headed to the wrong place. Let me take a few minutes to describe the people on the narrow road. As I do, I think you’ll want to switch over.

Who is on the Narrow Road?

In one respect, the people on the narrow road are similar to the people on the broad road. And that is the people on both roads are sinners. The people on the narrow road are not **“better than”** the people on the broad road. The people on the narrow road are **“different than”** the people on the broad road. We are different because of how we have dealt with our sins. And we are different because of what God has done in our hearts. He has forgiven us. He has saved us. He has poured out His Spirit into our hearts. He has adopted us into His family. He has written our names in the Lamb’s Book of Life. And He has given us the peace and assurance that we belong to Him. The apostle Paul hit the nail on the head when he said, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16).

Those of us on the narrow road not only have peace in our hearts, but we also have joy. We have a happiness deep down in our hearts that the apostle Peter described as “joy inexpressible and full of glory” (I Peter 1:8). This joy has nothing to do with circumstances. Don’t misunderstand. Those of us on the narrow road have our share of problems, too.

When we got saved, we didn't get a "pass" from difficulties and pain. We don't have peace and joy **in spite of** difficulties; we have peace and joy **in the middle of** difficulties. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We narrow road travelers can attest to the truth of that verse. We have our fair share of "tribulation," but we are filled with "good cheer."

There's something else you should know about those of us on the narrow road. And that is we have not arrived at a state of perfection yet. I know that some of our more zealous travelers have an air about them that seems to indicate they have. But trust me, they haven't. None of us has. We are hopefully sinning less than we used to, but we are still sinning more than we ought to. We won't be sinless until we get to heaven. We struggle with temptations just like the people on the broad road. And far too often, we give in to them.

The greatest Christian of all time, the apostle Paul, had this problem, too. In a moment of frustration he exclaimed, "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Romans 7:15). All of us on the

narrow road have felt that way. In fact, often times, we still do. But that's the point: **We don't want to sin.** We want to please God. He has given us that desire. That's why we get so frustrated when we do sin.

Those of us on the narrow road spend a fair amount of time apologizing. We tell God we're sorry a lot, and we have to say the same thing to other people, too. The words, "I'm sorry; I was wrong; Please forgive me;" are heard often from the mouths of those who have been born again. God's Spirit lives within us and, as a result, we can't get away with anything. He convicts us when we mess up. And I'm glad He does.

Another thing you should know is that narrow road travelers are very excited about the future. We don't look at the future with doom and dread. We look at it with hope and anticipation. We know that at the end of the road stands Jesus. We know that He has prepared a special place in heaven for us. He is the One Who said, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also" (John 14:3). And we know that with each passing day we are getting closer to that special moment when Jesus comes to take us to

heaven. It may be at the rapture of the church, or it may be on the day our bodies die. We're not sure which will come first, and that's alright with us. We know He is coming for us, and soon we will see His face. More than anything else, we want to hear Him say, "Well *done*, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). Even though we often fail, the desire of our hearts is to please Him in all that we do. That's one of the ways we know that we're saved. He has placed that desire within us.

I guess the real question is this: What did those of us on the narrow road do to get on the narrow road? How did all of those changes take place in our hearts? How did we get forgiven of our sins? How were we saved? How did we receive the blessed assurance that the road we are traveling will one day end at the feet of Jesus?

Well, those are good questions. As I think about what the Bible says, as I think about the testimonies of other Christians, and as I think about how I got on the narrow road myself, it is obvious that those of us on the road to heaven have done four things. Now don't try to divide these things up too separately because all four usually happen at about the same time. But there are, nonetheless, four things that must

happen in order for us to “enter by the narrow gate” on the road that leads to heaven (Matthew 7:13).

How to Go Through the Narrow Gate

First of all, in order to enter through the narrow gate, there must be a **recognition** of our need for God. We have to believe that there indeed is a God, that He is holy, that He has a standard, and that we have failed to measure up to it. When the Holy Spirit begins to convict a person of these truths, he cannot rest until this matter of sin is taken care of. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit “will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). He convicts us of **our sin**, of **Jesus’ righteousness**, and of **certain judgment**.

It is at this point that a person is gripped with fear. A person under the conviction of the Holy Spirit is afraid to die and afraid to stand before God. Why? Because of his sin. The convicted person knows he has fallen short of God’s standard. And he knows deep down in his heart that God must punish that sin.

This fear is not a bad thing. Actually, it is a very good thing. The second verse of John

Newton's famous song, *Amazing Grace*, contains these words: "'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!"¹ God often uses fear in the conviction process to get our attention.

But the Holy Spirit doesn't stop there. After He convicts us of our sin, He then convicts us of the perfection of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a sinless life, and when He died on that cross, He died a substitutionary death. He died to pay for our sins. All sins must be paid for. And that includes your sins. Your sins will either be paid for by Jesus on the cross, or they will be paid for by you in hell. But make no mistake about it, they will be paid for. The Bible says, "The wages of sin *is* death" (Romans 6:23). It may be your eternal death in hell, or Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, but it will take death to pay for your sins.

At this point in the conviction process, a wise person begins to think: "I have sinned. My life is not right. My heart is not right. I cannot stand before God like this. But wait. There is still hope for me. Jesus has died for my sins. Forgiveness is available. Forgiveness is possible. Forgiveness can be mine!!"

At this moment, the person is still unsaved, but he has been awakened by the Holy Spirit. There has been a recognition of his need for God and a recognition of God's provision in Christ. This is the first thing that must happen before a person can be saved.

After a person has come to recognize his need for salvation, he must then repent of his sins. **Repentance** is the second thing that must happen if a person is going to travel the narrow road. But what is repentance? And how do we repent?

The word "**repent**" literally means "a change of mind that results in a change of behavior." It is a change of mind about sin. When a person repents of his sins, he asks God to forgive him of his sins, and he also has a desire to stop committing those sins. The key to understanding repentance is realizing that repentance involves a **desire** to change. It is **not** that we are promising God that we will never sin again. In our own strength, we couldn't keep that promise anyway. Instead, it is that we are seeking His forgiveness for what we have done wrong, and we are asking for His help in the future. Repentance is **asking** God to forgive us and **desiring** for God to change us.

No one can be saved without repentance. It is an essential part of salvation. When Jesus began His public ministry, He said, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). He later said, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). If you do not have peace in your heart, you need to ask yourself if you have ever truly repented of your sins. Has there been a genuine sorrow over your sins and a desire to be cleansed and changed? A repentant person is not only broken **over** his sins, he has a desire to be broken **from** his sins. He desires to be freed from sin. And sorrow fills his heart until that freedom takes place.

The Bible says that “godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation” (II Corinthians 7:10). I encourage you to think about your sins, confess your sins, forsake your sins, and be forgiven of your sins. The Bible says, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

That’s what the tax collector did in the story Jesus told. Being aware of God’s holiness and of his own sinfulness, that dishonest tax collector repented of his sins. Jesus said that he “would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven,

but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner’” (Luke 18:13)! And God was merciful. Jesus said, “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified” (Luke 18:14).

The old gospel song describes the attitude of a repentant person perfectly. The person broken over his sins cries out to God, “Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.”² Have you ever done that? Have you ever seen your own sinfulness and asked God to be merciful to you? If not, you can. If not, you must...if you want to get on the narrow road that leads to heaven.

After a person has repented of his sins, he must commit his soul to Jesus by faith. After repentance, we must **trust Christ** to save us. But what exactly does that mean, and how do we go about trusting Christ?

The Bible says it this way: “For by grace you have been saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8). That word “**faith**” has with it the idea of **trust** and **commitment**. It is not just believing that Jesus lived, and died, and rose again. Even the devil believes that. The Bible says, “Even the demons believe – and tremble” (James 2:19)! The demons of hell believe that Jesus

lived, died, and rose again. And we know that the demons aren't saved.

Saving faith is not just believing the facts about Jesus. Saving faith is **trusting in Jesus**. You see, everybody who wants to go to heaven is trusting someone or something to get them there. Some trust the church. Some trust themselves. Some trust their family heritage. Some trust their baptism. Some trust some spiritual experience they have had. The only people going to heaven, though, are the people who have stopped trusting in all of that and who have started trusting in Jesus.

So let me pause and ask you the most important question anyone could ever ask you: **What is it that you are trusting to get you into heaven?** My entire life changed when I stopped trusting in my prayers, my repentance, my faith, my experience, my anything and started trusting Jesus to save me. The Bible says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). I say, "Amen" to that. I have peace today because I am trusting Jesus to save me. I can sing with the hymn-writer, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."³

But how did I start trusting Jesus? How do any of us actually put our faith in Jesus? Well, after we ask God to forgive us of our sins, we have to invite Jesus to come into our hearts. He Himself has promised, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). Think about that. Jesus is standing at the door of the human heart. He is patiently knocking. And He wants to come in.

Have you ever actually invited Jesus to come into your heart? I ask that question to people fairly regularly. And do you know what most people say? They say, “Jon, I do that all the time. I ask Jesus into my heart every day.” And then I say, “Well, is He there?” To which they respond, “I hope so.”

Do you see what is happening? Many sincere people are **asking** Jesus to come into their hearts, but they’re not **trusting** Him to come in. The fact that they keep asking Him in over and over is an indication of that. Friend, you cannot be saved without trusting Jesus to save you.

So the way to actually place your faith in Jesus is simple: **You ask Him to save you and**

then you trust Him to do it. You trust Him to save you because He promised that He would save you if you would trust Him to do so. The Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). Again, to **believe on Jesus** means to **trust in Jesus**. Have you ever done that? If you want to travel the narrow road to heaven, you must. And it’s actually an easy thing to do. Once you ask Him to save you, leave the matter of your salvation in His hands. Trust Him. You have given Him your soul. Now trust Him to save you, and trust Him to take you to heaven.

The final thing that those of us on the narrow road have done flows out of our trust in Jesus. Since we trust Him in our hearts, we **confess Him** with our mouths. The Bible says, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).

There is something about confessing Christ that seals our salvation. The word “**confess**” means “to say the same thing as.” In other words, after we have trusted Christ to save our souls, we agree with what God has said. We agree with Him that we are saved, and we begin to confess our faith in Him openly.

We confess our faith to God, to ourselves, and to others. We are not ashamed of Jesus. We let other people know that we have recognized our need, repented of our sins, and trusted Christ to save us. Jesus said, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). If we will confess Christ openly and publicly down here on earth, one day He will confess us openly and publicly up there in heaven.

I look forward to that day. One day soon I am going to see Jesus face to face. I am going to bow at His feet and thank Him for His wonderful salvation. And then He will bend down, place His arms around me, and lift me up. He will then say, “Come with Me.” I will follow Him down those golden streets of heaven...no doubt speechless by the majestic sights. And then He will walk me into the Father’s presence and say, “Father, I know You already know him, but this is Jon. I wanted to bring him to You. He wasn’t ashamed of Me down on earth, and I’m not ashamed of him here in heaven. My blood has washed away his sins, Father. He is spotless. He is clean. He is Mine. He is Ours.”

I have this amazing assurance that one day Jesus is going to confess me before the Father in heaven because I have confessed Him before men on earth. Do you have that assurance? Have you ever confessed Christ by taking your stand for Him? You need to...if you want Him to confess you before the Father in heaven.

So Which Road Are You On?

At this point, it should be obvious which road you are on. I know that many of you are already on the narrow road. For you, this booklet has hopefully strengthened your faith and helped you to understand your own salvation more clearly. Maybe I have said something that will help you as you seek to share your faith with others.

But I also know that many of you don't have any faith to share. You have never been saved. As you have worked your way through the pages of this booklet, it has become obvious to you that you are on the wrong road. You are beginning to see, perhaps for the first time, that the wrong road always leads to the wrong place.

Well, I have good news for you. Today is a **great** day to change roads!! Today is the **best** day to change roads!! In fact, today is the day God has **designated** as the day for you to change roads!! The Bible says that God “designates a certain day” for you to be saved...and He has named that day, “*Today*” (Hebrews 4:7). It’s the only day we have.

I am going to close this booklet with a little prayer. We call it, “*The Sinner’s Prayer*.” I have prayed it myself, and God was faithful to answer my prayer. He will be faithful to answer yours, too. Just trust Him.

The Sinner’s Prayer

“Dear Jesus,

I am on the wrong road, and I want to make a change. Thank You for dying on that cross to pay for my sins. And thank You for coming out of that grave, conquering death and hell. I am sorry for my sins. I ask You to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, and save me. And as I ask You to save me, I trust You to do it. I trust You with all of my heart.

Welcome to my heart, Jesus. Please begin now to make me the person You want me to be.

*In Your Name I Pray,
Amen.”*

A Closing Word

If you just prayed that prayer, let me be the first person to welcome you to the family of God. You have just entered through the narrow gate. You are now on the narrow road which leads to heaven.

You will meet many wonderful people on this road. And you will meet most of them in God’s church. I encourage you to find a good church, and to get involved in that fellowship. Share your decision to receive Christ with another person as quickly as possible. Then share it with your new church family. I also encourage you to follow the Lord in believer’s baptism. This is a wonderful way of letting others know that you have received Christ as Savior.

Somewhere along this road, I hope to have the honor of meeting you personally. I know that would be a tremendous blessing to me. But

if, for whatever reason, that doesn't happen, that's okay. Because what I know is this: One day soon we will meet where this road ends...at the feet of Jesus...in a place called heaven. When we get there, we'll have forever to talk about the amazing journey!!

¹ John Newton, *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound, The Baptist Hymnal* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1991), p. 330.

² Author Unknown, *Standing in the Need of Prayer, The Book of American Negro Spirituals*, 1925.

³ Edward Mote, *The Solid Rock, The Baptist Hymnal* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1991), p. 406.

Jon Redmond

Jon Redmond is the Assistant Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Pasadena, Texas. He has served on the church staff at First Baptist since 1995.

A graduate of Baylor University (B.A.), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M. Div.), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (D. Min.), Jon's desire is to lead people to trust Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord and to help them grow in their relationship with Him.