

# Five Things You Must Know

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**Intro:** Jonathan Edwards was a great preacher of days gone by. While still in his early twenties, he wrote out several “resolutions. One of which stated:

“Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can.”

That makes sense doesn't it. In fact, Pascal was right when he said:

“All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end.”

-So, if all men are seeking happiness, and ultimately, that happiness can only be sustained in eternity, how can we be assured that we are going to heaven?

-In an article in the L.A. Times, it stated:

“For every American who believes he's going to Hell, there are 120 who believe they're going to Heaven.”

-This seems to be very different from the words of Jesus when He said:

*“13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13, 14, KJV.*

-So, if not everyone who *thinks* they are going to Heaven are actually going, what do we need to know?

## **Biblical truth #1: God created us.**

*Ps 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.*

-Since God created us, what were His intentions regarding our design.

*Isa 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

-God created you!

-Mention intelligent design (balance, fingers come together, eye placement, nose, etc.)

**illust:** A tornado in a junkyard – does it produce a Lamborghini, or even a Ford Escort.

What about “Intermediate Species”? Where are they?

-How did God make man?

*Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

-This means that our lives are to reflect a higher power – God.

**illust:** Molly Cross, a photographer friend of my family, took a recent trip to Israel. Look at the photo she captured. As beautiful as the moon is that Molly captured in this photograph, it is important to remember that it would never have been visible had it not been for the light of a higher power.

-So man also receives his beauty from a higher power.

-What does it mean to “give glory to God?” It means that we are an accurate representation of Him. Which leads us to Biblical Truth #2.

### **Biblical Truth #2: All of us have failed God.**

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

-Sin has marred the image and glory of God in us.

**Illust:** Picture of the penny that I found in front of my house. The image is badly marred, yet still dimly visible.

-Because of our sin, we do not accurately reflect the perfect image of God. Oh, its still visible. We know how to love, we understand justice, we feel the pain of brokenness, yet we do none of these things perfectly, as God does.

-Sadly, most of us tend to compare ourselves with others regarding our value and worth.

### **Ten Commandments:**

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| 1. No other gods   | 6. Shalt not kill (murdering)             |
| 2. No graven image   | 7. Shalt not commit adultery (adulterous) |
| 3. Not take Lord's name in vain – (Not Muhammad or Buddha) | 8. Shalt not steal (thieving)             |
| 4. Keep the Sabbath  | 9. Shalt not bear false witness (liar)    |
| 5. Honor thy father & mother                               | 10. Shalt not covet                       |

-We fail miserably when it comes to God's standard of righteousness.

### **Biblical Truth #3: Because of our sin, we are all subject to God's just condemnation**

-Perhaps you say, “God is good, and won't judge me for my sin.”

**illust:** What if you knew an earthly judge and he knowingly pardoned a murderer. You would say, “He is a corrupt judge!” The same would be true of God if He failed to properly judge sin.

-But, God is not a corrupt judge.

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

-Death, in the Bible, always means separation.

-Because of our sin, we are all separated from God, and under His condemnation.

*Rom 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.*

### **Biblical Truth #4: God sent his *only* son, Jesus, to pay our sin debt and to provide the gift of eternal life.**

*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1:15*

-Because God is just and holy, He must judge sin. Because He is love, He desires to bring all men unto Himself.

*Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*

-Since God is not willing that any should perish, but He cannot compromise His justice, He sent Christ to pay in full the debt that you and I owe because of our sin.

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
Romans 5:8*

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Romans 6:23*

**Biblical Truth #5: The benefits purchased by the death of Christ belong to those who accept Him.**

-How did Christ purchase this “gift of eternal life?”

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13*

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us. I John 3:16*

-Christ paid the debt that you can never pay.

-This is why Hell is for eternity. You can never completely pay the debt of your sin.

-Since Christ has purchased this gift for me, how can I receive it?

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts 16:31*

*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36*

-At the beginning of this message, I spoke of future happiness. It is true that this life is often full of very real and very deep pain. Interestingly enough, Jesus didn't die to relieve you and I of all trials and difficulties in this life. In fact, the Apostle Paul said it this way:

*“19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” 1 Corinthians 15:19, KJV.*

-But, Jesus did come to grant us the benefit of eternal life – life that is perfect, full of joy and happiness, in a wonderful place called Heaven.

-Jesus was getting ready to return to Heaven and He had a conversation with His disciples. It went like this:

*“1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:1-6, KJV.*

-Yes, Jesus Christ is the only way, the only truth, and the only way to life eternally in a wonderful place called Heaven.

-Are you ready to allow God to do for you, what you can never do for yourself?

“Dear God, I admit that I have broken your laws and am worthy of your judgment. I humbly ask You for pardon and forgiveness. I believe that Jesus is God, that He died in my place and took my punishment on the cross, that He was buried, and rose again, conquering both death and hell. I now accept Him as my substitute and my Savior and believe your promise, that from this moment on, I will be Your child and You will reserve a place in Heaven for me. Thank you, Lord, for saving me. Amen.”