

# RELIGION

## Why Does Trusting Jesus Assure Us of Going to Heaven?

By Bob Sexton

The answer of course is: "Because the Bible says so."

In the Bible, we find, "...there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven, that has been given among men, by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12)."

Just before Jesus died on the cross, He told His disci-

ples to believe in Him, and that He was going away to prepare a place in His Father's house for them.

He also said He would come again, and receive them and take them there. When questioned by Thomas about how to get there, Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me (John 14:6)."

The Bible also tells us what results when we trust in Jesus. First, it tells us that we are justified (acquitted of our guilt — forgiven of our sins) by faith, and we therefore have peace with God, which is a restored relationship, through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1).

Secondly, we are told that through Jesus we have also, by faith, obtained access

to God's grace (unearned favor) and that we stand in His grace, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (Rom. 5:2).

Thirdly, the Bible says there is more certainty than "...having now been justified (acquitted) by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him (Rom. 5:9)."

So we understand from the Bible that trusting Jesus

brings us into a forgiven and right relationship with God and all the benefits He has planned for us. Trusting Jesus also removes the fear of being punished for our sins.

Jesus took the punishment for us, and when we trust in Him we are assured nothing can keep us from Heaven. That is good news!

For more information or an appointment to discuss

this personally, call 903-849-4198. If you miss an article and want to read it, it is available at [www.cbstatesman.com](http://www.cbstatesman.com).

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## HOPE IN DIFFICULT TIMES God is always our answer

Samuel Mills  
[trusting-in-jesus.com](http://trusting-in-jesus.com)

Hope means "to desire something with confident expectation of its fulfillment."

The state of hopelessness has been aptly described as a type of "Hell on Earth" filled with endless despondency and despair.

Today, more and more people are finding themselves alone and depressed, and few of us have not, at one time or another, felt the sting of despondency and despair.

But here's good news! Help is available — not the kind the world has wherein it wishes for the best. It is one thing to wish, and quite another to have faith based on the promises of God.

### God is our Source

Paul wrote that when you place your trust in God, He will fill you with peace, joy, and assurance (Rom 15:13). Throughout the Bible, God proves His faithfulness to His people by leading them safely through, or delivering them from all their predicaments and troubles. He will never leave or forsake His people; His plans are to prosper, not to harm them (Jer 29:11).

People and things will always let us down. In Psalms 33:17, the horse, often used as a symbol of power, is declared a vain hope for deliv-

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erance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. In Jeremiah 17:5, God sternly warns against placing our dependency in man, and calls it a curse.

God wants us to trust in Him. Psalms 147:11 tells us He is delighted when we put our trust in Him, and in Hebrew 10:23, we are told to rely on Him for He who promised it is faithful.

### Finding Help

To reap the benefits of the Christian life and to have protection, guidance, and comfort from the Holy Spirit, one must first be born again and become a child of God.

The born-again child of God has the unique privilege of talking to, and hearing from God, but this, the greatest resource available, is often neglected. We should always pray. Even in the darkest moments, when you don't feel His presence and think you will never smile again, pray anyway, because He is there; He is listening and is an "ever present help in time of trouble (Psalms 46:1)"

"He has delivered us from

such a deadly peril," 2 Corinthians 1:10 says. "And he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us"

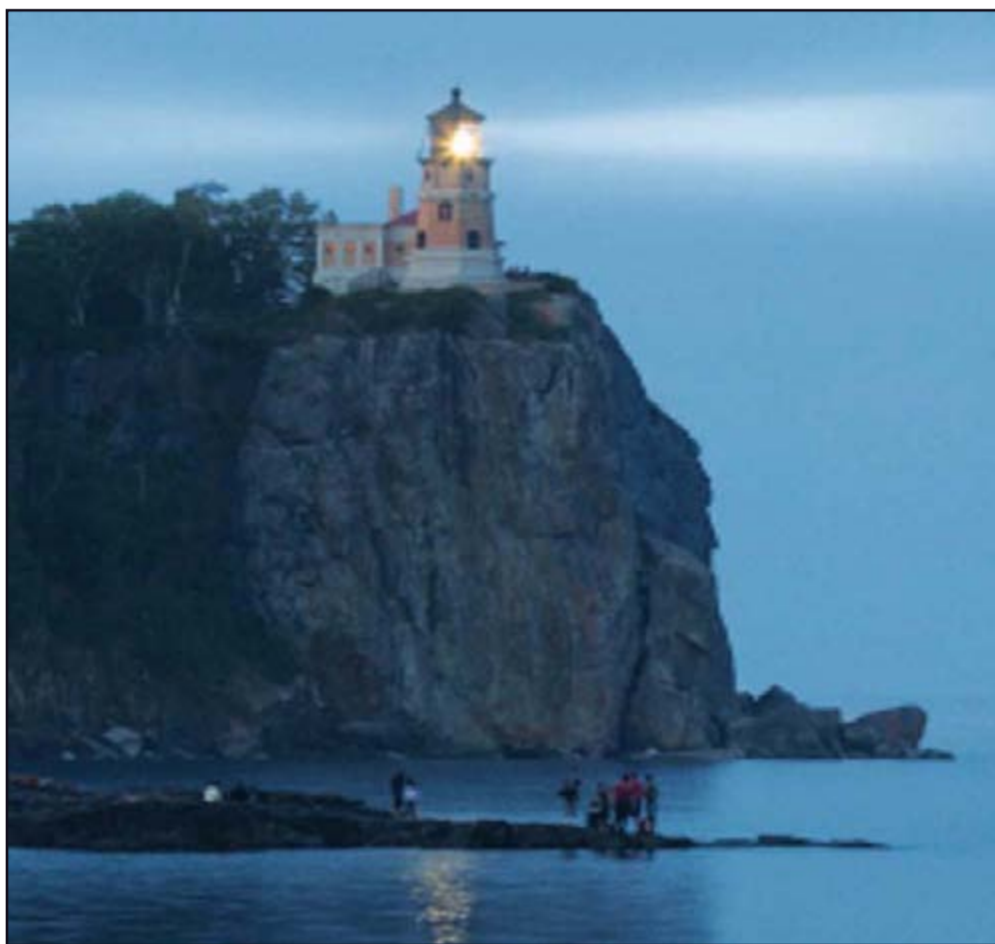
When we place our faith in God and in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we then trust Him to take us to Heaven. If we can trust Him with our eternity, surely we can trust Him for our earthly, daily cares.

Jesus said that as God clothes the grass of the field, so will He clothe us all the more. He tells us not to worry about what we shall eat or drink or how we will be clothed. The "heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things," Matthew 6:30-32 says.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him," 1 Corinthians 2:9 says.

### Hope in Difficult Times

Even if you reach what you consider to be your lowest point, God's word says He will never leave or forsake you (Matt 28:20).



He will give you peace and comfort even in the worst of circumstances, then lead you through, over or around the muck and mire of your situation, and again set your feet on solid ground.

Our God is the God of new beginnings, and with Him nothing is impossible. Whether you are very young, or considered to be very old, trust in Him because with Him it is always just the beginning.

You may even find yourself in such a situation through divorce, death of a spouse, loss of health,

finances, or whatever, that forces you to begin all over again, but is that so bad? Trusting God in difficult times forces us to seek His guidance, and to trust in Him.

Trusting God through these uncharted waters takes faith and courage but is worth every effort. The path of His choosing is the only one that leads to true happiness.

Isn't this a wonderful promise: "...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;

they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31)."

### Even in the Worst of Situations

A shining example of living with hope is Victor Frankel, a former prisoner in a Nazi prison camp.

Over the entrance to the feared death camp of Auschwitz were these words, "Abandon all hope ye who enter here" (Dante Alighieri's inscription on the entrance to Hell).

See ANSWER • 7

### FAITH HAVEN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## Cason officiates dedication services

Dedication services for Faith Haven Christian Academy were Feb. 20 in Chandler with the Rev. David Cason of Abilene officiating.

Chad Osborne welcomed those attending the ceremony to dedicate the building and school. Brad Osborne, a deacon at Concord Baptist Church, led the opening prayer.

The musical theme, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," was presented by Christian pianist Rebecca Baker.

After a hearty meal and fellowship, Debbie Cason Stroud cited a testimony

of God's faithfulness. Edward Stroud presented a plaque to Col Boyce Cason from Faith Haven Christian Academy.

The plaque represents the contribution of a tract of land of family tradition with love and affection to serve the Lord Jesus Christ from Oneta Geddie Cason, and in memory of Col Boyce Cason, son of Alvie and Nobie Beall and the grandson of Jefferson Davis Beall and Charlotte Elizabeth Coltharp-Beall.

The Coltharp-Beall House in Hamburg was established in 1849 on 462 acres.

Hamburg was a stagecoach stop, general

store, and a place of worship. Both families were Christian characters, lived energetically for God and country, and were always active in every effort to build strong civic organizations and prayer meetings in their community.

Hamburg was the first meeting place for religious services in the Concord community.

These two families formed the charter membership of Concord Baptist Church in Chandler.

The Rev. Cason closed the ceremony with a prayer of dedication.

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