

THE BIBLE VIEW

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We Gained It All

Bill Brinkworth

From time to time many Christians lose sight of who they are in God's eyes. In I Peter 2, Peter gives us at least eight reminders regarding who the child of God really is.

- He is chosen (vs. 9). As sinful as we have been, and even though we have let God down so many times, He has chosen us!
- He makes up the royal priesthood (vs. 9). In Old Testament times there were priests picked because of the family they had come from – the tribe of Levi. Although there are to be no priests in this New Testament age that function as did the Old Testament priest, each believer is a priest. They can go directly to the Lord in prayer for themselves and others, as did the Old Testament priests. They can give their lives for the needs of others. We are born into the royal family of God and can boldly go to the throne room of God.
- He makes up a “holy nation” (vs. 9). With their sins all forgiven, in God's sight we are a holy people. We are not better than anyone else. We are not perfect. However, by the grace of God, in His eyes, we are holy.

- He is a peculiar person (vs. 9). A Christian should think, act, and live differently than the unsaved. In the eyes of the unsaved, the Christian is odd because he is not living like the world and is doing his best to obey God's commandments.
- He is a part of the "people of God" (vs. 10). A Christian belongs to the largest family in the world — the family of God.
- He is a stranger in this world (vs. 11). "Strangers" in the Old Testament were gentiles that lived with the Jews. They were around the Jews, but they were not the same as they. They were tolerated, but they were different. The Christian, because of his adoption into the family of God, lives among the lost in this world, but does not quite fit in with them.
- He is a pilgrim (vs. 11). A pilgrim is one who is traveling through a certain place without a permanent abode. The Christian is bound for heaven and just "passing through" this temporary life.

Instead of being envious of what the world is doing, and what they temporarily have, we need to remember a born-again person is a child of God. By God's grace we have far more than we deserve. We are on the winning side. Let the lost follow our example, rather than our following theirs — the losing side. Be proud if you are a Christian, not indecisive and trying to live in both worlds.

**“What did you have to give up to be a Christian?
Hell!”**

My Inheritance

Author Unknown

A godly, older man was walking to church; reading his Bible as he went.

A friend stopped him on his way and questioned, “What are you reading?”

“I am reading My Father’s Will as I walk along,” was the elderly man’s response.

“Well, what has He left you? “ asked the curious friend.

“Why, He has bequeathed me a hundredfold more in this life, and even more in the everlasting life to come,” was the grateful Christian’s response.

“The most important question concerning any man living is this: Is he a saved soul or not? Is he a child of God, or an heir of wrath?” — Spurgeon

Christian in Name Only

Bill Brinkworth

There are many that claim to be Christian, but are not! They are heathen. Heathen are the unsaved, and those bound for Hell. Calling themselves Christians will not make them saved. Examine what the Bible says about heathen cloaked under the name “Christian”:

Heathens are sometimes called Christians or God's people.

"... That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this." Amos 9:11-12 This verse is speaking of a time not yet come, but the principle applies to these latter days. Not all that claim to be children of God are children of God

Heathens pray.

"... But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Matthew 6:6-7 It is ironic that the outline for prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) that follows these verses is what many so-called "Christian" faiths vainly (without thought or meaning, empty of feeling) pray over and over again.

Heathens have religion also!

"... This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:7-9 There have always been those that believe themselves to be children of God, but were not. It was the religious that had killed Jesus and persecuted His followers.

Heathens can think God is using them. (But many times, Satan the deceiver is blinding them, and deceiving them with false miracles from "God")

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me , Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”
Matthew 7:20-23

Heathens can go through religious routines and rituals.

“Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ... and you thrust out.”
Luke 13:26-28 They went to the house of God, but that didn't make them His.

Many are religious, but lost. There is only one way to be a child of God — God's way.

“... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.

“The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.” —

Boswell

God's Way

Bill Brinkworth

All the misinformation and beliefs of today that state there is one God, but many different ways to Heaven are not biblical. There is one God, and there is only one way to get to His Heaven or to please Him. That way is clearly preserved for us in the Word of God. **JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION.**

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. " John 14:5-6

While most will nod their head in agreement at this verse, they do not truly understand what it means when Jesus says, "I am the way..." It means He is the only way, and there is nothing else that can be added or can be done, only accepting His gift of eternal life.

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

He is the way to heaven; not by good deeds or works.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Most false religions (many call themselves "Christian") teach if your good works outweigh your bad, you will go to heaven. No one, however, is righteous (Romans 3:10), so our good works will not suffice in getting anyone to heaven. Giving, being kind, not stealing, not murdering, trying not to sin, helping the poor, reading the Bible, going to church, praying, and being a good person may be some of the right things to do, but they do not save one from Hell. No one can earn their way to Heaven. The way to

heaven has already been purchased for us. We have to accept what Christ did for us with His payment for our sins.

"... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ..." Hebrews 10:10-12

He is the way and not rituals. Some practices may be biblical, but they will never get one to Heaven. These include: baptism (never does the Bible mention infant baptism), marriage, and communion. There is nothing you can do to earn salvation; it was all done and paid for by Christ's finished work on the cross.

He is the way and not man-made religion. Man's influence on God's way of salvation is sometimes very subtle; but if we follow what is not God's way, it will not get us to Heaven. If we follow a church's way, that is not biblical, and trust it to get us to heaven, we will be horribly shocked.

Jesus paid for our salvation. His payment is the only acceptable way to get anyone to heaven. Jesus is the **ONLY** way!

"Human nature's way of salvation is, 'Do, do, do.' But God's way of salvation is, 'Done, done, it is all done.' You have but to rely by faith on the atonement that Christ accomplished on the cross." — Spurgeon