

The Most Important Question of Your Life...

If you died tonight, do you KNOW if you'd go to heaven?

The Easy Steps to KNOW for Sure:

== A == Acknowledge you are a sinner

ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

== B == Believe the shed Blood of Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved.

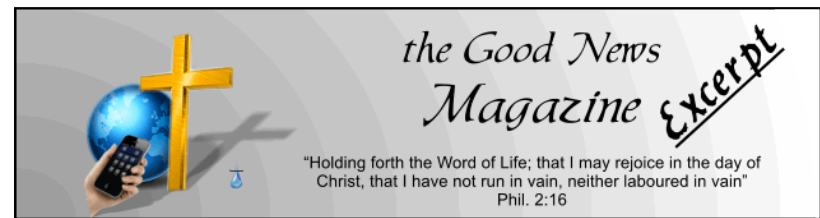
The wages of sin is death* but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

== C == Confess to God you know you are a sinner and call upon Him to come into your heart.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13

Comfort of the Scriptures

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4



Would You Give Your Life For A Friend?

Life would be so boring if we had no friends to chat with, talk to, share with confide to, cry with and run to. Oh, how lovely this is! I wonder how many people would prefer to stay without friends. I guess even the cruelest people do have someone to call a friend. A friend is a person you know well and regard with affection and trust. He is always cooperative and of great assistance. A friend is a person with whom you are acquainted. But, then if indeed a friend is all of the above I have described, would you give your life for your friend?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, *Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. The man who had great wisdom knew better to say two are better than one. It is indeed true.*

We learn so much from the above scripture; it speaks to us so

directly and in an easy way to understand. In other words we need each other in this life we live in. But most of the times the opposite happens. One whom you trusted so much, turns against us. It could be someone we thought would be of great help to us but then turns out to be unfamiliar to us. It is like we know nothing about them... King David too did experience this.

In Psalms 41:9 *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.* This shouldn't surprise us at all. But one thing we must remember is that, when friends forsake you, God will never do so. And it is in this regard I want to share about my best friend. Do you know Him? Have you met Him? I wish you knew Him. You will always want to be associated with Him. His Name is JESUS, the best friend I have ever had!

Jesus My Lord, the one who gave His life for me. He died a cruel death so that I could live. He took my place of sin and paid the penalty. HE loved us so much, that He gave His only begotten son. He cleansed me and said, ALL IS

FINISHED! What more can I say about my friend? Is there a friend who can do such a thing? HE sure is a friend to be trusted. From the beginning to the end, His love for us is limitless! He heals our sick bodies. He forgives our sins. Yes, Jesus my Lord, Savior and friend defends the feeble. He is more than a friend. He is never too far away from us. He is closer to us than we could imagine or think. He dwells in our hearts to all those who have accepted His eternal, lasting friendship! I wish you knew what kind of friend I am talking about. The Spirit of the Lord is upon Him, He is anointed to preach the gospel to the poor. He came to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. Oh, did you hear that? My friend Jesus is a humble servant. He was God Himself. His residence was in heaven but He desired to live with mankind. He was seeking for a life time friendship and as He came to His own, His own received Him not. They rejected Him, a friend who had come to help us, Him they did not want to associate with. Nevertheless, this never put Him away from us. He established His Kingdom. His will on earth He fulfilled. He gives us our daily bread. He forgives us our debts. He leads us not into temptation but

delivers us from evil! Who could do this other than Jesus, the Son of God?

John 15:15 says, Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. This is why I love my friend Jesus. He reveals all things to us who believe Him. Whatever He hears from His Father He makes it known unto us. For greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Jesus is a true friend. To Him I pledge my allegiance. I will do whatever He commands me to, His grace will always help us all in obedience to do what He wills. May it be unto us all, if we really are Jesus' friends, to do all that He commands us! Greater love hath no man than this... By these words our Lord shows, how far love to one another should extend, even to the laying down of our lives for our friends!

Now, it is very important to know that for us to be good friends, we must love one another. If we don't love one another, we can never give our lives for a friend. That's why Jesus Himself commanded us to love each other. John 13:34 says, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Jesus our

best friend, did not only come down from heaven, and lay aside His glory and royal majesty, but He laid down His life! He could have laid down His gold, silver and the riches of this world, which were all His, but He opted to lay down His very own life; than which, nothing is dearer to a man, is Himself, His all, everything He was! That indeed is a friend we all need to have!

Jesus was and still is the Lord of glory and Prince of life. He was crucified and slain. We deserved all this, but He, being a good and caring friend gave it all for our own sake. His life had never been forfeited by sin, nor could it have been forced away from Him by men but it was laid down of and by Himself, freely and voluntarily. He became a ransom for us. Jesus, being our surety and substitute, stood in our legal place and took our sins upon Him. He bore the curse of the law with all the punishment due to sin; and suffered death, the death of the cross. How painful this was for a dear friend to lay down His life for us. It is not that He was a sinner, we were and He was sinless, just and upright.

Notice, Jesus didn't want to call His disciples servants, but He called them friends. Not that they were originally so; being enemies and enmity itself to God, when He laid down His life for them and for

us all. God's main agenda is to reconcile and bring us back to Himself. We, who were His enemies by His grace called us friends. He laid down His life for His enemies, without any sinister or selfish move, Jesus freely and voluntarily died on the cross for us ALL. Proverb 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. That friend is Jesus who will always stick closer to us. Who is like Him? Will you allow Him to come into your life? Will you let Jesus be part of your life? Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Let us all open the door of our hearts and let Jesus in. He is indeed a friend who can give His life for a friend. Will you?

by Justus Ondieki

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The above is an excerpt from the August 2015 issue of the Kenya-USA magazine:

The Good News Magazine. The full issue, including a word search puzzle and more God-honoring articles are at:

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