



DON'T BE A SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

One day, you and I will reach the end of our journey here on earth and we'll keep our appointment with God. It's an appointment we can't cancel or postpone. The Bible says: "Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9: 27). If like most people, you're hoping that God will receive you into heaven, the Bible gives only one other alternative and it's an unthinkable way to spend eternity – hell!

Jesus said, "...only a few find the road that leads to eternal life" (Matthew 7: 14). How can you be sure you're going to heaven when you die? Listen to the conversation that Jesus had in His last moment before He died on the cross, with a thief crucified on the cross next to Him in Luke 23: 42-43. The thief speaks first: "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Today, you will be with Me in paradise." This man was guaranteed by Jesus Himself that he would be in heaven that day because of two words, "With Me." When he stood before God in judgment, Jesus would say, "He's with Me."

Will He say that when you stand before God in judgment? It all depends on what you're depending on to get you to heaven. You can't get to heaven with your sins still in God's book, and there's only one way for your sin to be erased. The eternal death penalty for your sins must be paid. On that awful cross, Jesus Christ, God's Son absorbed that penalty so you would never have to pay it. He experienced hell so you could have heaven because He loves you beyond words. The Bible says, "Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name" (Acts 10: 43).

If you're putting your hopes for heaven on anything other than Jesus - your religion, goodness, family or belief, you're holding onto a ticket that God will never accept. On the Judgment Day, He will say, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7: 24). Don't let that happen to you! If you've never really put all your hopes on Jesus, as your only Saviour from sin, this is the best time to do so. Then, when you stand at heaven's gate, you will go in because Jesus will look at you and say those deciding words, "He's with Me; she's with Me."