
ETERNAL LIFE FOR DUMMIES

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Handout #1

I. What must I BELIEVE to be saved (to inherit eternal Life)?

I must come to understand and must choose to believe each of the following truths in such a way that I live my life in the light of these truths.

A. I must come to understand and must choose to believe the following:

1. God IS.
 - God is the author of all reality—he is the one and only true “god.”
2. I am his creation.
3. God is entirely good.
 - God’s will is always to be preferred to my own.
4. I am fundamentally a rebel against God and against all that is connected with him, and, therefore, that I am unworthy of any blessing from God.
5. God is a “rewarder” of all those who seek him.
 - God is merciful and desires to bless me.
 - The only condition on God’s mercy is that I repent of my antagonism toward God and desire to be rightly related to God.
 - > To desire to be rightly related to God is to desire to be rightly related to truth.
 - > To desire to be rightly related to God is to desire to be rightly related to goodness.

While it is not strictly necessary that I come to understand and believe each of the following truths, it is essential that I *not refuse* to understand and believe any of the following truths and that I not refuse to live my life in the light of these truths.

B. I must NOT REFUSE to understand and believe the following:

1. Jesus is the man whom the apostles and the Bible say he is.
 - Jesus is the man whom God appointed to reveal to mankind his purposes and promises.
 - Jesus is the man whom God appointed to be the embodiment of his kingly rule over the whole created order.
 - Jesus is the man who heroically went to his death by crucifixion, in obedience to God, in order that he might display for all time the just penalty of human sin.
 - Jesus is the man whom God appointed to be my advocate.
2. Whatever God has revealed with regard to how I should live my life (and with regard to what is true and consistent with God’s purposes) is true.

II. What must I DO to be saved (to inherit eternal Life)?

In striving to live my life in the light of the truth revealed to us by Jesus and recorded in the Bible, I must strive to make choices that are consistent with that truth.

- A. Therefore, I must earnestly strive to do the following:
1. Submit to the will of God.
 - Be humble, and NOT presumptuous.
 - Trust God implicitly with every aspect of my existence.
 2. Fear God and take him seriously.
 - Accept that God has the right to do absolutely anything he wants with my existence.
 - Heed the fact that God will destroy those who ignore him.
 - Fear God rather than man.
 - > Be utterly indifferent to the opinion of other human beings.
 3. Love God and the things of God.
 - Love goodness such that I strive to choose what is good in everything I do.
 - > Develop a hatred of evil and depravity.
 - > Learn to discern true righteousness from the many forms of counterfeit righteousness.
 - Love truth and renounce falsehood and deceit.
 - NOT love the things of this present physical existence.
 4. Have the courage and honesty to confess my moral depravity.
 - Have an accurate appraisal of myself—particularly, assess that I am “poor” and not “rich,” no matter what my circumstances might be.
 - Be merciful to others and forgive them.
 5. Hope in what God has promised me.
 - Live with the confident expectation that one day I will be perfectly righteous as God is righteous.
 - Find joy at the prospect of eternity in the Kingdom of God, appraising myself as “rich” and not “poor,” no matter what my circumstances might be.
 6. Submit to Jesus’ authority and learn from him.
 - NOT be affected by the world’s rejection of Jesus, not being ashamed of him, fully acknowledging his standing, role, and glory.