

John 30:31 *These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, (Messiah) the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

John's assurance to his readers is this: Life is inseparable linked between believing in the person of Jesus Christ and his name. It is not the result of our performance. This is why John wrote his Gospel. His goal is made clear that Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son! When we believe (transfer trust from ourselves and what we can do to who Jesus is and what he has done) we have eternal life.

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We can have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ based on what he has done for us. Through Jesus we have access to this grace. The term "having been justified" comes from the courtroom. While we are guilty as charged of sin and rebellion Jesus has come forward, taken our place, and paid in fully the price for our sin. We receive his substitutionary death and resurrection for sin by faith in Jesus alone.*

Galatians 3:10-14 *For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

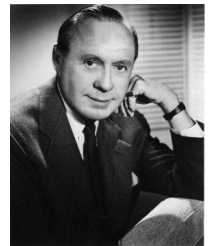
It is impossible to be right with God on the basis of obeying the law (commandments). This law brings judgment on us based on our morality, goodness, good work, kindness, sincerity, purity and expression of love. After fully examining us the law condemns us and declares that we fall short of God's will. We are lost and condemned when we depend on our own righteousness. Jesus' saving work made it possible for us to be saved when everything we attempt to do makes it impossible. St. Paul clearly points out that any attempt to rely on personal attributes or morality is as worthless and fruitless as a person attempting to swim

from the west coast of California to the Islands of Hawaii. No matter how good a swimmer you are no one is capable of covering the distance of 2356 miles on their own. Some may swim a mile, some ten miles some may even swim one hundred miles but in the end everyone drowns!

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. This is the clearest statement in the Bible as to the source and power of grace and faith. Please note that grace and faith are both revealed as gifts from God the Father. The very faith we are called to exercise and place in Jesus is a "gift." It is not something we can produce. It is something we exercise. Therefore we cannot take credit (boast) about our salvation since it is a pure gift as a result of receiving Jesus into our hearts and lives.*

This is the Biblical Message

One of the most beloved comedians of the 20th century was Jack Benny. Jack always played the role of a financial miser. (In fact Jack was a very generous man.) In this comedic role Jack was reminded that when he died he could not take his money with him. As Jack pondered this reality he commented, "Then I'm not going to go!"



The question is not "if we go," since we will all die, the question is "who do you know?" Think of it this way. Imagine you show up at the White House and ask to see the President. You tell the guard that you are a good citizen, you pay your taxes and that you voted for him in the last election. Will the guards let you in? "NO! Why? The President doesn't personally know you. On the other hand if you show up at the gate and announce that you are the son or daughter of the President the guard will confirm that truth, open the gate and welcome you home. Why? The President knows you!

When we know Jesus biblically it is guaranteed that he will know us! We are always welcome into his house (Kingdom). We will never be turned away or rejected. Why? Jesus knows you!! This is the assurance we have. With this assurance we can live securely all the days of our lives.