

What do you love more than God that is keeping you from having eternal life? You must repent of this sin and turn to Jesus Christ by believing on Him. *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

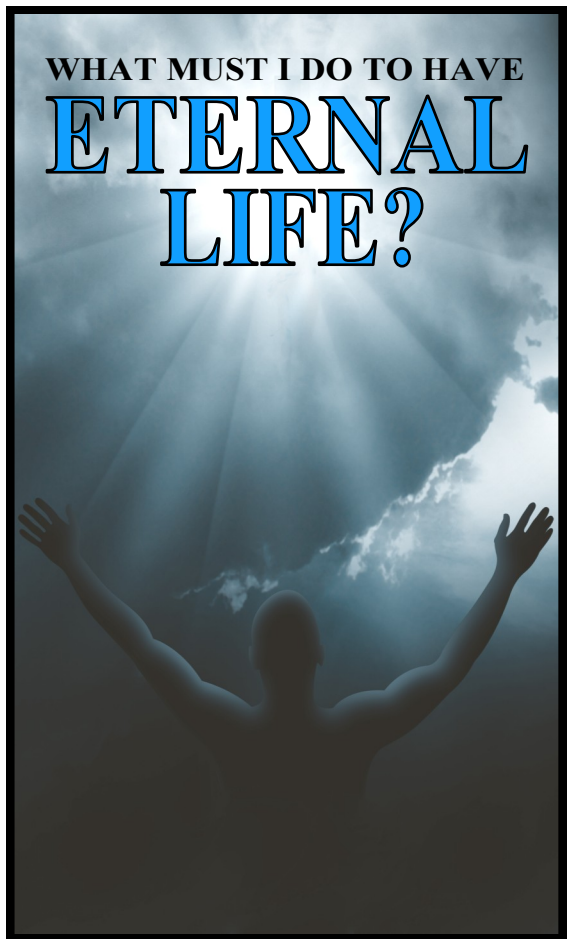
Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin. He was buried and three days later was raised from the dead. Do you believe this with all your heart? Romans 10:9 *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* Now that you know the truth, you are faced with the same decision.

Will you, too, go away sorrowful?



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WHAT MUST I DO TO HAVE
**ETERNAL
LIFE?**



If there is something that we must do to earn eternal life then we need to know what it is and how to do it. The Bible is our only source for divine truth, so the answer must be found there.

In Matthew 19:16, a rich, young ruler asked Jesus, *“Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”* In the next verse, Jesus responded by asking him a question, *“Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.”* The first fact this man needed to know was that he was a sinner. Psalm 14:2-3 teaches us this same truth. *“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* This is the first thing we all must acknowledge in order to have eternal life.

The second fact we must know is that Jesus is the only one who can give us this eternal life. Jesus was provoking this man to think about who He is by asking Him, *“Why callest thou me good?”* We must believe on Jesus and that He alone can save us. This great truth is also taught in John 20:31 *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

The next thing we must realize is that there is, in fact, no *“good thing”* that we can do to earn eternal life. Jesus continues by saying, *“if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”* This man was trusting in his own works to earn eternal life.

He thought he had kept all the commandments, but he had not. God’s standard is perfection, and because we are sinners, perfection is impossible. The commandments were given to show us that we could not keep them. James 2:10 tells us, *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

Listen to what Jesus told a lawyer in Luke 10:25-28 after being asked the same question. *“Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”*

Now, back to the rich, young ruler — Because this man failed to understand, Jesus reminded him of this one and greatest commandment he could not deceive himself into thinking he had kept. *“Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”*

He loved riches more than he loved God. Jesus gave him an opportunity to repent. If he had only changed his mind about what was important and had been sorrowful that he had placed riches above God, he would have been willing to do what Jesus said. His response had eternal consequences. *“But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”*