

(Mar/Apr '03 ETC)

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*Preparation: Make four flashcards as shown throughout the text.*

### **The ABCs of Salvation**

What if God said we had to be very smart to get to Heaven someday? Would *everyone* be able to go to His beautiful home?

What if God said we had to pay a lot of money to get to Heaven? Would *everyone* be able to pay the price?

What if God said that we had to do lots of good things to get to Heaven? How would anyone know if he had done enough good things to get in?

Well, let me tell you that neither smartness, nor money nor good things will ever get anyone to Heaven! The way to Heaven is much *harder* than that *and* it is much *easier* than that! That sounds like a riddle—What is impossible but very easy? (*Let children guess.*) The answer is “the way to Heaven”!

It is *impossible* for you to get to Heaven on your own because you must be 100 percent good to live where God is. Are you 100 percent good? No. No one on Earth is that good. God tells us in the Bible that *all* have sinned. That means we all have disobeyed His rules.

If you have ever told a lie, you have sinned. The Bible, God’s book, says, “Lie not” (Col. 3:9). If you have been mean to someone, that is sin. God says, “Be kind to one another” (Eph. 4:32). Disobeying Mom and Dad is sin. In the Bible we read, “Children, obey your parents” (Eph. 6:1).

None of us is good enough for Heaven. But there is *one* person who lived on Earth many years ago who is 100 percent good. He is God’ own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you so much that He sent Jesus down from Heaven to Earth to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus gave His own life to pay for the sin of *everyone* in the world. “Christ died for your sins . . . He was buried . . . He was raised [from the dead] on the third day” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). God brought Jesus back to life. He accepted Jesus’ death

as the payment for your sin. Jesus is alive now, making a place ready for all those who believe in Him.

You cannot save yourself from sin. That is impossible. But you *can* believe that Jesus will save you. Anyone can believe on Jesus—smart or not so smart, rich or poor, very bad or not too bad. God made the way to Heaven as easy as ABC by taking care of your sin problem. But you must follow His directions to receive His wonderful gift of forgiveness.

A—Admit to God that you are a sinner—that you are not good enough for Heaven.

B—Believe that Jesus, God’s own Son, died for your sin and rose again from the dead.

C—Call on Jesus to save you. God says, “*Everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13).

Here’s how you can call on Jesus right now. We will close our eyes and talk to Him and He will hear your voice. If you want Jesus to save you from your sins you can say these words after me, *Dear Jesus, I have done wrong things . . . . I am not good enough for Heaven . . . . But I believe You died for my sin . . . . Please save me from my sin right now . . . . Thank You for making the way to Heaven easy for me . . . . Help me to live for You . . . . Amen.*

*(When counseling those who make a decision, present Hebrews 13:5. Explain how Jesus lives in them by His Holy Spirit to help them obey God. Discuss 1 John 1:9, God’s provision for sin after salvation.)*