



How is that possible?

Let's back up one question. "*Is it possible to be certain you are going to heaven if you died tonight?*" This is a question I asked the 7th-8th Grade confirmation students during a recent class session. The overwhelming response was "NOOOO." (Boy did they get that one wrong!) When I told them the correct answer is "YEEESSS," their response was "How is that possible?"

In short, it is possible to be certain of our eternal life, because we are trusting NOT in what *we* do to earn eternal life, but in what *God* has already done to purchase heaven as a *gift* for us.

If we are laboring under the misconception that we have to *do* things to earn our way into heaven, it's true that we will never be certain we've done enough things - or done them well enough. But if we are trusting in what God has done to purchase our entrance to eternity, we can be certain that He has done everything needed, and has done it perfectly. (He's God, He doesn't mess up.)

Last month we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter. It is that resurrection event that proves to us God did accept Jesus' Good Friday sacrifice as full payment for our sins - full payment for the sins that would have kept us out of heaven had they not been paid for.

The Resurrection of Jesus is the event that also shows our faith is placed in the right One when it is placed in Jesus. Many people throughout the ages have come claiming to be THE one to follow in order to get life after death. Only One of those rose from His grave as evidence that He was telling the truth. (Think about it... if Jesus had lied about who He was or about the fact that we need to place our faith in Him, do you really think God would have raised Him from the dead? I don't think so! Jesus' rising from the grave is evidence of God's acceptance of what Jesus said and did.

Listen to this passage from the Apostle John *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.* (1 John 5:13). Notice that John said, "so that you may KNOW you have eternal life." He didn't say, "hope you have..." but "know you have..." And why can we *know* we have eternal life? Because we are believing in the name of the Son of God... and not in things we do to earn it.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net