7. **MYTH:** I have sinned *so much* that God will never let me into heaven.

   TRUTH: "…do you not know that the unrighteous *[those without sorrow and without faith in Jesus]* shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And** such **were** *[past tense]* some of you; **but** you were washed, **but** you were sanctified, **but** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11 NAS). "If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 ESV).

8. **MYTH:** No one can ever *know for sure* about his/her entrance into heaven.

   TRUTH: "And this is the testimony, that **God** gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to **you** who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may **know** that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:11-13 ESV).

9. **MYTH:** Whenever I make a decision, I should do what *I think is best*.

   TRUTH: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

Some Are Far Away from the Truth

Some believe there is no God – so they believe in *the big bang and evolution*, they also reject *the reality of an eternity and any need for a Savior*. If that is your situation, I kindly urge you to ➧think about this brochure, ➧evaluate your source of truth *(is it really reliable)*, ➧realize that absolute truth comes from God, and ➧repent (thus *acknowledge God's truth*—the Bible, *be sorry*—wherever you are living in opposition, and *receive Jesus*—as the One in whom you are trusting for eternal life)!

- Good news – Jesus said: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32 ESV).
- "Repent *[be sorry for your sins]* … and turn again *[to Jesus as your Savior]*, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19-20 ESV).

Conclusion

If you need spiritual help, please let me know. *Pastor Green*

Connect With Us

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Location:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 (*Just South of Pleasant Valley Road*)
Schedule:	See our "Join Us" brochure
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"
Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible"
Contact:	440-845-2230

(Last Update: 2-22)

Introduction

Today's world is filled with information; we receive it through many modes, including books, newspapers, magazines, radios, phones, TVs, and computers. So, the challenge today is not *obtaining* information, but *sorting* the information into two categories: **myth** and **truth**. For example:

- **MYTH:** You must wait 24-hours before filing a missing person's report.
  TRUTH: The police will accept it sooner.
- **MYTH:** Don't eat; then swim.
  TRUTH: Eating makes a person short of breath; it does not cause cramps.

- **MYTH:** People evolved from chimpanzees.
  TRUTH: God created chimpanzees *and people* on day 6 of creation (Gen. 1:26-27).
- **MYTH:** Jesus was born on December 25.
  TRUTH: The early church transformed a pagan celebration of *daylight* into a Christian celebration of *the True Light*, the Son of God, coming into the World.
- **MYTH:** There were three wise men.
  TRUTH: The Bible never says how many.

Sometimes *the truth* is interesting, but sometimes *the truth* makes the difference between *eternal life* and *eternal condemnation*.

- Jesus prayed to the Father: "…your word is truth" (John 17:17 ESV).
- Jesus said to people who had believed in Him: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32 ESV).

But why should we trust the Bible to be *the truth*? Please see the next section!

The Bible Is the Truth

Many claim to have *the truth*, so how can we know for sure? These are some of the many reasons why we *can* and *should* be confident that the Bible is God's Word of Truth:

- Prophecy in General – God declared over 2,000 things in advance; then they happened, *just as He said!*
- Prophecy about Jesus – God declared over 300 things in advance about the Promised Savior; *then they came to fulfillment during His earthly life!*
- Science – Even though evolutionists claim to be on the side of science, *honest science* agrees with the Biblical account of creation!
- The Four Gospels – They are not *identical* but *similar*: in a courtroom, "identical" testimony points to fabrication while "similar" testimony points to the truth!
- The Bible Itself – Many in the Bible, *who laid down their lives for the truth of the Bible*, claim that it is the truth!

For more on those five topics, go the "Sermon" section of our website; then search for "Abide in Me." See the first five sermons in that series.

MYTH or TRUTH

Are YOU Certain about YOUR Eternity?

Sometimes things can *look* or *feel* or *seem* so right, but are they? The Bible says: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (Proverbs 14:12 ESV). Since we *cannot* trust our feelings, how can we *distinguish* between **a myth** and **the truth**? Regarding eternity, *God has told us the truth in His Holy Word, the Bible!*

As you read through this section, notice that each part has two opposites – *a myth and a truth*; then, *by God's grace*, may you *push away* the myth and *embrace* the truth!

1. **MYTH:** I am good enough to go to heaven.

   TRUTH: "None is righteous, no, not one…" (Romans 3:10 ESV). Therefore, no one, *of himself*, can be righteous, thus sinless, holy, or perfect, in God's sight!

2. **MYTH:** Since I haven't done anything bad, God will welcome me into heaven.

   TRUTH: "…whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all" (James 2:10 NAS).

3. **MYTH:** Since God is a loving God, no one will be eternally condemned.

   TRUTH: "Whoever believes in [Jesus] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God" (John 3:18 ESV).

4. **MYTH:** Since others think well of me, I will be welcomed into heaven.

   TRUTH: What *God knows* is what counts. Jesus said: "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead" (Revelation 3:1 ESV).

5. **MYTH:** I have done *more good* than bad, so things are good between me and God.

   TRUTH: No amount of good can meet God's requirement. Jesus said: "You … must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48 ESV).

6. **MYTH:** Since I go to church, I will be welcomed into heaven.

   TRUTH: We must be clothed in Christ: "…when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment *[thus, not clothed in Christ, Gal. 3:27]*. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness.'" (Matthew 22:11-13 ESV).