

ROMANS 10:9-10: "... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The phrase, "His finished work" referred to in John Townsend's letter, is a way of saying that when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was taking on Himself the punishment for all breaking of God's commands. He has done everything needed for us to be forgiven and made right with God. Even Queen Victoria knew she was a sinner and needed forgiveness. We all do!

When Jesus rose from the dead three days later, He was demonstrating that the work of buying forgiveness, and bringing us to know God was complete. In heaven He welcomes into His Home all those who like Queen Victoria repent

of their sin and put their trust in Jesus. Christianity is not about what we do for God, but what He has done for us.

SOME YEARS LATER...

Whilst staying at Balmoral, an aged highland woman dared to enquire of Queen Victoria, "May I ask Your Gracious Majesty a question?"

"Yes," replied the Queen, "as many as you like."

"Will Your Majesty meet me in heaven?" asked the simple cottager.

The instant reply was, "I will, through the all-availing blood of Jesus."

When Jesus died, He was making a way to Heaven which is open to all people of all classes. Heaven is not a reward, but a gift. We need to ask Jesus to forgive us, and make us His for time and eternity.



To find out more about Jesus Christ please visit:
tell-me-more.org

Or email:
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CAN I BE SURE OF HEAVEN?



By David Ainscough and Roger Carswell

It was the best of times and the worst of times. There was peace and prosperity during Queen Victoria's reign from 20 June 1837 to 22 January 1901.

But there was also poverty, prostitution, child labour and early death. Technology, engineering and science were enjoying a heyday, and Britain had its Empire.

Look at the gravestones around a church, and it is clear that people had a faith in God that comforted them in the tough times of life. Whenever death comes people want to know what happens next. We know a little about heaven ... and hell, and want to know where we are headed!



Queen Victoria had a similar question that troubled her. She wondered, "Can anyone be sure to spend eternity in heaven?"

The Queen had attended a service in St. Paul's Cathedral and had listened to a sermon that really interested her. After the service Queen Victoria asked her chaplain, "Can one be absolutely sure, in this life, of eternal safety?" But, ignoring the teaching of Jesus, he said he did not know any way to be certain.

The *Court News* published these remarks so that they became widely circulated throughout the land. They were read by John Townsend, a quiet and unassuming Christian preacher, who began to think and pray about answering the Queen himself. He then wrote this letter to her:

To Her Gracious Majesty, our beloved Queen Victoria from one of her most humble subjects:

With trembling hands, but heartfelt love, and because I know that we can be absolutely sure now of our eternal life in the Home that Jesus went to prepare, may I ask Your Most Gracious Majesty to read the following passages of Scripture: John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10.

These passages prove there is full assurance of salvation, by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, for those who believe and accept His finished work.

I sign myself, your servant for Jesus' sake.

John Townsend

He and others were praying for the Queen. In about a fortnight he received a modest-looking envelope containing the following letter:

To John Townsend:

Your letter of recent date I received and in reply would state that I have carefully and prayerfully read the portions of Scripture referred to. I believe in the finished work of Christ for me, and trust by God's grace to meet you in that Home of which He said, "I go to prepare a place for you."

(Signed) Victoria Ruelph

The Bible verses John Townsend asked the Queen to read were:

JOHN 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."