

## “HOW I KNOW DAD IS IN HEAVEN”

**TEXT:** **Ro 8:38** *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**THESIS:** To offer biblical evidence that believers are guaranteed a place in heaven...no matter what.

**INTRO.:** A. When death comes to claim a loved one you are forced into examining your belief system. Is your faith validated? Do you *really* believe all those things you professed? This week the Grim Reaper, our Last Enemy, claimed another victim. This time it was my own father. I had the joy, 10 yrs after my own salvation, to lead dad to a saving knowledge of Christ. In searching the Scriptures for peace & assurance, God gave me this passage of Script. to settle the issue: **“HOW I KNOW DAD IS IN HEAVEN.”**

B. *I am not preaching this message for me...it is settled in my heart. This message is for you...so you too can have this matter fully settled & to help you put your heart at rest for your loved ones or for yourself!* In examining the issue: **“HOW I KNOW DAD IS IN HEAVEN”** I want to undergird your own conviction that this wonderful passage of God’s Word is true!

**TRANS.:** The Holy Spirit lists 7 things which can never separate the saint from the love of Christ in v.35, then, as if he wanted to cover all the bases & not omit anything that might pop into our minds & create doubts, He inserts 10 more items which cover any eventuality. The *first one* on this list in v.38 is *death!*

Beyond these things there are some wonderful truths in God’s Word to help me w/the question **“HOW I KNOW DAD IS IN HEAVEN”** ...which can also help *you*. I know ...

### I. BECAUSE OF THE INTEGRITY OF GOD!

**Titus 1:1-2** *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

A. His immutability:

**Mal.3:6a** *For I am the LORD, I change not...*

1. Paul tells us that God cannot lie & says he promised us eternal life *“before the world began”*.
2. In 2 Tim.1:9 He tells us that our salvation was secure even *“before the world began.”*

**2 Tim.1:9** *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began...*

B. His Holiness:

1. The holiness of God guarantees that He cannot go back on a promise!
2. God is the only One Who can properly be addressed as “His Holiness”!
3. My dad was not trusting in his holiness, but in “His Holiness” - The Lord of Glory!!

**QUES.:** Who else would you trust with YOUR eternal soul?!

### II. BECAUSE OF THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF GOD’S WORD!

**NOTE:** Thank God for the inspiration, accuracy, trustworthiness & preservation of His Holy Word! Suppose God had not given us His Word in a written form & we had to depend on the accuracy of the memory of those to whom He spoke! Thank God **WE HAVE IT IN WRITING!**

A. The Prophecies Prove Its Trustworthiness:

1. People often ask *“How do you know the Bible is God’s Word?”*
2. One proven evidence is the accuracy of its prophecies.

3. Everything God ever promised in His Word has been fulfilled to the letter to date; therefore when dealing with our eternal life, we can trust all future prophecies.

#### B. The Pronouncements Prove Its Trustworthiness:

**ILLUS.:** The Bible declares in its very first sentence: *“In the beginning, God created ...”* The latest “scientific” fad says “In the beginning hydrogen created...” They *believe* that people came from apes, which came from other mammals, which came from reptiles, which came from amphibians, which evolved from fish, which evolved from invertebrates, which evolved from some unknown protozoan, which evolved from complex chemicals, which evolved from the simplest chemical of all, namely hydrogen. There is no evidence for any of this *belief*, for all of the above are still here & none of them are changing into anything else!

Hydrogen, the simplest chemical, is a ‘colorless, odorless, tasteless gas which, given 10 billion years or so, produces people. This is the *faith* of the evolutionist! One evolutionist confessed: *“...how much of this neat tale is firmly established, & how much remains hopeful speculation? In truth, the mechanism of almost every major step, from chemical precursors up to the first recognizable cells, is the subject of either controversy or complete bewilderment.”* - ICR

How much easier & more “scientific” to simply believe the pronouncements of the Bible made by God!!!

#### C. Its Promises Prove Its Trustworthiness:

1. Countless saints have met their last enemy with their hearts pillowed on the promises of God!
2. Death is scary! It is ugly! It is repulsive! It is our last enemy! For after death, the Bible promises eternal life!
3. Death is the final threat to our faith, but God’s promises declare *that “nothing can separate (the saint) from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**ILLUS.:** Charles Darwin, the evolutionist, on his death bed called for “the book” to be read to him. When asked “Which book?” from his extensive library, including his own “Origin of the Species” - he replied. “Which book? There is only One!” referring to the Bible!

I have never heard anyone call for the Encyclopedia, a biology book, Shakespeare or even a theology book, when they are dying. Many call for God’s Book!

**QUES.:** What other book would YOU turn to at death?!

### III. BECAUSE OF THE LOVE OF OUR SAVIOR!

#### A. His Incarnation Proved His Love:

1. He was willing to leave His Father’s side in glory to clothe Himself with humanity for us! *What love!*
2. He was willing to leave the perfections of Heaven & come to earth w/all its pollutions & sin for us! *What love!*

#### B. His Death on Calvary Proved His Love:

**Phil.2:8-9** *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

1. He chose a time in history when the cruelest forms of capital punishment was used.
2. To die instantly is bad enough, to die by degrees is “cruel & unusual” punishment.

**ILLUS.:** It was difficult to watch my dad die so slowly & at the last with much discomfort & pain. But God did not spare His only Son an agonizing death & He had a choice!!

#### C. Resurrection From the Grave Proved His Love:

1. Thank God He didn’t just die!
2. His resurrection was the seal on His death & further proof of His love because when He arose He didn’t simply leave us & go to heaven, but provided His Holy Spirit as our Comforter & **then** ascended to heaven to prepare a place for **us!**

**QUES.:** Who Else would love YOU this much & pay the penalty for your sins?!

#### **IV. BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF JESUS' BLOOD!**

**QUES.:** What other cleansing agent is available for YOUR sin?!

**CONCL.:** This is “**HOW I KNOW DAD IS IN HEAVEN!**” Because I know Who He is, trust His Word, & have personally experienced the Love of Christ thru His Precious Blood! Do **YOU?! If you or your loved one were to die, do you KNOW you or they will be in heaven?!**