

# Getting to Heaven is Easy

A Sermon by Rt. Rev. Bradley D. Heinrichs

14 September, 2025

## Children's Talk:

Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because Jehovah descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

And God spoke all these words, saying: ...

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. (Exodus 19:16-19; 20:1-18)

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Lesson 2 – Mark 10:17-27.

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?”

27 But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”

Lesson 3 – Heaven and Hell 530:1 & 533.

That it is not so difficult as some believe to live the life that leads to heaven can be seen from the things that now follow. Who cannot live a civil and moral life? For everyone from his childhood is initiated into that life, and learns what it is by living in the world. Moreover, everyone, whether evil or good, lives that life; for who does not wish to be called honest, and who does not wish to be called just? Almost everyone practices honesty and justice in externals, so far as to seem to be honest and just at heart, or to seem to act from real honesty and justice. The spiritual man ought to live in like manner, and can do so as easily as the natural man can, with this difference only, that the spiritual man believes in the Divine, and acts honestly and justly, not solely because so to act is in accord with civil and moral laws, but also because it is in accord with Divine laws.

That it is not so difficult to live the life of heaven as some believe, is now clear from this, that when anything presents itself to a man that he knows to be dishonest and unjust, but to which his mind is borne, it is simply necessary for him to think that it ought not to be done because it is opposed to the Divine precepts. If a man accustoms himself so to think, and from so doing establishes a habit of so thinking, he is gradually conjoined to heaven; and so far as he is conjoined to heaven the higher regions of his mind are opened; and so far as these are opened he sees

whatever is dishonest and unjust, and so far as he sees these evils they can be dispersed, for no evil can be dispersed until it is seen. Into this state man is able to enter because of his freedom, for is not any one able from his freedom so to think? And when he has made a beginning, the Lord performs all the good deeds with him, and causes him not only to see the evils to be evils, but also to refrain from willing them, and finally to turn away from them. This is meant by the Lord's words; " My yoke is easy and My burden is light" Matt. 11:30.

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When the Lord came to earth and was born among us, He was driven by a love for the salvation of our souls and a desire to have everyone experience the joy of living with Him in heaven to all eternity. Yet, when we think of the way the 10 Commandments were given in such miraculous fashion. Fire. Smoke. Quaking. Thundering. Lightning. The sound of a mighty trumpet blasting away in increasing volume. And the Lord writing them down on two tablets of stone with His own finger. When we hear these words how many of us think my yoke is easy? When we consider all the "you shall not" commandments, how many of us think my burden is light?

Add to this the teaching in Matthew 7:13-14:

Enter by the straight gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

The fact is that at various points throughout our life we can think that the way which leads to heaven is difficult, sometimes we may think it is nearly impossible. **E.G.** Disciples Rich Man – who then can be saved?

So we come to this section in Heaven and Hell; *"it is not so difficult as some believe to live the life that leads to heaven."* In order to make sense of these apparently contradictory messages, let's back up and look at WHY the 10 commandments were given so miraculously.

There are many reasons why the Lord chose such a dramatic means of conveying these ten precepts of life to His people. The Writings point out that other cultures at that time already had similar laws forbidding the acts of murder, adultery, theft, lying, and so on (AE 902:6). The Egyptians whom they had just escaped from had laws like these. The King of Babylon at that time had constructed a set of laws known as Hammurabi's Code which outlawed those same behaviors.

The primary reason the Lord went to such awesome measures to write these laws, was so that they would be regarded as spiritual laws and not merely civil laws. His desire was to have them honored and revered as sacred and holy precepts commanded by the Lord as the sole means of our salvation. The Lord knows that in order for us to be born again – to be transformed from merely natural human beings into spiritual human beings or angels, we must shun these evils not from fear of civil law and punishment – but from holy fear that we are transgressing the Divine Laws of God (AE 902:3).

HH 530 – Everyone can fairly easily keep the 10 commandments in the civil or literal sense. And desires to be viewed as honest and just. WHY we are obeying them makes the difference between and merely natural and spiritual person. From God or RHG?

The theme of living the life that leads to heaven being easy is taken up in various ways throughout the Writings. The key really is in the 10 Commandments. They are a summary of all the Lord's teachings. Like Divine Cliff Notes. 34 books of the OT & NT, 30 volumes of HD, well over 10,000 pages of Revelation – all contained and summarized in 10 simple rules.

The Lord has done His best to simplify things for us and make it easy. Does He want us to investigate further? – YES! But when we feel overwhelmed or confused – back out and get back to basics.

He even makes it easier by giving us this universal unchanging spiritual law. To the degree that we shun evils as sins, we will the goods of charity (TCR 437). We don't even have to know all the good things we should do – just know the evil things we should not do – and the opposite good flows in to take its place. Easier still we're told that to the degree we keep one of the 10 Commandments from set purpose, the Lord overlooks and does not impute other evils that we might slip into while focusing on another commandment (TCR 523:1). Holy Supper – 1 or 2. Little by little.

On top of all this we don't even have to win the battles. We merely need to be willing to engage in the battle in sincerity of heart and pray for the Lord's help. We have at our disposal the most powerful force in the Universe. The Lord is always willing to fight for us, and He will always win the battle. The hells are no match. In fact, as long as we still have some desire for what is good and true, we will not go to hell (AC 1857:3). Elaborate!!!! We have to swim hard to get out of the stream of Divine Providence.

Now given that the Ten Commandments contain in summary all of the Word, that they are absolutely vital to our salvation, and that they contain the means by which we can be conjoined to the Lord in heaven; then what could be more important than learning these Divine Laws and living according to them?

Interestingly, a few years ago, a survey of one thousand priests from major Christian denominations was conducted. There was only one question. List the Ten Commandments. On average, they could only come up with 7 out of 10.

This may not seem so bad. After all 70% is passing. But these were priests whose primary duty is to study the Word. It makes you wonder what three they were forgetting. Not to murder, not to lie, and not to steal? Or not to commit adultery, to honor their father and mother, and to remember the Sabbath day as holy? Would the lay members in their congregations have done even worse?

This startling survey should hopefully give us pause to reflect upon whether we would have done any better. Do we know all Ten of the Commandments? Can we readily list them? If not then we should make a point to learn them through and through, front and back, until they are engraved on our minds and hearts. For this is where God speaks to us face to face. This is where he gives us direct, plain, and simple instructions on how stay on the path that leads to heaven.

If we know the Ten Commandments well, and regard them as more than simply civil statutes, and determine to keep them to the best of our ability since they are sacred and Divine laws of order, then we will approach nearer to the Lord in heaven and He will enter into us and fill us with His love and peace.

The Lord has done everything that He can to stack the deck in our favor, this is why it even says that we are predestined to heaven. As long as we never give up on the Lord, He will never give up on us. The simple key to our eternal happiness lies within those ten simple laws. This is why the Lord came to earth as the Word made flesh and dwelt among us, so that we could see how He modeled living the commandments and so we could understand that they were given – not as a set of hard, difficult and restrictive laws, but rather for our safety and happiness. Getting to heaven is meant to be easy, and so all the Lord asks of us as He plainly says in the Sacred Scriptures.

“What does the Lord your God require of you? But to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all

your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord” (Deut.10:12-13).

“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments” (Ps.112:1).

“These I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

*Amen.*