

Something to Pray About

June 2012 – Cindy Sears

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me... At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” —John 14:6, 20 NKJV

The Goal

I was watching a video at www.colsoncenter.org (I think) the other day, which was produced and supplied by www.catholicTV.com. A priest was talking about living out the Christian life. He kept telling his listeners to remember the goal is “getting to heaven.” Is that true? Is the goal of being a Christian to get into heaven? Do we become Christians just for that “ticket to heaven?”



No. I don't think so. “Getting to heaven” is a side benefit of being a Christian—a glorious, wonderful, magnificent reward—but still a side benefit of knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. The real goal for a Christian is a right relationship with the LORD God, creator and sustainer of the universe.

Current neurological research is showing how believing in a God and praying and meditating can lead to beneficial physical and neurological changes in our bodies. This shows how we are “wired” to worship God, of course. But the writers of the book I am reading (*How God Changes Your Brain* by Newberg and Waldman) say that the act of meditating on God or one's version of God is sufficient. Belief in the one, true God and His Son are not necessary to reap the benefits of religious belief. Leaving God out of the equation may lead to beneficial changes while here on earth; yet those benefits will not be sustainable. And why do all that work yourself, when faith provides the benefits for free? Here we go again—trying to do it on our own and leave God out. Hubris—pride—rules again. Let's pray that this author does not give people more excuses for leaving God out.

As Christians, we can point out that true belief has eternal consequences, not just temporal physical benefits. Yet seeing Christianity as just a “get in free” card at the pearly gates is just as bad as no belief at all. That belittles the sacrifice that Jesus, the Son, made on the cross. Even though as believers, we don't need to worry about getting to heaven; there is much more to celebrate about being “born again.” When we accepted Jesus, the Son of God, as our Lord and Savior “heaven came down, and glory filled our souls.” Our relationship with the Triune God was healed. Our rebellious nature begins to be changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Father in heaven adopted us as sons and daughters. We immediately entered “the happy land of the Trinity” where the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell and have always dwelled in perfect unity and harmony. What can be any more heavenly than that? We live in heaven now. As Christians, heaven dwells in us and continually sanctifies us. And that bit of heaven reaches out to the lost and the hurting and calls them to come join us in “the happy land of the Trinity”—the one, true family of God.