

New Church

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What must I do?

Salvation of Children

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Salvation?



New Church Teachings



Salvation

- There is one loving, personal God, and He is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The life of religion is to follow the Ten Commandments and to act honestly and faithfully in our daily occupations.
- The New Church is based on the Word of God, as revealed in the Old and New Testaments and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.
- The Word of God (the Bible) has a deeper level of meaning, teaching about the Lord's essential nature and a person's spiritual development.
- Each of us continues life as a complete person immediately after the death of the body.
- God does not judge us, but we judge ourselves by what we love and how we live.
- People of every faith are saved if they live sincerely according to their religion.

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New Church Connection

Exists to inspire, inform, and connect people who are interested in the New Church. Every issue will have background information on New Church teachings; inspirational content from personal testimonies and quotes from the Word; and information about the organized New Church (the General Church of the New Jerusalem), and how to get connected. Each issue will have a theme that helps enrich your spiritual journey.

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What to expect when you die, who goes to heaven, the lives of angels, and more are explored in this best-selling book by Emanuel Swedenborg, *Heaven and Hell*.

Available from the New Church bookstore at bookstore@newchurch.org or 267-502-4980.

Welcome

One of the most comforting teachings that the New Church offers is that anyone **can** go to heaven. Not everyone will **choose** to go to heaven, but God never judges people and sends them to hell. Regardless of denomination, sect, or religion, if you believe in God and live according to the principles of your religion, you can choose to go to heaven.

In this issue we explore questions about salvation and eternal life. We have also included two stories from people who have lost loved ones and found comfort in the teachings about heaven that are found in the Old and New Testaments and the Writings for the New Church.



Salvation

Getting to heaven is not easy, but it is simple. The Lord loves everyone, and wants each person to go to heaven. He is always working to show us how to choose heaven, and work to become closer and closer to Him. I hope that this issue of *New Church Connection* helps you to find the answers to your questions about religion and salvation.

Abigail Echols
General Church Outreach

The Hebrew word for salvation that is written in the Old Testament of the Word of God is “yeshuwah” and means literally “something saved” and abstractly “deliverance.”

The Greek word for salvation that is written in the New Testament of the Word of God is “soteria” and means literally the act of “physcial and moral rescue.”

Quotes on Salvation

"The sum of faith is that one who lives well and believes rightly is saved by the Lord." *True Christian Religion* 340

The Lord never judges anyone except from good, for His will is to lift all people up to heaven

.... For the Lord is mercy itself and good itself, and cannot possibly condemn anyone. It is we who, in rejecting good, condemn ourselves.

Secrets of Heaven 2335.3

Lord, I hope for Your salvation, And I do Your commandments.

Psalm 119:166

The LORD
is my strength and song,
And He has
become my salvation.

Exodus 15:2

A person is conjoined with the Lord by faith in Him, and through conjunction with the Lord is saved.

Apocalypse Revealed 67

He is salvation since He is the Savior; and this is the meaning of His name Jesus. *True Christian Religion* 150

Who
said it?

Emanuel Swedenborg was an 18th century scientist and philosopher who continually studied the Word, later devoting his life to the revelation of the New Church. In the New Church we believe his later works are a divinely inspired revelation for the modern age, touching on all the different aspects of religion with a very rational and common-sense approach. See www.newchurch.org/about/swedenborg for more information.

Seeking Answers

Questions about Salvation, the New Church, and More

Salvation

Q Who is saved?

A. The Writings for the New Church state the nature of salvation in many different ways. Here are two quotes from *True Christian Religion* that speak to this question: “A person who looks to the Lord and repents is by that most holy act linked to the Lord and brought into heaven” (621); “The sum of faith is that one who lives well and believes rightly is saved by the Lord” (340).

Q Why are Swedenborg’s Writings necessary to add to the Bible; isn’t the Bible enough?

A. The New Church is firmly founded on a belief in the Old and New Testaments. Swedenborg clearly saw his teachings as a new revelation from the Lord to bring a greater understanding about God and religion. Members of the New Church believe this, not because Swedenborg said so, but because the teachings themselves make sense. They give a deeper meaning to the stories of the Bible, adding a new layer of understanding.

What can I do to ensure my salvation and a life in heaven?

Q How is it determined if a person goes to heaven or hell?

A. The decision of whether we end up in heaven or hell is ours. The Lord works to lead us to a good life, but we are free to live as we choose. Sometimes



our choices are terrible and have consequences, but we always have the opportunity to return to Him and allow Him to lead us in wiser directions.

The teachings of the New Church elaborate on this idea further, stating that: “The balance between heaven and

hell is a balance between the good that is from heaven and the evil that is from hell, thus that it is a spiritual equilibrium, which in its essence is freedom. This freedom is given to every person by the Lord, and is never taken away; in fact, by virtue of its origin it is not a person's but the Lord's, since it is from the Lord. Nevertheless, it is given to people with life as if it were their own; and this is done that a person may be reformed and saved; for without freedom there can be no reformation or salvation (*Heaven and Hell* 597).

Q What are the "Writings for the New Church" and the "Heavenly Doctrines"?

A. The "Writings for the New Church" and the "Heavenly Doctrines" are general terms used to describe the Theological Writings published by Emanuel Swedenborg, which were revealed to him out of heaven.

Q What is the foundation for the New Church teaching that "all who remain true to their religion are saved," when Jesus Himself said that "I am the way, the truth and the light, no man may come unto the Father except by Me" (John 14:6)?

A. Before coming to earth in the human form of Jesus, God existed and people were able to go to heaven. Salvation has always been possible because it is a matter of the heart and living the life that Jesus Christ modeled—whether people consciously know they are following that path or not.

God calls us to love Him and love the neighbor. His way is the only way and in order to go to heaven people have to some extent to live the life which Jesus modeled. In heaven there is general recognition of this by the angels themselves. An Islamic angel, who lived a life of charity according to the commandments and then went to heaven, has an acknowledgement of Jesus Christ, as does a Buddhist angel or an angel with any other religious connection.

One might say that the message of Jesus Christ is written on their hearts while they are living on the earth, regardless of their religion, and they wake up to discover this truth when their life on earth is finished.

Questions Wanted

We want to answer questions that are relevant and compelling to you. Send your questions to outreach@newchurch.org.

Changing Lives

In each issue we include stories of lives changed by the teachings of the New Church. In this issue, **Bob Beiswenger** shares his faith journey, including doubts and trials along the way.

Bob, with his wife Cathy, in 1997.

Salvation

In the Book of Revelation, we are told that all things would be “created anew” after the Holy City descended from heaven. Little did I realize how personally true that would be for me when I began reading the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. With every word I read, light began to shine where only darkness previously existed, but this was only the beginning as a new world began to form within me in accordance with this promise.

At the time, I had finished college and was only two months away from being married to a Baptist girl from Dothan, Alabama. Over the years, I had slowly drifted from my Catholic upbringing since I could not honestly “believe my beliefs.” Now, as I agreed to be married in a Baptist church, I wondered in which church our children would one day be raised and what we would tell them if they asked which religion, if any, is “the right one.” After sincere prayer to be shown the truth, I soon discovered the Writings through my older sister. My prayer had been answered, and truth began to unfold faster than I could have imagined.


Questions I had about the Trinity, salvation, life after death, and the many hard-to-understand parts of the Bible were now being explained in a manner that just made sense. The Trinity was no longer a “mystery of faith”; life after death was real, not just something to be hoped for; salvation was not limited to 144,000 elect or any particular religious group. When I learned about the deeper meaning of the Word,

the inconsistencies disappeared; the way the Author meant His Word to be understood was now becoming



Life Faith Action

Quotations from the teachings of the
New Church and thoughts on
how to bring these ideas into life.




He will redeem my soul in peace, that
they come not near to me

Psalm 55:18

“To redeem my soul in peace” means
salvation through a relationship of love
with the Lord, and “that they come not
near to me” signifies the consequent
removal of evils and falsities.

Apocalypse Explained 365

Look to the Lord and ask Him to re-
move your bad habits and evil thoughts.



The Lord is my light and my salva-
tion; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

Do not be afraid. The Lord is
always with you. Take courage in
His complete presence in your life
and look for His guidance.



He who wishes to be saved must confess his sins and do repentance.

Secrets of Heaven 8387

Take time to reflect on your life, recognize where you have gone astray and acknowledge these shortcomings to the Lord.



But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24: 13-14

Be persistent. To reach your goal of a heavenly home, you must keep going, like someone running a marathon, and not give up.

A person who looks to the Lord and repents is by that most holy act linked to the Lord and brought into heaven.

True Christian Religion 621

Experience heaven today by looking to the Lord in your life, your work, your relationships and in all that you do.



clear. The meaning, the purpose of life, was slowly coming into view. I was amazed and excited as I began to see glimmers of truths that had been sought by thinkers throughout the ages. I had always thought that a kind, loving God would want us to know these things rather than keep us in ignorance about His Word and the order of His creation.

Within months after finding the Writings, my new bride began secretly reading *Heaven and Hell*. To my great delight she, too, readily accepted its teachings. Her acceptance of the Writings was not only a new personal beginning for her, but was a new beginning for the life we were to share together for the next 32 years. This was a major turning point in a marriage that had just begun; it would be a new world for both of us as we learned that marriages could be forever, not “until death do you part,” as we had stated in our vows. The teaching of eternal marriage would one day be put to the test for me and would be a source of my highest hope and aspiration.

Finding the New Church eventually led us to a New Church congregation where we both became involved as teachers in the largest school system of believers of the Writings. Our three children would

be raised in the sphere of New Church education and be influenced by truths that their parents had not found until they were young adults.

The truths of the Writings brought peace and happiness into my life as I saw this world in a new perspective. The teachings of the New Church explained what was required of me for happiness in this world and in the world to one day be entered by all of us.

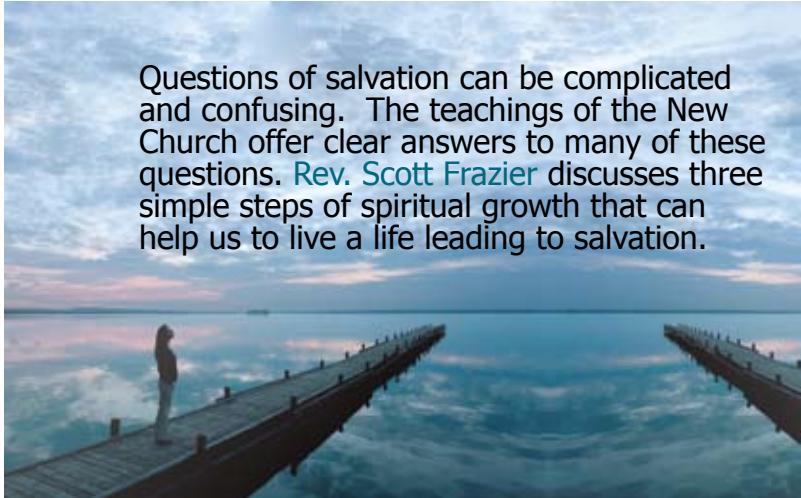
The New Church has affected every aspect of my life.

Losing my wife to death was incomprehensible at 23; the end of our

marriage was even more unthinkable when the death of her body occurred 32 years later. The truths found within the Writings gave her courage in the face of death and gave me hope in the depths of despair. This was the greatest struggle of my entire life, and I cannot imagine how much harder it would have been without the comforting truths found in the New Church. I am able to view my present situation as a “temporary separation” that will end when I am one day with my wife again in the spiritual world.

The New Church has affected every aspect of my life. It gave me a guide for my personal life that extended into my marriage, career decisions and even the paths of my children. My world, as promised, has been created anew. ■

Three Steps to Salvation



Questions of salvation can be complicated and confusing. The teachings of the New Church offer clear answers to many of these questions. Rev. Scott Frazier discusses three simple steps of spiritual growth that can help us to live a life leading to salvation.

Salvation

The entire ministry of Jesus Christ on earth speaks of salvation. For example, the Bible teaches that He is the Truth, the Way and the Life (John 14:6), He comes with His reward and with His work (Is 40:10), and He comes to save the World (John 3:16). Many readers of the Bible can see that the Lord wants us to be “saved,” and to enjoy the salvation He offers. The question, though, is how does the Lord “save” us? Why is everyone not automatically “saved”?

One of the wonderful things about the teachings of the New Church is that we now know being saved is not about

following arbitrary rules or joining an exclusive club. Being “saved” means you come to want what the Lord wants. The Lord made us and we are capable of responding to the love that He is continually offering.

This does not happen all at once. Like building a home or a friendship, coming to love what the Lord loves is a process that takes time and effort. Many of us experience moments of insight and perhaps even profound happiness in our lives, but these moments are part of something greater and yet more subtle. Salvation is about the Lord making us into angels, slowly and quietly.

The Lord knows us really well. He looks at us in our lives the way a loving parent watches his children. The love a mother feels for a newborn infant is one of the most tender and most powerful feelings, and every mother hopes her baby has a long, exciting and rewarding path through life—her baby has lots to see and do! The same is true when the Lord gazes upon us.

This process does require something of us. It does not happen by default; it is our choice to walk this path. Both in His Word and in the world around us, the Lord is continually showing us how to join Him in His heavenly kingdom. The Lord has a recipe of salvation: His truth, His love, and His work. We need to know what He wants, we need to decide to do it, and then we have to do it. This recipe is simple to follow, and each day is filled with opportunities to apply it in life. We can cooperate with the Lord in the thousand small moments of our day, whether we are answering the day's e-mail, talking a

friend through a tough time, or taking out the garbage.

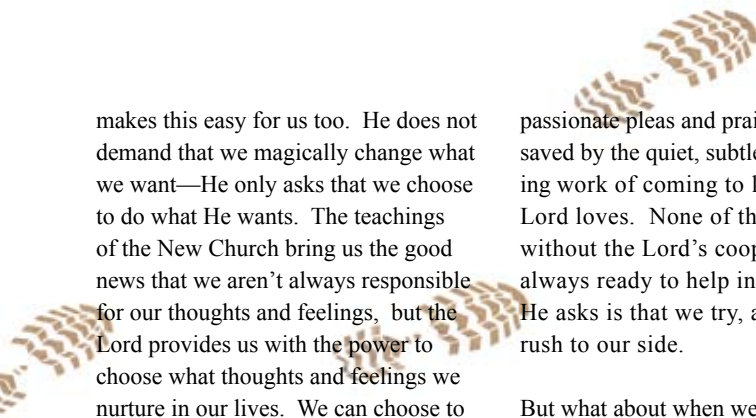
To show us what He wants, the Lord gives us His Word. He wants us to love our neighbors and to love Him. He wants us not to steal, lie, and murder.

He wants us to know that there is a way to be kind to every person we meet. He wants us to know that we don't have to be evil or selfish. The Lord's truth is the first ingredient, and it tells us how our happiness—and salvation—is achieved.

The Lord's love is the second ingredient. There is no more abundant resource in the entire universe.

We are all alive because of His love, and we have to accept His love if we are going to be saved. Once we have an idea of what the Lord wants—no matter how small or basic—we have to align what we want with what He wants. This is how we accept the Lord's love. While it may seem a daunting task to change what we want, the Lord

We need to know what the Lord wants, we need to decide to do it, and then we have to do it.



makes this easy for us too. He does not demand that we magically change what we want—He only asks that we choose to do what He wants. The teachings of the New Church bring us the good news that we aren't always responsible for our thoughts and feelings, but the Lord provides us with the power to choose what thoughts and feelings we nurture in our lives. We can choose to do what the Lord wants even when a part of us resists it; this is accepting the Lord's love into our lives. A wonderful promise from the Lord is that if we decide to do His will, we will slowly come to enjoy doing His will.

The third ingredient to salvation is to put the first two (His truth and His love) together in action.

If we think we know what the Lord wants, and decide to do it, all that is left is doing it. When we build a home, we must actually build something. When we build a friendship, we have to do more than think nice thoughts about our friend. We work at it. People are not saved by passing a multiple-choice test on what the Lord wants, and they are not saved by

passionate pleas and praise. People are saved by the quiet, subtle, life-changing work of coming to love what the Lord loves. None of this can happen without the Lord's cooperation. He is always ready to help in an instant—all He asks is that we try, and He will rush to our side.

But what about when we stumble? Can we make so many mistakes that we are

hopeless? One of the comforting truths of the Word is that setbacks and failures are never the end of the story. We all stumble, we all make mistakes, and we are all human. Our loving Lord knows this too. When we are building a house, sometimes we make a mistake; we might even

have to tear down a wall or two to fix the mistake. When we are building a friendship, we can say or do something that damages that friendship, but we can apologize and strive to make it right. With salvation, though, we are doing it with the Lord, and He never gives up and never withholds forgiveness.

With salvation,
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The Lord does ask us to keep trying. Because His gift of salvation is a process, we can never truly say that we are done in this life. There is always more to learn, and we can always develop a deeper appreciation of His truth. We can always be kinder than we used to be and live the Lord's love more than the day before. The more we learn and do, the more we love—which will let us learn and do even more.

We really shouldn't worry about whether we are 'saved'. There is no real 'finish line' to cross. Angels in heaven strive and work to be better people, just as we do on earth. They love their work, they strive to be better, and they live more and more in the Lord's love to eternity. We will do the same thing after we die, so long as we have tried to live well according to the Lord's Word.

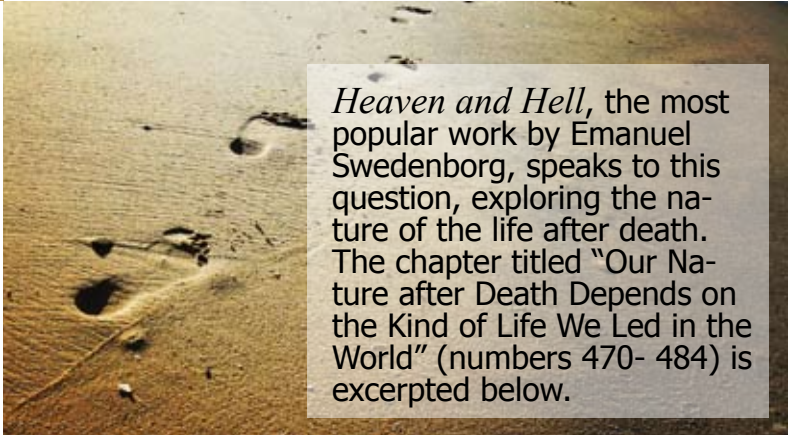
The Lord cares for two things more than our salvation: our freedom and our happiness.

The Lord guards our freedom most carefully; without our freedom, without an ability to choose, we cannot come to love Him, be happy or be saved.

The reason He wants us to be saved is because He knows that we will be happiest if we join Him in His heavenly kingdom. But He guards our freedom most carefully of all; without our freedom, without an ability to choose, we cannot come to love Him or be happy or be saved. From just His love He would save every person in the world, no matter what, but from His wisdom He

knows this would not leave us in freedom. Instead, He gives us every tool in His Word, every moment in our lives, and every chance at forgiveness—all in the loving hope that we will choose happiness in the salvation He offers. ■

What Determines My Eternity?



Heaven and Hell, the most popular work by Emanuel Swedenborg, speaks to this question, exploring the nature of the life after death. The chapter titled "Our Nature after Death Depends on the Kind of Life We Led in the World" (numbers 470- 484) is excerpted below.

Salvation

"Any Christian knows from the Word that our life is still with us after death, since it says in many places that we will be judged according to our deeds and works and rewarded accordingly. Further, anyone who thinks on the basis of what is good and from real truth cannot help but see that people who live well enter heaven and people who live evil lives enter hell...."

"We can see that our outward life consists of our works and deeds, and that the quality of our inner life is manifested through them...."

"'Works and deeds,' though does not mean works and deeds solely the way they look in outward form. It also includes their deeper nature...."

"If the thought and intent are good, then the deeds and works are good...."

"We may gather from this what is meant by the life that stays with us after death. It is actually our love and our consequent faith, not only in theory but in act as well. So it is our deeds or works because these contain within themselves our whole love and faith...."

"Angels have told me that the life of our dominant love never changes for anyone to all eternity because we are our love, so to change it in any spirit would be to take away and snuff out his or her life."

Heaven and Hell is available from the New Church Bookstore: 267-502-4980 or email at bookstore@newchurch.org

Can You Go to Heaven if You Don't Believe in Jesus?



Rev. Dr. Ray Silverman shares how he found the truth in a childhood statement: "If you are a good person you can go to heaven."

In the predominately Catholic neighborhood where I grew up, most of my friends went to St. Matthew's Catholic School while the rest of us went to public school. But religious differences did not separate us. In fact, we never argued about, and hardly ever discussed, religion. What was most important to us was whether or not we could get enough kids together to have a baseball game in the summer or a football game in the fall. In the winter we wondered whether

or not the ice at Roger Williams Park was thick enough for a hockey game. On Elmwood Avenue, in Providence Rhode Island, in the 1950s the world of sports was far more important to us than religion!

But I do remember one summer evening, under the street lights, when my friends and I were hanging out on the corner. We were probably around thirteen or fourteen years old, and

someone said, “If you don’t believe in Jesus, you can’t go to heaven.” This was not spoken in an accusatory manner. It was a mere, offhand statement that someone had simply heard and was now repeating.

“If you don’t believe in Jesus, you can’t go to heaven.”

While it was no more than a casual utterance, that statement caught my attention. It just didn’t sound right to me. It did not ring true.

Looking back, I can vividly recall that moment in time. There we were, about six or seven of us, gathered together near John’s Market. Some of us were sitting on wooden steps, and some of us were standing. It was around eight in the evening, and the street lights had already come on. I don’t know why, but suddenly I found myself saying,

“If you are a good person you can go to heaven.”

No one argued with me. And that was the end of the discussion. We were on to other subjects...the Yankees...the Red Sox...the batting averages of Mickey Mantle and Ted Williams.... My words had already drifted off into the summer evening, like fading light, but the

conviction behind them remains to this day as a firm belief.

Many years later I discovered the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, and to my great delight I found out that you could indeed “go to heaven” if you were a “good person.”

But what did it mean to be a “good person”?

According to Swedenborg one becomes a “good person” through a process called “regeneration”—a process through which we gradually become less selfish and more loving. This process is not mystical, mysterious, or instantaneous. Rather, it is, as Helen Keller says, “a change that comes over us as we hope and aspire and persevere in the way of the Divine Commandments.” Swedenborg puts it succinctly: “All can be saved, and those are saved who acknowledge God and live good lives” (*Divine Providence* 325).

It was clear, then, that good people could be saved.

But what about believing in Jesus? After all, my friend had said, “If you don’t believe in Jesus, you can’t go to heaven.” Are Christians the only ones who get into heaven? Is everybody else con-

demned? In her book *Light in My Darkness*, which is a tribute to the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, Helen Keller deals with this question eloquently:

I had been told by narrow people that all who were not Christians would be punished, and naturally my soul revolted, since I knew of wonderful men

The means of salvation have been provided for everyone; and all who live well according to their religion have a place in heaven.

Divine Providence 330

who had lived and died for truth as they saw it in the pagan lands. But in *Heaven and Hell* number 74 [by Emanuel Swedenborg] I found that ‘Jesus’ stands for Divine Good, Good wrought into deeds, and ‘Christ’ Divine Truth, sending forth new thought, new life and joy into the minds of men; *therefore no one who believes in God and lives right is ever condemned* (emphasis added).

These words capture the essence of what I was trying to tell my friends on that street corner in Providence on that summer evening so many years ago. And this is why the New Church, with its profound belief in Jesus Christ, and

with its loving acknowledgement that all who strive to keep the commandments will be saved, has become my religion. As Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father” (Matthew 7:21).

If I were back on the street corner today with my friends I would tell them that they are right—no one comes into heaven if they do not believe in Love, which is what “Jesus” (the principle) represents and what Jesus (the Divine Human) came into the world to give.

I would also add that we do not get into heaven by merely confessing that we believe in “Love,” or that we believe in “Jesus.” We must prove this by living what Christ teaches—practicing loving-kindness, offering mercy, demonstrating courage, giving understanding, manifesting patience, dedicating ourselves to useful service and, in the process, being filled with every benevolent emotion and noble thought that we associate with a loving and wise God.

In 1957, when I was thirteen years old, I could not possibly have said all these things, nor would I or my friends have been able to understand them. So maybe it was best that the Lord led me to say, quite simply, “*If you are a good person you can go to heaven!*” And I still believe that this is true! ■

Comfort after the Loss of a Child

BY MOIRA FROST

The day our eldest daughter, Debbie, returned home from two years study in the United States was a beautiful winter day—June 28th, 1983. My son Matthew's best friend and his mother, a close friend of mine, had come to visit and enjoy Deb's happy homecoming. The children played in the garden with a rugby ball.

We lived on the edge of a 40 ft. cliff in Durban, South Africa, and the two boys had started high school together in January. It was the start of the July holidays, and the boys were happily kicking the ball to one another when it went over the fence onto the cliff's edge. Matthew made the decision to reach for the ball, and as he did so the dry soil gave way, and he fell to the riverbed below. When his best friend got to him, he was unconscious. Matthew lived through the night, and we were told the next day that he was very

lucky—he had pulled through and only had a small crack behind his ear. However, the following night, due to a swelling in the brain which shut down his respiratory system, Matthew passed away.

At the time people said "time will heal." I remember thinking, I wish it

was 10 years from now! I felt, without a doubt, that my faith was being tested to the limit. How could this dreadful tragedy happen to our healthy, bright, and

Salvation

The operation of the Divine Providence for the salvation of a person begins at birth and continues right on to the end of life, and afterwards to eternity.

Divine Providence 332





The education of little children in heaven, is namely, that it is leading them by means of an understanding of truth and the wisdom of good into the angelic life, which is love to the Lord and mutual love, in which is innocence.

Heaven and Hell 344

loving child?
Why, why, why?
The question ran through my mind unceasingly. Matthew still needed me, his mother. It felt as though part of my body was missing. Initially one is totally absorbed by the isolation, the numbness,

the daily routines, thinking of little else, wondering how the world still keeps going on as before. I am forever grateful for the presence of my wonderful husband and four children. They too were experiencing their own sadness and grief, and yet they were a wonderful support.

Within the first week I had a vivid dream where Matthew was seen with sparkling stars around his temples and looking extremely content and happy. I was then motivated to read all I could from the Writings for the New Church on life after death and found passages relating to children in heaven with stars around the temples being instructed by the Lord. I continued reading as much as possible. The comfort was immense! The knowledge of where Matthew was and his progression in the spiritual world brought me comfort. As the Lord says in John 11:25,26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." ■

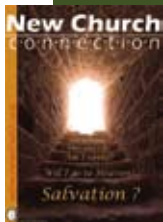
Congregations Around the World



The New Church (General Church of the New Jerusalem) has congregations on every continent around the world. When you travel to different congregations you will notice that they may emphasize different worship styles. One congregation might have recorded music, another might have drums and guitars, and yet another an organ or choirs. As various as the music and styles of worship may be, you will find people in each congregation inspired and dedicated to the powerful teachings of the New Church. All people are welcome to join in worship and participate in the life and community of the church.

Salvation

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Did you know?

To say that the New Church is biblically based might be an understatement. The Writings for the New Church quote from the Bible more than 50,000 times.

New Church Teachings

- **God is Love** and nothing but what is good can come from God, because His very nature is love. God came to this world in the form of Jesus Christ, who is the one and only God.
- **The Old and New Testaments** have a deeper meaning, revealed in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, which help people learn how to live happy and useful lives to eternity.
- **All religions have goodness** in them. There are many paths and gates into the heavenly city, New Jerusalem.
- **Heaven is for everyone** who wants to live a heavenly life. Heaven is where people (angels) love God and others and want to be useful. While people are free to choose to live in hell, God wants everyone to live with Him in heaven to eternity.
- **The Last Judgment predicted** in the Bible is not about the physical world; nor does God impose His will on us. He affirms the judgment we make upon ourselves according to the way we live. People who love God and try to live a good life according to what they believe are saved.
- **Marriage can last forever** for God blesses people with a special love in marriage that goes on after death, even to eternity.
- **God's providence is powerful** and unending. God guides each person's spiritual path, from the smallest things up to the biggest things, and His angels are with us every moment.

To believe in the
Lord
is to have
confidence that
He will save,
and a person is
not able to have
confidence
unless they live
well.

Apocalypse Revealed 67

The church of the Lord is spread over all the globe, and is thus universal... those are in it who have lived in the good of charity in accordance with their religion.

Heaven and Hell 328



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