

# Jesus Christ and Salvation

Christianity &  
Catholic Christianity

Salvation is needed before Christians can go to Heaven, and Jesus's actions made it possible.

## Jesus Going to Heaven is Called the Ascension

- 1) Over the 40 days after the resurrection, many of Jesus's disciples said they had met him alive in various places around Jerusalem.
- 2) Then, Jesus 'ascended into Heaven' to be with God the Father once again. He had done what he was sent to Earth to do, and it was time for him to go back to God.
 

"While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." *Luke 24:51 NIV*
- 3) In **John 14:2**, Jesus tells his disciples he will "prepare a place" (NIV) for them in heaven. **1 John 2:1** says that, in Jesus, Christians have an 'advocate' with God (someone who will look out for them).
- 4) **Pope Benedict XVI** said that since Jesus was human and went to be with God, the ascension shows there's a place for all human beings with God.
- 5) The ascension shows Jesus's power — he is now "at the right hand of the mighty God" (**Luke 22:69 NIV**).



## Jesus Died to Save Humanity

- 1) 'Original sin' (see p.7) means that everyone is born capable of sin. Many Christians believe that Jesus's suffering and death won forgiveness for everyone and ensured their redemption (freeing them from sin).
- 2) They believe that Jesus was perfect (without sin), but God placed all the sins of the world on him at his crucifixion. **Romans 3:21-26** teaches that his sacrifice paid for their sins, so long as they have faith in him.
- 3) Jesus's actions brought about the reconciliation between God and humanity — known as the atonement.
- 4) His power and goodness were so great that after he was crucified, death couldn't keep hold of him.
- 5) However, not all Christians believe that Jesus had to die to pay for people's sins:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." *John 3:16-17 NIV*

- **1 Corinthians 13:5** says that love "keeps no record of wrongs" (NIV). Many Christians think that Jesus's death wasn't required for a loving and merciful God to be able to forgive people's sins.
- Some people argue that it was Jesus's ministry that showed people how to be free from sin — he showed them how to live their lives in a Godly way.
- Some say Jesus's death shows God's love for humankind through his willingness to suffer and die as humans do. His resurrection showed how God could triumph over sin and death, so people don't have to fear evil.

## Christians Must Seek Salvation to Get to Heaven

- 1) Salvation means the soul being saved from death and sin, allowing it to reach heaven. For this to happen, Christians believe they must have faith in Jesus: "Salvation is found in no one else..." (**Acts 4:12 NIV**).
- 2) Salvation is only possible through God's grace — God showing favour to those who haven't earned it: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God" (**Ephesians 2:8 NIV**).
- 3) But people can't just say they believe — if they're a true believer they'll try to live a Christian life. The Bible contains many laws, such as the Ten Commandments (see p.28), which provide Christians with guidance on how they should behave. Everyone will sin, but the laws mean they'll "become conscious of ... sin" (**Romans 3:20 NIV**) and "turn to God in repentance" (**Acts 20:21 NIV**).
- 4) The Holy Spirit helps Christians to follow the teachings of God and his laws and keep their faith, helping them to find salvation.

## Revision can save you from exam failure...

Explain two Christian teachings about salvation.

Your answer should include an example from a sacred text. [5]

