## A Gated Community Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

In 1970 I spent part of the year working security for missile sites near Tucson, Arizona. There were several retirement communities in the area and they were fenced in with a guard at a gate. To get in you had to be on a list and had to be invited in was what I was told. In short, not everyone could enter in. Heaven is like that in a way, not everyone can enter in. Just those whose name is on the list, the Book of Life.

I know that there are those who talk like everyone is going to heaven. It sounds good and I wish that it were true, but according to the bible there are few that are saved. A person won't enter heaven because he was a good person, or that he didn't do a lot

of bad things. To enter heaven a person must be born again. John 3:3, "That is what Jesus said and he is the authority on the subject. Only by receiving Jesus as your savior can you enter heaven."

At times someone will say that a certain person will go to heaven or nobody will go. Who says? Just because a person is friendly and a good friend, or neighbor, doesn't make him a Christian. No matter how wicked a person has lived, with no effort made to confess the Lord, usually there is someone, usually a family member, who will say that they are in heaven with the Lord when they pass away. Once again, without Jesus as our savior, there is no way to go to heaven and to have eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6.

I know that it sounds good to say that someone went to heaven, but an unrepentant sinner won't be there. Wishing that someone will go there won't make it happen. So how does a person get to enter heaven to be with God forever? The Lord Jesus came to earth to make a way for us to be saved. Men of this world couldn't do it, but Jesus, God in the flesh, could and he did. His death on the cross and his resurrection paved the way for man's salvation. When a person has faith enough to confess Jesus as Lord and to repent of his sins and to be baptized into Christ his sins are forgiven and his name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

In this Book of Life all the names of the saints are recorded. When the church is taken home and the saved are before the Lord, those who's names are in the book will enter in. Revelation 21:27, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life". Ask yourself today, "Is my name in the Lamb's Book of Life?" If you believe in and obey the Lord then your name is there and one day you will enter in. However, if you have not followed the Lord and have not obeyed the plan of salvation, and the rest of his words, then you won't be going in. Heaven is a gated community and only those on the list will be there with the Lord. Trust and obey the Lord today.



