

Will
Half-Way
Christians
Go to Hell?

Does the Bible ***Strongly***
Answer this Question?

Style of writing!

I love bullet points!

Don't talk me to death.

Give me your bottom line first and then make your explanation brief.
That is why:

- My table of contents gives the main subjects!
- The Intro. briefly answers each question in the booklet.
- The chapters are brief studies, filling in each point.

*(Special Note: This is our one of the **LONGEST** booklet because the subject is so **sensitive** that people **need to see the verses** and **carefully study the truths**. Most of the **other** booklets are **half** this length.)*

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5. How do I stop being a “*Half-way*” Christian?



1. Why write such a painful & piercing study?

Eternity is forever!

So many have a great burden for their friends.

(Expanded study in chap. 1 – pg. 1)

2. How do I know if I am a “Half-way” Christian?

Most do NOT know that they are Half-way Christians.

The best way to know who is a Half-way Christian is to ask a NON-Christian. They recognize the difference easily.

(Expanded study in chap. 2 – pg. 3)

3. Does the Bible strongly answer this question about “Half-way” Christians going to Hell?

Wow! Does it ever?

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5. How do I stop being a “Half-way” Christian?

Stop PRETENDING &

Stop AVOIDING Hard Questions

(Expanded study in chap. 5 – pg. 15)

Why write
such a painful & piercing study?

When each of us stands before God, we will hear God say:

“Does not my Word say...?”

*John 12:47-48 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the **Word** that I have **spoken** will **Judge him** on the **Last Day**.*

The fact that “*Half-way*” Christians will be in Hell is one of the strongest themes of the New Testament.

Over the decades, I have watched a **growing gulf** between those who consider themselves Christians compared to those who carefully study **what God’s Word says** is a Christian.

I have also seen many sincere Christians who have such a **burden** for their **friends**. They have many friends who call themselves Christians but their lives say that they do **NOT** live **ONLY** for Jesus. These friends walk in a **FALSE confidence** that keeps them from studying God’s Word and asking the hard questions.

This study is based on tens of thousands of hours of careful study of God’s Word and seeing the real fruit of tens of thousands of “*Real*” Christians and the lack of fruit of tens of thousands of “*Half-way*” Christians.

If there is any chance that you are a “*Half-way*” Christian...
PLEASE do not take my word for anything.

Please study God’s Word for yourself and ask Jesus to show you any lies in your heart and to show you His Truth.

Eternity is forever!

How do I know if I am a “Half-way” Christian?

I **never met** a “**Real**” Christian until I went to a different High School in 10th grade. As a 15-year-old young man, I found these Christians to be a very curious and interesting breed.

I watched, interacted with, and studied them with great curiosity over the next 5 years.

I also studied **every other world religion** to compare them to Christianity.

I quickly realized that **everyone** in this school **considered themselves** to be Christians but there was a huge difference between the “**Fake**” Christians and the “**Real**” Christians.

My other NON-Christian friends and I would chat calmly about the difference between the “**Fake**” ones and the “**Real**” ones.

Side Note

*As a NON-Christian, I would often discuss Christians with my NON-Christian buddies. In our discussions some of my friends said they refused to become a Christian because of the “**Hypocrites**” they see in the church. I would laugh at the irony & tell my NON-Christian friends that they were just **looking** for an **excuse** to **AVOID** the subject.*

As a NON-Christian it was so obvious that there were “Fake” Christians & “Real” Christians. The “Fake” Christians had nothing to do with truth.

I recognized that the “Real” Christians are the only legitimate point of research.

Now, after almost 50 years of being a Pastor and studying God’s Word daily, I find these two distinctions of “Fake” and “Real” Christians just as clear as I saw them in 10th grade.

The fact that the “Fake” Christians will go to Hell is one of the **strongest messages** of the N.T. with **hundreds** of verses and 17 of Jesus’ parables are dedicated to this subject.

However since “*Half-way*”
or “*Fake*” Christians are

**Masters at
SELF-DECEPTION**
they usually
**Do NOT Recognize
Themselves.**

Jer. 17:9

The **Heart** is **Deceitful**
above **all things** and
Desperately Sick.
Who can understand it?

Picture This!

Imagine a wife who expected her husband to be **Totally Devoted** & to **give ALL** of himself to her. She demanded that he make her his **only priority** in everything, **provide** for her, **adore** her & be **available only** for her.

However, she also explained to her husband that even though she **demand**ed **100% devotion BY** him, toward her, that she would **NOT** reciprocate.

She explained that she would only give him a **PART** of her heart and time but that she had **other boyfriends** and that she would only be home when it was **convenient**. She might be home one day a week or even three days a week, but she would be having sex with her other boyfriends at other times.

She **sees nothing wrong** with this arrangement. This is the picture scripture gives when it says:

*James 4:4 **Adulterers** and **adulteresses**! Do you not know that friendship with the world is **enmity** with **God**? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an **Enemy of God.***

*Prov. 30:20 This is the way of an **adulterous** woman: She eats and wipes her mouth and says, '**I've done nothing wrong.**'*

As horrible as that picture is, it is so **Much More EVIL** when someone **expects Jesus** to give everything but they will only give a **PART** of themselves to Jesus.

Will “Half-way” Christians go to Hell?
Does the Bible strongly answer this question?

The scriptures speak so often and so strongly on this subject that you must work very hard to **ignore** this point if you read the Bible.

Here are just a few of the hundreds of verses on this subject.

Mt. 7:22-24 **Many** will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will **tell** them **plainly**, 'I **never knew** you. **Away** from me, you **evildoers**!'

Mt. 7:19 "Every tree that does **not bear good fruit** is **cut down** and **thrown** into the **fire**".

The Bible **defines sin** in Is. 53:6 as - - - “**SELF in CHARGE**”

Heb. 10:26 If we **Deliberately Keep on Sinning After** we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a **Fearful Expectation** of **Judgment** and of **Raging Fire** that will **consume** the **enemies** of God.

To: “**Deliberately Keep on Sinning**” means that I continue to think that **I** am in **charge** of **my life** and **I** can **make** my **own decisions**.

John 15:2,6 He **Cuts Off every branch** in me that **Bears No Fruit ...** such branches are picked up, thrown into the **Fire** and **Burned**.

II Pt. 2:20-21 If they have **escaped** the **corruption** of the world by **knowing** our **Lord** and **Savior Jesus Christ** and are **again entangled** in it and are **overcome**, they are **WORSE OFF** at the **end** than they **were** at the **beginning**. It would have been **BETTER** for them **NOT** to have **KNOWN** the **way** of **righteousness**, than to have **known** it and then to **turn their backs** on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

II Pt. 2 has some of the strongest verses on this subject. It could not be clearer. It actually says that the “Half-way” Christian’s suffering in Hell will be **WORSE** than those who **never pretended** to be Christians. Wow!

Heb. 6:4-6 It is impossible for those who have once been **enlightened**, who have **tasted the heavenly gift**, who have **shared** in the **Holy Spirit**, who have **tasted the goodness** of the **word** of **God** and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that **produces thorns and thistles** is **worthless** and is in **danger** of being **cursed**. In the **End** it will be **Burned**.

Mt. 3:10 The **ax** is already at the **root** of the trees, and **every** tree that does **Not** produce **Good Fruit** will be **Cut Down** and thrown into the **Fire**.

17 of Jesus' parables are warnings that
“Half-way” Christians will go to Hell.

1. Mt. 13 Parable of the Sower

*v. 21 They **quickly fall away.***

2. Mt. 13 Parable of the Weeds

*v.42 Throw them into the **blazing furnace**, where there will be **weeping** and **gnashing of teeth**.*

3. Mt. 13 Parable of the Net

*v.50 Throw them into the **blazing furnace**, where there will be **weeping** and **gnashing of teeth**.*

4. Mt. 18 Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

*v. 34 In anger his master handed him over to the **jailers** to be **tortured***

5. Mt. 21 Parable of the Tenants

*v. 41 He will bring those wretches to a **wretched end***

6. Mt. 22 Parable of the Wedding Feast

*v. 13 Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the **darkness**, where there will be **weeping** and **gnashing of teeth**.*

7. Mt. 25 Parable of the Ten Virgins

*v. 12 I tell you the truth, I **don't know** you.*

8. Mt. 25 Parable of the Talents

*v. 30 Throw that worthless servant outside, into the **darkness**, where there will be **weeping** and **gnashing of teeth**.*

9. Mt. 25 Parable of the Sheep & the Goats

*v. 41 Depart from me, you who are **cursed**, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels. go away to **eternal punishment**.*

10. Lk. 10 Parable of the Good Samaritan

v. 31 & 32 A **priest** happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he **passed by on the other side**.³² So too, a **Levite**, when he came to the place and saw him, **passed by on the other side**.

11. Lk. 12 Parable of the Rich Fool

v.20 But God said to him, 'You **fool!** This very night your **life** will be **demanded** from **you**

12. Lk. 13 Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

v.7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come **seeking fruit** on this fig tree, and I find none. **Cut it down**. Why should it use up the ground?

13. Lk. 14 Parable of Building a Tower

vs. 29-30 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

v. 33 In the same way, those of you who do **not give up everything you have cannot** be **my disciples**.

14. Lk. 14 Parable of the Wedding Feast

v.24 I tell you, **not one** of those who were **invited** will get a taste of my banquet.

15. Lk. 16 Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus

v. 23 In **Hell**, where he was in **torment**,

16. Lk. 18 Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector

v. 14 "I tell you that this man, **rather than the other**, went home justified before God

17. Jn. 15 Parable of the Vine

v. 2, 6 He **Cuts off** every branch in me that does **Not Bear Fruit**... Such branches are picked up, thrown into the **Fire** and **Burned**.

Chap. 4

How do I recognize a “Real” Christian?

1st Question - The first question that quickly separates, clarifies and identifies a real Christian is:

What is sin?

This may be the bottom line of the entire gospel. “*Half-way*” and “*Fake*” Christians **falsely** believe that sin is an **ACTION**. They always look for actions that are much worse than their actions.

They look at their **own actions** and say the same thing as the prostitute: “*I’ve done nothing wrong*”

However, sin is **Not** an **Action!**

Sin is an **ATTITUDE!**

The Bible defines sin as the attitude:

“*I am **in charge** of my life*” &

“*I get to **make** the **decisions** about my life.*”

The Bible makes it clear that this: “**Going my OWN way Attitude**” is the sin that nailed Jesus to the cross.

*Is. 53:6 Each of us has turned to his **OWN WAY** and the Lord has laid on him the **INIQUITY (Sin)** of us all.*

Every single “*Half-way*” or “*Fake*” Christian is **deceived** to think that there is:

“*Nothing Wrong*”

with me being in charge of my life
& making my own decisions.

This is the **essence** of **evil rebellion**.

Every thought and motive of me being in charge is sin. That person will stand before God with billions or trillions of sins.

The worst part is that this sinful attitude of “*Me in Charge*” leads to more and more emptiness. The **emptier** our sinful life is, the more we **deceive** ourselves and **become** more **selfish**.

The Bible says that we become slaves to selfishness.

*Col. 3:3 For you **DIED** and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

Romans 6 was the first chapter I ever memorized over 40 years ago. Romans 6 is the chapter that explains what happens when someone becomes a Christian.

Some version of the word “**DIE**” appears in Romans 6 – **Sixteen** times in **23** verses.

We died with Christ is mentioned throughout the New Testament.

This “**DEATH**” is the day you **realize** that everything of self in charge is emptiness, misery, and deserves eternal Hell.

In that death, you are then free to forever live only for Jesus.

I have a personal saying about this death. I say that when you become a Christian you:

“Die to the Lie that Self in Charge will ever Satisfy.”

Every real Christian has experienced this death.

We do **NOT** follow Jesus because it is the **Best** path.

We follow Jesus because he is the **ONLY Life**.

*John 14:6 Jesus answered, I am the **Only Way** the **Only Truth** and the **Only LIFE**. No one comes to the Father except through*

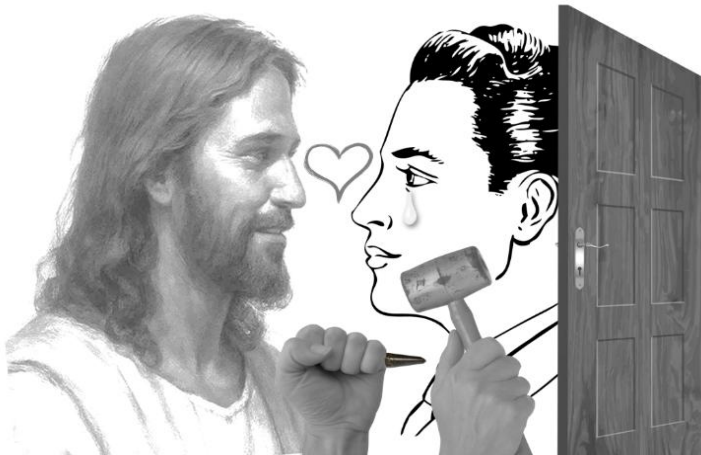
Every “Half-way” or “Fake” Christian and every Non-Christian is **terrified** to **deal** with this **deception**. That is why it is so **deep**. The more they fail to find satisfaction in self-rule, the harder they strive to find other options where they can still be in charge.

It takes **great courage** to become a “**Real**” Christian.

*Ro. 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is **Lord**," & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **Saved**.*

When you declare that Jesus is your **LORD**, you are confessing Jesus as your **slave master**. A slave does not wake up in the morning wondering what they want to do that day. A slave does not decide what to do with their life. A slave lives for one purpose: *"What does my master desire of me today?"*

In our American culture, slavery creates a cruel and evil image. However, in the Bible, God presents a picture of a **LOVE-Slave**. This picture in Ex. 21 is very emotional.



The reason God asks them to use a **Door** is so that the slave can look **Directly** into his **Master's Eyes** – **Face to Face** – with **tears of love** in his eyes, when he tells his master that he **LOVES** his Master and wants to serve him with every ounce of his being for the rest of his life. That is a Love-Slave!

*Ex. 21:5-6 "But if the **slave** declares, 'I **LOVE** my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,'⁶ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the **door** and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his **slave for life**.*

The truth is that we were **ALREADY slaves** to selfishness.

We are so thankful to Jesus for rescuing us from our slavery to selfishness that we yearn to be **His Love Slaves** to Righteousness forever.

*Rom. 6:19, 23 When you were **Slaves to Sin** (Selfishness) you were free from the control of Righteousness. But now that you have been **set free** from **Sin (Selfishness)** and have become **Slaves to God**, the benefit you reap leads to holiness and the result is **eternal life**.*

2nd Question - The second question that quickly separates, clarifies and identifies a real Christian is:

What is the Purpose of my life?

*Gal. 2:20 I have been **crucified** with Christ and*
I NO LONGER LIVE
*but **Christ lives in me**.*

“I no longer live”

Can it be any clearer?

What “*I want*” is **never again** my focus. **Salvation** is a **contract** of traded places & **exchanged lives**

Jesus took **our place** on the **cross**

& we take **HIS place** on the earth.

Jesus’ **ONLY** purpose was to bring people to heaven.

Our **ONLY** purpose is to bring people to heaven.

I Jn. 2:6 Whoever **claims to live in him**
MUST Live as Jesus did.

This single purpose in life causes us:

- To live as **servants - kind & encouraging** to everyone.
- to daily drink in **God's Word**,
- to remain **humble** and **sensitive** to the **Holy Spirit**,
- to be **dependent daily** on **God's Grace**
- to **constantly release** the **cleansing power** of the **blood** of Jesus in our lives
- to see **church** as a **family** where we **serve together**.

Our entire **life proclaims** that we live only to bring others to Jesus. It makes us the best **mates**, best **parents**, best **employees** and best of **friends**.

*Mt. 28:18,20 Therefore **go & Make Disciples** of all nations teaching them to **Obey Everything** I've **commanded** you*

Do you understand this commission?

We are **Elite, Special Forces Soldiers**
 who live **BEHIND enemy lines**,
 seeking to **Rescue Hostages**
 from eternal **death** to eternal **life**.

Like slaves, Soldiers do **NOT** consider themselves in **charge** of their **own lives**. As this great scripture says we want to **please & obey** our commanding officer.

*II Tim. 2:3 Endure Hardship with us like a **Good Soldier** of Christ Jesus.*

*No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs. He wants to **PLEASE** and **OBEY** his Commanding Officer*

However, soldiers have an **additional blessing** over slaves. Soldiers have a laser focus on their **purpose** and **mission**.

A special forces soldier rescuing hostages behind enemy lines is consumed with concentrating on his mission.

How **much more** do we as elite special forces soldiers have a **consuming concentration** on our mission when we are rescuing hostages for **ETERNITY**.



When someone joins the military, they learn two things at boot camp. They are quickly told that they are **no longer** in **charge** of their **lives**.

*I Cor. 6:19-20 You are **NOT** your **OWN**; you were **Bought** at a **Price**. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

The second thing they learn at boot camp is that they have a high and holy calling in the military.

*II Cor. 5:20 You are therefore **Christ's Ambassadors** as though **God** were **making his Appeal** through you.*

Notice that when Jesus returns, our **main identity** is as **SOLDIERS**.

*Rev. 19:14 The **ARMIES** of heaven were following him, riding on white horses & dressed in fine linen bright and clean.*

Chap. 5

How do I stop being a “Half-way” Christian?

Stop **PRETENDING** &
 Stop **AVOIDING** the Hard Questions

It takes **GREAT COURAGE** to become a Christian.

You start by asking Jesus to answer the most painful prayer ever. This prayer will cause you to realize how you constantly **LIE** to yourself and **PRETEND** that your “**Self in Charge**” goals will **satisfy**.

*Jer. 17:9 The **Heart** is **DECEITFUL** above **ALL** things!*

You start by asking Jesus.

*“Jesus, please show me how **selfish** and **empty**
 is my heart and life apart from you!?”*

This prayer will lead you into the most **horrible** time of your life. Jesus will answer this prayer and show you how **empty**, **evil**, **selfish** and **ugly** is your heart.

You may be like the unfruitful fig tree in the parable below.

It **may** be that **God** is using this study to give you **one last chance** like the tree in this parable

*Lk. 13:6-9 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to **look** for **fruit** on this fig tree and haven’t found any. **Cut it down!** Why should it use up the soil?’ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, I’ll **DIG** around it and put **MANURE** on it. **If it bears fruit** next year, fine! If **not**, then **cut it down.**”*

- **Digging** is God digging underneath your excuses & lies.
- **Manure** is God showing you the ugliness in your own selfishness

This is not a pleasant experience!

You will come out of this time truly knowing that – apart from Jesus - you **Deserve Hell!**

Jesus will also show you how OFFENSIVE it is to God to pretend to be a Christian while trying to still be in control of your own life.

Most of all, you will **never again** be **tempted** to be in charge of your own life.

You **KNOW** that self in charge is **misery, poison** and **acid** to **yourself** and **everyone** you **love**.

Because you are never again tempted to let self be in charge, you have **great freedom** and **joy** in your life in Christ.

Conclusion

Having been a pastor for almost 50 years, it is so easy to recognize a “*Real*” Christian. They live a very **humble, faithful, serving** life.

Their **lives loudly declare** that they know the definition of sin and what is their only purpose on earth.

They are **consumed** with the **joy of living only** to **bring others** to **Jesus**.

This is basically the **message** of the **entire New Testament**.

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