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## Am I good enough to go to heaven?



Mom went over to the slow cooker where the Thanksgiving turkey had been all day. As the lid was taken off a shriek filled the air. The slow cooker had been unplugged hours before to make room for uncle Bob's famous sweet potato soufflé.

Tears filled Mom's eyes. "My dinner is ruined!" she cried. Dad chimed in, "Oh, honey. I am sure that it is good enough." However, the half-baked turkey was not good enough, nor was it safe to eat.

In our lives we probably hear or say those words often. "Oh, the lawn looks good enough. I can wait another couple of days to mow." "Oh, the house isn't *that* dirty. It is good enough for now." "My job was done well enough for today. I am going home!"

What about when it is quitting time here in this life? Are we sure that we are going home to heaven? Are we good enough?

We may be individuals who settle for good enough more than we like to admit. However, we have a God who doesn't settle for anything but perfection. Jesus says, "Be perfect . . . as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

So are we good enough to go to heaven?

God takes the "lid" off of our hearts and tells us what he sees. "Every inclination of [the] heart is evil from childhood" (Genesis 8:21). Even if we try hard and work at being kind, good, and perfect we still fail. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

So, now what will happen to us? Is our hope to live forever in heaven with God ruined?

Thanks to Jesus Christ our Savior the answer is, "No." We do have hope because Jesus has forgiven our sins by dying on the cross, and he has declared us to be innocent by rising from the dead. Because of what Jesus has done, every time that God looks at us he sees us "holy in his sight without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22).

Are you good enough to go heaven? Jesus did not just make you good enough but he made you perfect! Through faith you receive "the gift of God [which] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 3:23).