

WHAT MONEY CAN BUY

*A bed but not rest.  
A house but not a home.  
Luxuries but not contentment.  
Medicine but not health.  
Amusement but not happiness.  
Food but not appetite.  
  
A grave . . . but not Heaven.*

ADMIT ONE

MY TICKET  
TO HEAVEN



“MY TICKET TO HEAVEN is excellent! It is a straight-forward presentation of the cardinal mysteries of the Christian Faith . . . . I sincerely hope that this booklet will receive the wide circulation it deserves.” — **Father John A. Hardon, S.J.**, World renowned Catholic theologian, professor, lecturer, and author of over 20 books, among them, “The Modern Catholic Dictionary”, “The Catholic Catechism”, “The Question and Answer Catholic Catechism.”

After receiving the letter below, it was decided to put MY TICKET TO HEAVEN into pamphlet form.

Dear Father:

Many, many thanks for such a beautiful meditation—“My Ticket To Heaven”.

It is a message of salvation . . . . There are many of us who need an uplift, an inspiration which you express so wonderfully well. I cannot think of a better formula for peace, and eternal happiness to be achieved in this modern world’s corruption than your “Meditation”.

May God bless you for such a **masterpiece**.

Signed: Joseph F. Bernard  
Retired high school principal  
Pa.

(Published with ecclesiastical approbation)

A.M.D.G.P.M.

© Copyright 1995

## A MEDITATION

Lord Jesus

Your holy will be done . . . . .

first . . . . . last . . . . . and always.

But it is your holy will

that I go to heaven . . . . .

When I die.

Therefore, may this be . . . . .

2

*Life is short and death is sure,  
The hour of death remains obscure.  
A soul you have, and only one,  
If that be lost all hope is gone.  
Waste not time, while time shall last,  
For after death 'tis ever past.  
All-seeing God your Judge will be,  
And Heaven or Hell your destiny.  
All earthly things will pass away;  
Eternity...alone will stay.*

25

With this printing 3,075,000 will be in the hands of the faithful.

Anyone (priests, nuns or laity) wishing to help by prayers, donations or distribution contact the address on opposite page, stating number you can distribute. There is no price for them: they are price“less.” Free.

However, the gaps occurring in production because of lack of funds could be reduced (as well as relieve ever-increasing mailing costs) if occasional monetary help is received.

23

---

The author,  
a priest of 50+ years,  
serves the Altoona-Johnstown diocese.

Address: My Ticket to Heaven  
P.O. Box 5  
Fisherville, KY 40023-0005

38th Printing      February, 1999

But how can we relax? How can we be at peace? How can we be at rest, when we are in "fear and trembling"? Yet in fear and trembling we must be. Those are the words of God, given us in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians.

One last thought; When I have a job to do, I am not completely at peace. I'm not completely at rest until I get the job done; get it finished: get it over with, and out of the way. I don't like something hanging fire: unfinished: incomplete. It interferes with relaxing: with resting.

But God gave me the job of getting myself to heaven. Of course, along the path laid out for me in my vocation in life and the duties involved. But whatever is involved, let us get the job done and over with. Let's get to heaven. **Then** my job is done. **Then** I have achieved the end for which I was created.

---

## MY TICKET TO HEAVEN

Only one thing is necessary. Luke 10:42

Therefore

My Creed . . . . My Commitment . . . . My Reasons

There is a day ahead of me . . . . on the calendar . . . . that God has put a ring around . . . .

On that day my heart is going to give its **last beat** . . . . It will give this beat . . . . and then **beat no more**. On that day I am going to **die**.

On that day . . . . there is only **one thing** that is going to matter to me. Only one . . . . and that one thing is this:

morrow, but **right now**, to make sure . . . . that when that moment comes . . . . those **will** be the gates of heaven in front of me . . . . and **not** the gates of **hell**.

Now, in this job of getting myself to those gates of heaven, I have everything going for me . . . . There is no reason whatsoever, why I shouldn't make it.

Because: First:—**God** wants me in heaven . . . .

That's the one and **only** reason He made me . . . .

He wants to **love me** and **share His heaven with me** for all eternity.

"Well done, good and faithful servant . . . . enter into the joy of thy master." Matt. 25:21

"Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of thy kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:34

And He wants me in heaven . . . . even more than **I** want to be there.

**Are those the gates of heaven in front of me . . . . ?**

Or are they

. . . . the **gates of hell** . . . . ?

Did I make it? Or did I miss?

Not another thing is going to matter one whit . . . . Only

**DID I MAKE IT** . . . . ?

And that this moment will come . . . . is **more certain** than that the sun will come up tomorrow morning.

Since that is the **most important** . . . . and **most certain** thing in my life . . . . if I have **any sense at all** . . . . If I have only the tiniest bit of common sense . . . . I will begin right now . . . . And not to-

4

. . . . And that's saying a lot, I assure you . . . .

That's God's **will** for me . . . . That's God's **plan** for me . . . .

He has it all set up.

Now to the second point: I want to be in heaven . . . . I want to be there with every fiber of my being . . . . My whole being is hungering for it . . . . thirsting for it . . . . longing for it . . . . pining for it.

St. Augustine said it so well. And he should know. Because, in a mighty search for happiness, he tried everything . . . . including so many kinds of sins. But after about 30 years of trying to find happiness in this world . . . . and in so many kinds of sins . . . . he looked up into the heavens and exclaimed: "You have made us for Yourself, O God, and we will be ever restless until we rest in You."

And I too, will be ever restless until I rest in God. I will **never** be **perfectly** happy until I rest with Him in heaven.

6

Then—and only then—can I relax, rest, and enjoy the complete happiness that God made me for. The happiness that my soul: my very nature hungers for, thirsts for, longs for. And **must have** in order for God's will for me: God's plan for me, to be accomplished.

Therefore, the day of my death is going to be—(besides the **Most important**)—The **most exciting**, the **most thrilling** day of my life.

Therefore, it can't come too soon.

So please Lord, let it come at the earliest possible moment your Holy Will in my regard will permit.

Because truly, dear Lord,

"As the deer longs for the running waters, so my soul longs for You, O God. Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?"

21

If I don't want to die, I am taking a position exactly like that. And that doesn't make sense.

All of us want to feel secure. At least I do. I want to be free from fear: from worry. Only then, can I be truly at rest, completely at ease.

But as long as I am **in this world**, there is the fear, the worry, that I might not make it to heaven. And the only way I can get rid of that fear, that worry, is **by going to heaven**. And the only way I can go to heaven is by dying. There is no other way. So I must die. It's the only thing that makes sense.

St. Paul speaks of this very thing in his letter to the Philippians: 2:12. It amounts to this: In simple terms we just **can't relax**. We **can't be at peace**. We can't be at rest **as long as we are down here**. Here are his words:

"Work out your **salvation with fear and trembling**."

19

---

Yes. When the doctor says we have a fatal illness, we go to every length imaginable to **avoid dying**. We spend all kinds of money on specialists and hospitals and medicine, and tubes and wires and machines. We travel thousands of miles to **shrines**—hoping and praying for a miracle . . . . trying to stave off death . . . .

TRYING TO AVOID GOING TO HEAVEN

It's ridiculous!            It doesn't make sense!

If I don't want to die, my position is as nonsensical as the following: Suppose I am sick. I am suffering from many aches and pains, and in great misery. A doctor tells me he will make me well in short order. But I say: "No. **I don't want to get well**. I want to stay sick. I want to keep these aches and pains and suffering. **I want to stay miserable.**"

---

And if **I don't** get there . . . . well, it would have been better if I had never been born . . . . Indeed, if I don't get there, it would be . . . . it **will** be the greatest **calamity** . . . . the greatest **disaster** . . . . the greatest **catastrophe** imaginable!

Yes, if I don't get there, I will never enjoy the face to face vision of Him who is infinite goodness and love. I will never enjoy the association with the angels and saints, my family and my friends, that God had intended for me to enjoy.

"What does it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul?" Mark 8:36

But **I can be sure** of making it to heaven.

God gave me the perfect blueprint for getting there. He gave me **exact** directions . . . . And every **aid** I will need.

And those directions are simply this:

---

After all, heaven is our true **home**. This world down here, although it has many beautiful things: joys and pleasures — compared to heaven — it comes off a **terribly poor second**. Indeed, in God's plan it is only a place of trial. And — since Original Sin — a place of exile: a vale of tears. It is constantly fraught with sickness, suffering, sorrow, and sadness. Worse than that, it is a place of evil, of sin, of wickedness and woe.

It is only common sense to want to get away from these evils. For evils they are. And we must always want to get away from evil. And that means **we must want to go to heaven**.

And let us not miss **this** telling point: As long as we are in this world, we are **in danger of sinning!** In danger of offending God. In danger of doing something that's against His will. In danger of being fooled away from God by Satan, like Adam and Eve were fooled away from Him.

---

**catastrophic**. Indeed it's **so** disastrous . . . . **so** catastrophic, that before I should commit a mortal sin, it would be better if I would cease to exist. Much better to cease to exist, than to turn away from God: to turn away from heaven. Much better to cease to exist than to commit a **deadly** sin.

That means then, when Satan comes along, and tries to get me to **commit** a mortal sin, I **must** . . . . I **will** always, (with the help of God's grace) set myself against it with all my will and mind and heart and soul. I will fight off the temptation with all that is in me.

No matter how strong the temptation . . . . or how persistent, I will set myself against it with the immovability of the Rock of Gibraltar.

I will say . . . . and keep saying . . . . with all my might and main: "Me commit sin? Never . . . never . . . never . . . never . . . never."  
"But me remain faithful to God? Ever . . . ever . . . ever . . . ever . . . ever."

## KEEP MY FACE TURNED TOWARD GOD

Keep moving **toward** those gates of heaven.

**Never** turn your face away from God. **Never** turn around to go in the opposite direction.

We have a word for turning our face away from God . . . . . for turning around and going in the opposite direction; we call it:

### DEADLY or MORTAL SIN

So to commit a mortal sin is the most **stupid** thing I can do. There is absolutely **nothing more stupid** . . . . . nothing more nonsensical . . . . . than for me to turn away from going toward those gates of heaven and start going toward the gates of hell.

And worst of all: there's nothing more **disastrous** . . . . . Nothing more

8

And if I maintain always . . . . . this determination . . . . . this disposition of mind and soul . . . . . I can be sure of never committing sin.

**And**

**I can be sure, thereby, of going to heaven!**

If I make this my policy throughout my life, to anyone asking me if I am going to heaven when I die, I can say: "Well, if I don't make it, it won't be **my** fault: **that** I guarantee you."

And right there **is** the guarantee that I will make it.

To look at this from **another** angle, it would be a **sin** for me to go to hell. Because it is against God's will for me to go to hell. And anything that is against God's will is a sin. But I refuse to do anything that is against God's will. With God as my helper I absolutely refuse to commit sin. Therefore I refuse to go to hell. It's as simple as that.

10

Yes. As long as we are in this world, we are in **danger of going to hell.**

**And what an unspeakable danger that is!**

But we can get away from this danger by going to heaven. Let's go then: and at the earliest moment that we can persuade God to take us.

As we said above, we pray in the psalms that we pine for God: for heaven. Because heaven is our home. And we won't be perfectly happy until we get there.

But how inconsistent we are. For example: When the doctor tells us we have a terminal illness: that our days are numbered, we turn and run the other way . . . . . screaming and crying. In effect we say: "I take back what I said in the psalms . . . . . those prayers I so love. I am **not** pining and thirsting for you like I said in the psalms: in my prayers. **No.** I take that all back. I am not longing for you like the deer for the running waters."

17

Ps. 26:4 "One thing I have asked of the Lord: this will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

\* \* \* \* \*

When I am saying these inspired prayers, constantly I am praying to **die**. So, if I don't want to die, I must quit praying them. Otherwise I am telling lies . . . . . one after another.

Or: there is another way out. Before beginning them, I can preface them with something like: "When I say these words of the Psalms, **I don't mean them**. I'm only **quoting** the Psalmist. They are **not** my words. And **I don't go along with them at all.**"

But that would be utter nonsense.  
Rational beings don't say such things.

15

- Ps. 62:2 "O God, you are my God whom I seek: for you my flesh **pines** and my soul **thirsts**, like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water."
- Ps. 83:3-4 "My soul **yearns** and **pines** for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh **cry out** for the living God."
- Ps. 54:7 "Who will give me wings like a dove, and I will fly and be at rest."
- Ps. 72:26 "For thee my flesh and my heart have fainted away."
- Ps. 117:19 "Open to me the gates of justice. I will go into them and give praise to the Lord."
- PS 83:11 "Better is one day in Thy courts above a thousand elsewhere."

And nobody can **force** me to commit sin. Not all the demons of hell put together, can make me commit a sin. I—and I alone—can do that. And that I refuse to do. You can do anything you want. You can torture me. Yes: You can kill me. But you can't make me commit a sin.

Remember this: Actually, **God** doesn't put anyone in hell. **They** put themselves there. They freely choose hell themselves when they decide to turn their face away from God . . . . to turn their back on God, and to turn over to the Devil.

God gives us the theological virtue of **HOPE**. We express it in the Act of Hope when we say: "Relying on Your infinite goodness and promises,

I hope to obtain . . . . life everlasting.” In other words, If **I** do **my** part, God will do **His** part. He will keep **His** promise. He will take me to heaven.

If we adopt this policy . . . . If we make it part of our nature. If we live by it. If we stick to it. **We will** go to heaven when we die. **We will** carry out God’s **plan** for us . . . . God’s **will** for us.

And now to a—let’s call it a bonus. Or an extra reward God gives us when we give our allegiance to Him 100%. This bonus: this extra reward that He gives us, is that we won’t **fear death**. **We won’t be afraid to die!!!!!!** We will see death **as it really is**. As St. Paul tells us in Philipians 1:21: “To die is gain”.

Indeed we will **welcome** death. We will see death as **God** sees it. As **we** will see it after we have gone through it. And seeing it as it **is**, we will even **long** for it. We will **pine** for it.

And here is still another benefit: We will be able to recite those beautiful psalms that speak of our longing for death — without being hypocrites. Without telling lies.

If fact, **until** we reach that stage of truth . . . . of truthfulness . . . . of commitment . . . . we really can not pray those beautiful psalms without telling lies . . . . one after another.

Let’s listen to some of these beautiful, meaningful, heart-warming prayers. Now remember:

**We must mean what we say.**

\* \* \* \* \*

PS. 41:1-2 “As the deer **longs** for the running waters, so my soul **longs** for you, O God. Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. **When** shall I go and behold the face of God?”