

Who Can Ascend?

(John 3:13)

*Do not say in your heart, "WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?"
(That is, to bring Christ down from above),"
or "WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?"
(That is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."* Romans 10:7,8

No man could ascend into heaven above,
So Jesus descended to bring us God's love.
He set aside all that He had in that place
To save us from hell by His marvelous grace.
He faced the temptations that we face within
And proved that He couldn't be corrupted by sin;
Then died on the cross for the sins we had done,
And rose to ascend to the throne He has won.

Don't say in your heart that somehow you'll ascend
To heaven yourself by the good you intend.
God knows all the thoughts and intents of your heart,
And says that there's sin in its innermost part.
If you think you're holy enough in God's sight,
It shows you don't understand holiness right.
Believing you're being as good as you should
Is bringing Christ down to your level of good.

And don't think your soul can descend low enough
By suffering sorrow, no matter how tough,
To satisfy God's righteous judgement for sin,
And bring yourself back in His favor again.
Christ humbled Himself to the death of the cross--
Exhausted God's wrath to atone for our loss--
And thinking your anguish is worthy of gain
Devaluates Him to your level of pain.

The debt of our guilt can't be measured or weighed,
But though we can't pay it, it's already paid.
So give up on making yourself justified,
And rest in the fact that the Savior has died.
Confess Him as Lord in a manner that shows,
Believe in your heart that He died and arose,
And no matter how you've already behaved,
You'll have the assurance your soul has been saved.

*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that
God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* Romans 10:9

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