

Picture in your minds the house or apartment you live in. You probably like it well enough. But now picture your dream house. How many bedrooms does it have? Does it have a soaring entry or huge living room with beautiful glass windows letting in tons of sunlight? A kitchen with huge stainless steel appliances, nice eating area with wonderful views to the backyard? And speaking of the backyard, does your dream house have a pool? Of course it has a pool, a big one, with gorgeous blue water that's always the right temperature for swimming. Nice right?

What if you could have that house, with all its rooms, windows, views, and pool; all you had to do was build it yourself. Could you do it? I couldn't. I'm guessing you couldn't either. What if I gave you the plans for the house? You'd know where every wall went, the room sizes, location of windows, and how to construct everything. But even with the plans we could never build our dream house alone.

That's the way some see heaven, like a dream house they have the plans to get to but no way to do it alone. Heaven is better than the nicest house you could ever live in here. Perfection with no more crying, no more pain, no more death. Sin completely and totally gone. Nothing to disappoint us, frustrate us, or hurt us ever again. That's the dream, now what about the plans? The Bible must be the plans, the rules and laws, what's right and what's wrong. With all that is heaven something we can gain ourselves? It's still impossible, more than impossible. Sin destroys any hope of taking God's rules, our hard work, and getting to that dream house of heaven ourselves.

How can heaven become yours? God's plan is better, God's grace is better. God knew you, knew your weaknesses, and knew your inabilities because of sin. He knew you and acted long before you were born. His grace acted. Jesus, the Savior, was perfection in the flesh. He kept the rules and obeyed the commands. He never sinned. He went to the cross, died, and rose again. God knew this was the plan to save you. Jesus is your Savior. When you look at life and can't even figure out how you'll get through tomorrow's difficulty, Jesus assures you he knows what you need, he knows and he's done it for you. He's saved you for a future, a hope, a life you have by grace right now. Today you four make your confession regarding what you believe. What God has worked in your heart regarding the dream house God prepares, builds, and gives to you. You confess Christ as Savior. Because of Jesus heaven is yours.

The Word from God to consider is Jeremiah 29:11. **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**