

## **"HEAVEN, WILL PETS BE THERE?"**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

People get very attached to their pets. In fact, some churches have "Pet Dedication Days" and some even have baptismal services for them.

**It has been asked if one's pet will be in heaven?** No matter how fond one is of their pet, and I have always had a dog and grown very close to them. However, the Bible has not been silent on the subject. But, **The important issue** is this. Have we made arrangements to go to heaven ourselves? One does so by: a) Believing in Jesus b) Repenting of known sin c) Confessing Jesus as Lord d) Being baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit e) Living a faithful Christian life f) Being active in the Lord's church (Acts 16:31; 17:30; 8:37; 2:38; 14:22, 2:47).

Note that the first step in being saved is having faith. Now, can an animal have faith in Christ as the Savior of mankind? Now this excludes animals. **It is God's Call** to say whether or not who or what (animals) is a Christian and whether or what ends up in heaven or hell. Jesus did say in John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." NIV **Can an animal believe this?**

Some have concluded that heaven will be a place of peace and since one's pet brings peace to them - surely then one's pet will be in heaven. Some have concluded that they will be married in heaven. But no matter how much one loves their spouse, Jesus said there would not be any marriages in heaven (Matt. 22:30). Marriage is an earthly institution and that should settle it, shouldn't it?

**Plainly, don't get short changed.** Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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