

I was thinking about a visit to the supermarket. Have you been doing your shopping and had a woman rushing round with a trolley and bumping into you? She says, "Oh, sorry duck" and then proceeds on her way at the same speed and probably bumps into one or two others on her way round the aisles. How sorry was she? Obviously not very or she would have slowed down a bit.



How sorry are we when we say, "Sorry"? If we feel really, really sorry about doing or saying something then the assumption is that we will make every effort not to repeat that thing. The word that used to be used instead of 'sorry' was 'repent'. We do not very often hear the word used today and it is usually considered to be a churchy word and out of date, but, it has a much deeper meaning than 'sorry' and does not trip off the tongue so easily. 'Repent' means to turn around and go in the opposite direction. If we repent of something then we are deeply sorry and will make every effort to turn away from what we are in the habit of doing.



The words 'sorry' and 'repent' led me to thinking about Heaven. (You might be wondering, 'What have they got to do with Heaven?', but, all will be revealed!) We all like think that we will eventually be going to Heaven, but, will we????? God is a holy God and will only have holy and perfect people with Himself in Heaven. Well, that rules us all out as the only perfect person who has ever lived on this earth is Jesus. We might be the most generous, loving, thoughtful person whom you could ever imagine and have a halo as big as a bucket, yet unfortunately, all of these things will never make us perfect. So, what is the answer? How do we get to heaven?

When Jesus died on the cross He said one gigantic '**SORRY**' to God on behalf of every one of us so that we could all have a clean sheet and join a holy God in Heaven. Again, does this include everybody then? Sadly the answer is, 'No' because not every person takes advantage of this free gift that is offered. If I am offered a box of chocolates I will only get to taste them if I accept them. It is the same with Jesus; the availability of our going to Heaven is only on offer if we accept it – If we say, "Sorry", repent of the wrong things we have done and said, accept Jesus into our lives and have the desire to love Him and follow Him. I find it very upsetting when I think of all of the millions of people who are not interested in this wonderful gift and who think that there is automatic entrance into Heaven for everyone.



Questions to ask ourselves:

How sorry am I for the things I have said and done that should not be on my agenda?

Do I eventually want to go to Heaven and be with a holy God?

Do I want to accept this free gift that is offered to me or am I not interested?

