

References in this leaflet are from the Bible:

1. Acts chapter 2 verses 22-24
2. 1 Peter chapter 1 verses 3-4
3. Romans chapter 10 verse 9

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# Not even Houdini



**Harry Houdini** (1874-1926) was the most famous escapologist of his or any other generation.

He successfully escaped from handcuffs, shackles, chains, straitjackets and all sorts of restraining devices.

He could even escape from a locked box that had been placed under water.



Locks, chains, bars, shackles; nothing seemed to be able to hold Houdini prisoner.

Sadly, there was one thing he could not escape from: death.

Houdini died of peritonitis after being punched in the stomach, while unprepared, by a member of the public who wanted to test his famous ability to withstand any blow.

When death claims someone they cannot escape - ***not even Houdini***.

There is, however, an exception to this rule ...

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, *did* escape the chains of death.

Here is the testimony of a witness to this event:

*“Men of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him ... and you, with the help of wicked men put him to death by nailing him on a cross.*

*“But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was not possible for death to keep its hold on him”<sup>1</sup>*

This is a statement of fact, but does it have any meaning for you and me?

The same witness wrote a letter a number of years later, to Christian believers, spelling out exactly what it means:

*... he (God) gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you ...<sup>2</sup>*

A new kind of life and an everlasting inheritance in heaven! But don't I need to do something to earn it?

This is a question that is commonly asked, the answer to which is “NO”. Only repentance of your sin and *complete trust* in the Saviour is required.

Here's a verse from the Bible making it very clear:

*“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”<sup>3</sup>*