

Though he was not perfect, he was a hero to many. His humility and honesty made his fans love him even more.

His lifetime statistics were amazing. Scoring 536 home runs, 1509 RBI's and a .298 batting average gained the respect of teammates and the crowd in the stands. With the Yankees, he was the first to clear the wall in the right center field at Forbes Stadium in Pittsburgh.

His father had taught him to be an accomplished batter. By age five he was a switch hitter. With his father pitching from one side and his grandfather from the other, he began the process of becoming one of the greatest batters to play the game.

Mantle had shared with his teammates his fear of dying young. His father Mutt died of Hodgkin's disease at 40 years old, and two of his uncles died of the same disease before their 40th birthdays.

You reap what you sow. This was a lesson Mickey Mantle would learn. Feeling his future was not promised, he attempted to drink his concerns away. As legendary as his career was, later in his life he acknowledged that alcohol had robbed him of reaching his full potential. This was true not only as a player but also as a person.

As he had won many battles on the field, Mickey hit another home run, this one in his personal life. He checked himself into the Betty Ford Center, and it was a grand slam! He gave up the bottle.

Still something was missing. In June

1995, Mantle was diagnosed with cancer. His liver was ruined. After receiving a transplant, he looked forward to a brighter future. Sadly, doctors soon found more cancer in his body.

Knowing he was facing death, he called a Christian friend, Bobby Richardson, who had been a Yankee teammate. Mickey asked him to pray with him over the phone.

Mantle died soon afterward, and Bobby Richardson spoke at his funeral. Richardson retold his conversation with Mantle on his deathbed. "Mickey, I love you and want you to spend eternity in heaven with me," Richardson remembered saying. Smiling, Mantle said, "Bobby, I've been wanting to tell you that I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

In the final inning of his life, Mantle was asked how he *knew* he was going to heaven, and he replied, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life." That's how he *knew*!

How about you? Would you consider yourself a good person? Do you think you are good enough to go to Heaven when you die? Do you ever think about the issue of life and death? Whether we like it or not, we are all part of the ultimate statistic: Ten out of ten die. Let's look at the Law (the Ten Commandments) and see if we have broken any of them in any way (*with a tender conscience, let's ask ourselves if we have obeyed the following*):

You shall have no other gods before

Me (*have we loved God above all else?*).

You shall not make yourself a graven image (*make a god to suit ourselves, with our hands or our mind*).

You shall not take God's name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and mother.

You shall not murder (*hatred is considered as murder*).

You shall not commit adultery (*lust is adultery of the heart; includes sex before marriage*).

You shall not steal (*the value is irrelevant*).

You shall not lie (*including answering these questions*).

You shall not covet.

The Bible says that God will punish all murders, thieves, liars, adulterers, etc. He will even judge our words and thoughts. On Judgement Day, will you be found to be guilty or innocent of breaking His law? We have all broken God's Holy Law. The best of us have lied, stolen, lusted, hated, failed to love God above all else, and failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus came to die to pay our fine. Now, because of what Jesus did for us in satisfying the Law, God can forgive us and grant us the gift of everlasting life! ¹

Would you like to give your life to God in the same way Mickey Mantle did? You need to understand and submit to God's salvation plan for your

life. Please read through the following steps outlined from the Bible.

1. God loves you very much!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Admit you're a sinner

and need a savior. We need Jesus for eternal life in heaven but also a fruitful life here on earth.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Turn from (Repentance) the sin of unbelief and the sins in your life. Totally surrendering your life to God.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

4. Believe (Faith) in or turning towards Jesus Christ who gave Himself once and for all as a sacrifice for your sin. Believing in His death, burial and resurrection. Receiving the

Lord Jesus Christ into your life.

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

5. Pray committing all that you are and hope to be to God.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

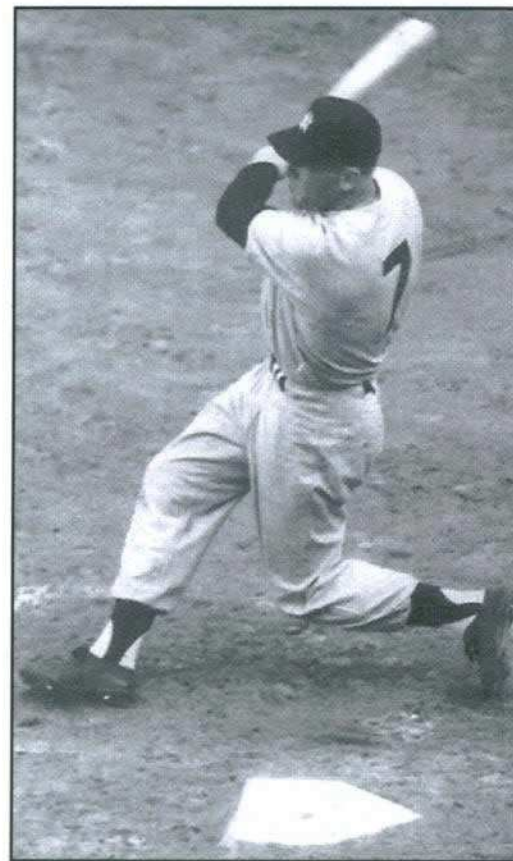
If God has spoken to you through this pamphlet or other things in your life and you are ready to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you can pray a prayer like this one:

Dear God,

I know I'm a sinner and don't deserve your grace. I realize and believe that you sent your Son to come down to the earth and die a horrible death on the cross. I believe He rose again. I am willing to turn from my sins (name them) and completely live for you. Please come into my life and save me. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus's name, Amen!

1. Cameron, Kirk. *Left Behind II*. Living Waters Publication, P.O. Box 1172, Bellflower, CA 90706.

Mickey Mantle



1931-1995