

## **PASS MARK – 100%**

A friend was getting back into the workforce after her children has started school. She had been a nurse, working in the operating theatre. Naturally, she needed to update her skills and knowledge.

Knowing that she had recently sat an exam I asked her how she thought she had done. Her reply, “OK, I think. Of course, the pass mark is 100%”.

100%! Wow! I’d taken a few exams in my time but never one where the pass mark was 100%!

Mind you, when I went in for surgery some years later it was comforting to know that I was being looked after by a group of 100%-ers!

I reckon some people live that way. They think that if they work hard enough, are good enough, “religious” enough, they will pass God’s “entrance exam” for heaven.

Trouble with that is, the pass mark’s 100% and the Bible says there’s only one person who ever lived on this planet who made it. You guessed it – Jesus. The Bible says that he “was tested and tempted in every way, just like we are, but never sinned”.

So what do we do – give up trying? No! The Bible also says that Jesus’ 100% can be credited to our account if we are willing to accept it as a free gift and stop trying to earn it, which we can never do anyway. It says that “He, who never sinned, was made sin for us so that we might have his goodness in exchange”. Note that – his goodness, not ours.

The Bible has another picture of what we might call God’s Examination Day – Judgment Day, if you like. It talks about a lot of books with everything we’ve ever done in them and one book with just the names of those who’ve accepted what Jesus has done for them. We have a choice which books we want opened. Well, I know which one I’m going to go for!

ALAN MAY,  
Baptist Minister.

[www.mackaychurchestogether.org.au](http://www.mackaychurchestogether.org.au)