



Salvation

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WHEN HAS
SOMEONE
STEPPED
IN TO
HELP YOU?

The
POINT >

Jesus made it possible for us to
be righteous before God.

> ROMANS 3:20-28

²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his

righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

While most parents will deny it, research shows that parents do favor one child over the other.¹ Who's the favorite? You guessed it—the oldest.



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // SALVATION

Before the beginning of time, God's plan for salvation centered on Jesus' death and resurrection, which makes salvation possible.

My wife does an incredible job homeschooling our children. She works hard, and the kids generally respect her. But there have been a few days when, while I'm away at work, I'll get a call saying something like this: "Our son will not listen to anything I say! Will you please talk to him?"

There are times when relationships are interrupted—two parties are not on the same page, are not willing to listen, or we do our best to share our perspectives, but we can't speak in a way that others can understand. The truth is because all people are sinful and have more than our fair share of weaknesses, we're going to experience a lack of unity, personal struggles, and even conflict with others. Our friends at school will hurt or disappoint us—and we'll do the same to them—our teachers won't understand why we struggle with the work, and our parents will seem so unfair.

When we struggle to live on the same page with those who are important in our lives, we need a mediator to step in and bridge the gap. Another area where we all need a mediator is in our relationship with God. It's a divide we cannot fix, and just as my wife needed me to step in to help my son obey, we desperately need a mediator to step in to bring us back to God. Thankfully, God has provided a mediator in Jesus.

ROMANS 3:20-22

1 How do people determine right and wrong in our culture?

2 When are you tempted to compare yourself to others who are "worse" than you?

ROMANS 3:23-24

- 3** Where do you see evidence of the fallen nature of all people?
- 4** How would you describe our sinful condition to someone new to Christianity? How would you describe God's grace?
- 5** How has God proven His love in your life?

ROMANS 3:25-28

- 6** What is the price God requires for sin?
- 7** How would you explain to someone why good works aren't enough to earn a relationship with God?
- 8** Why are the ways we live an essential part of faith?



*Faith is trusting in Christ for our salvation, and real faith always leads to a lifestyle that honors God.
#BSFLHolyVocab*





LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // SALVATION

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Many people today believe we are saved by living a good life (salvation by works) or even because we believe in God. However, the Bible is clear—God's standard of "good" is Jesus, and we all fall desperately short. No one could ever be nearly good enough to earn God's favor. Only Jesus' sacrifice could pay the debt we owe, and only through His death and resurrection can we receive salvation.

> CHRIST

Read Psalm 51:16-17.

9 What does this say about God's desires for our lives concerning:

OUR WORKS

OUR HEARTS

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY & WORLD

10 When are you tempted to think God is pleased with you because of your works? How do you need to adjust your perspective?

Pray every day this week that God would help you to live in obedience to Him, not in an effort to earn His favor, but as an expression of the love for Him that's in your heart.

> COMMUNITY

The Bible calls us to confess our sins not only to God, but to one another (Jas. 5:16). This brings healing in our lives.

11 Who is a trusted friend or leader who can help you grow in your relationship with God?



12 Share with this person ways you've been prideful in your heart. Ask him or her to pray for you—that you'd continually trust Jesus for salvation and not your own "goodness."

> CULTURE

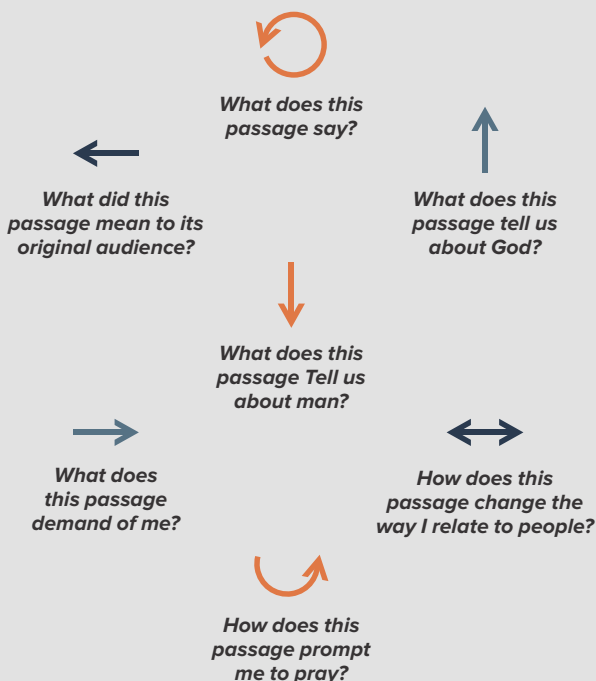
This good news about salvation is not intended to be kept to ourselves.

13 Who do you know that needs to hear the truth about Jesus? Pray for this person this week, and make it a point to have a conversation about Jesus together.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One ROMANS 10:1-2

Paul, who wrote the book of Romans, loved the Jews and had a deep desire that they would turn to God in faith. God had given them the Scriptures, and they had their responsibility to follow the law very seriously. However, they'd misunderstood one important detail—no one could ever be saved by following the law. The law revealed the character of God and His expectations for His people, but it also revealed that we are sinners and incapable of fulfilling the law. This is why we all need a Savior. Though the Jews worked hard to obey the law, they didn't obey "according to knowledge." Paul prayed that God would open their eyes to see that their works were empty and that they would trust Jesus to save them. Today, there are many people who say, "I'm a good person." This is what the Jews thought too. Yet their godness fell desperately short of deserving salvation. Paul prayed they would see the truth, and we need to pray for our friends that they would recognize their need for Jesus.

➤ **What is the standard for "good" in our culture today?**

➤ **Why isn't this enough to live in relationship with God?**

Day Four

ROMANS 10:8-9

True righteousness that brings us into relationship with God isn't found through some epic journey to the heights and depths of creation. Instead, the way we are made right with God is much simpler—faith in Jesus. Faith is first associated with a confession. Confess is literally with-speak, which means to agree with God about what is right and wrong. To confess that Jesus is Lord means to surrender everything of ourselves to Him, agreeing that He is the only way to the Father. Further, faith requires that the things we confess flow out of a heart that is fully convinced that all the Bible says about Jesus is true. And one of the most important truths is that Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead. The only way to be saved from sin is to believe in Jesus and surrender to Him as Lord.

- **What does it mean to “confess” Jesus as Lord?**

- **Why is the resurrection so important?**

Day Five

ROMANS 10:10



Saving faith begins in the heart and then flows out through our lives, including our words, thoughts, actions, relationships, and more. Yet for those who don't believe, we may think it's impossible simply to change their hearts. The truth of the matter is it's difficult enough to change our own passions and desires, and we could never change anyone else's heart. That's why it's so important to pray and trust God to work. This doesn't mean we're not responsible to love people well. God uses the ways we treat others to impact their hearts. Yet, when it's all said and done, it's up to God to transform people's desires, including our own.

- **When have you wanted someone to change, but there was nothing you could do about it?**

- **How do you demonstrate trust in God's purposes each day?**