



# 3

## Salvation

?

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

<sup>20</sup>For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets. <sup>22</sup>The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. <sup>23</sup>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. <sup>24</sup>They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>God presented him as an atoning sacrifice in his blood, received through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. <sup>26</sup>God presented him to

demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we conclude that a person is justified by faith apart from the 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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

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.

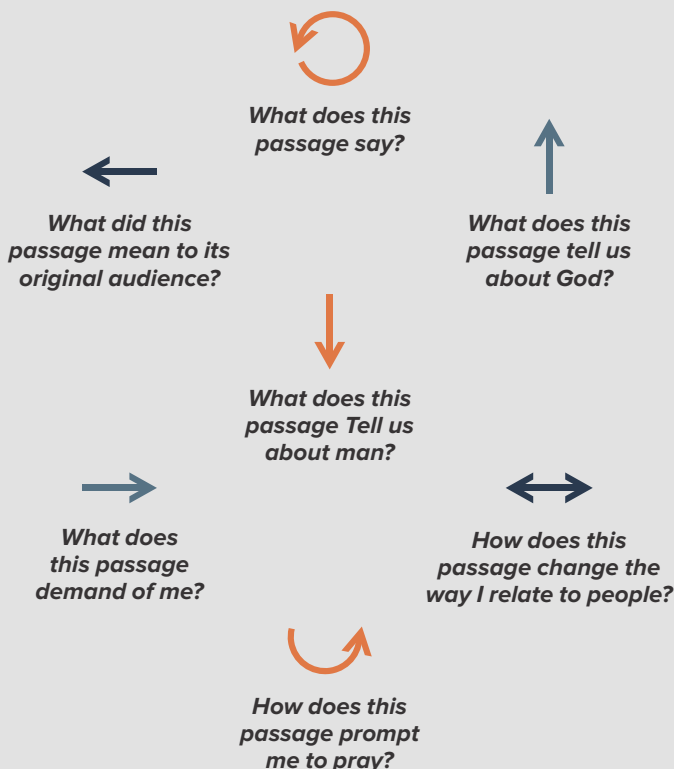
**13** Who do you know that needs to hear the truth about Jesus? Pray for this person this week, and make it a point to have a conversation about Jesus together.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One

## ROMANS 10:1-2

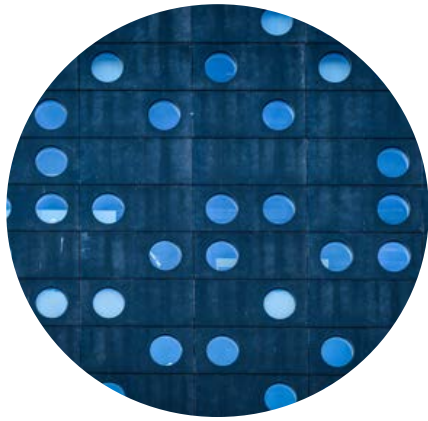
Paul, who wrote the book of Romans, loved the Jews and had a deep desire that they would turn to God in faith. God had given them the Scriptures, and they had their responsibility to follow the law very seriously. However, they'd misunderstood one important detail—no one could ever be saved by following 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 goodness 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 Two

# ROMANS 10:3-4



Righteousness refers to someone's being perfectly "right" in relation to the law. God's Word is the perfect standard of good vs. bad, right vs. wrong, so to be righteous is to be perfectly in line with what God has declared is right. Throughout the Old Testament times, God's people were required to live according to the law as an expression of their hearts' desire to obey Him. Yet, no matter how hard they tried, they could never live up to God's requirements. However, when Jesus came, He changed the standard. Jesus fulfilled the law when no one else ever could. Therefore, righteousness is no longer a matter of working to obey the law (which was impossible anyway)—instead, righteousness comes from trusting Jesus. Salvation comes not from works, but from faith.

➤ **How would you describe "righteousness" in your own words?**

➤ **How is Jesus "the end of the law"?**

## Day Three

# ROMANS 10:5-7

God gave the law through Moses, and the standard or righteousness was perfect obedience. In James 2:10, we learn that to keep the whole law, yet to stumble at one tiny point, is to be guilty of breaking the whole law. Many people recognize that they've stumbled or sinned, yet instead of simply acknowledging their hopeless condition, they set out to make it right. Many have tried to go up to heaven thinking they can work their way to God. Others would go down into the abyss believing they could find a way to resurrect themselves. But repairing what sin has broken in our lives could never be accomplished through human effort, no matter how heroic. Perfect righteousness is available only through Jesus, and this means accepting that we are irreparably and irreversibly broken apart from God's intervening in our lives.

➤ **When have you tried to do heroic things so God would be happy with you?**

➤ **Why is stumbling in one point an offense against the whole law?**

## 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?**