

**PURPOSE OF STUDY:** To demonstrate that salvation is the gift of God by grace alone through faith alone, for the restoration of mankind to the glory and honor of God; and to give the hearer an opportunity to accept that salvation.

**TEXTS:**

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. RO 3:19, 23         | 8a. MT 11:28-30 (JN 6:37) |
| 2. RO 3:10-12          | b. AC 3:19; 5:31          |
| 3. RO 6:23             | c. 1JN 1:9 (PS 51:3-4)    |
| 4. IS 59:2 (GE 3:8)    | d. RO 10:9-10             |
| 5. 2CO 5:21            | 9. COL 1:6                |
| 6. JN 3:16             | 10. 1JN 5:11-13           |
| 7. JAS 2:19 (HEB 11:6) | 11. REV 3:20              |
| 8. EPH 2:8-9           |                           |

**THE STUDY:**

1. **What is our standing with God as the result of sin? RO 3:19, 23**  
*All humanity has violated the moral law of God, and as a result we all stand guilty before God. It is this sense of guilt that robs us of inner peace. Unless we deal with the problem of guilt, we can never have real peace.*
2. **But isn't it true that a lot of people are basically good people? RO 3:10-12**  
*Not according to the Bible. There is no one who does good – not even one!*
3. **What are the wages, or consequences, of sin? RO 6:23**  
*Death. A wage is that which someone earns in payment for what they have done. The sinner has “earned” death as a consequence and as a penalty. Death is the paycheck we receive from sin!*
4. **What has sin done to our relationship with God? IS 59:2 (GE 3:8)**  
*Sin has separated us from God. Imagine a relationship in which one person continually chooses what their partner doesn't like. Does that strengthen the relationship? Not at all. In fact, it's causing estrangement. And because God is the source of life, when we choose to live in sin, we are essentially choosing death.*
5. **Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? 2 CO 5:21**  
*Jesus died in our place. He died the death that we deserve so that we can live the life that He deserves. He took our sin and offers us His righteousness.*
6. **How can we obtain the righteousness that is in Jesus? JN 3:16**  
*By believing in Jesus. The Greek word for “believe” means to put confidence and trust in something or someone; to rely completely upon them. To believe in Jesus means to trust Him completely to save us from our sins and to give us His righteous life.*
7. **Will everyone who “believes” be saved? JAS 2:19 (HEB 11:6)**  
*No. The Bible speaks of a counterfeit belief that won't save anyone. It is not enough to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, or that He lived on this earth and died on the cross for our sins. Even the devil and his angels believe that! But they refuse to accept Jesus as their Lord and place their total trust in Him.*
8. **Is salvation something we can earn by behaving ourselves and doing the right things? EPH 2:8-9**  
*No. It is the gift of God. If we could earn it, it would be called a wage rather than a gift. Is we deserved it, it wouldn't be by grace.*
9. **How then do we obtain the gift of God's grace?**
  - a. **We must come to Him just as we are – MT 11:28-30 (JN 6:37)**  
*We must first come to Jesus as we are.*

**b. We must be willing to repent – AC 3:19; 5:31**

*We must experience a true sorrow for sin and a change of heart. The Bible calls this “repentance”. Repentance is also a gift from God, but we must be willing to admit that our own sinfulness is the cause of our problems, and be willing to turn from our sinful habits and ways of life.*

**c. We must acknowledge and confess our sins – 1JN 1:9 (PS 51:3-4)**

*We must acknowledge that we have indeed sinned, and confess those wrongs to God. Confession should be of a specific nature, confessing specific sins. If we can’t ever think of specific sins, then we haven’t truly been brought to repentance. If we truly confess, forgiveness and transformation are promised.*

**d. We must put our complete trust in Jesus – RO 10:9-10**

*We must choose to confess Jesus as our Lord and trust Him implicitly with our lives.*

**10. Once we have received Jesus, how are we urged to live? COL 1:6**

*In the same way that we received Jesus – coming humbly to Him as we are, repenting and confessing our sin, and choosing to trust our whole lives in His hands – so we are to continue in the Christian life.*

**11. What promise does Jesus give to those who accept Him as their Lord and Savior? 1JN 5:13**

*He promises the assurance and certainty of knowing today that we have eternal life in Jesus.*

**12. What is Jesus waiting for? REV 3:20**

*Jesus stands at the door of our hearts knocking, awaiting an invitation to come in.*

**APPEAL:**

The choice is yours. Jesus wants to be a part of your life. He wants to wash away your sins and give you a new life in Him. He wants you to have the assurance of eternal life today! He stands at the door knocking. Won't you open the door and invite Him in just now?

**DIFFICULT TEXTS/OBJECTIONS:**

**“Doesn't John 10:28 teach that once a person is saved, they can never be lost?”** John 10:28 deals with God's ability to keep His people safe from the attacks of the enemy while they choose to serve Christ. Paul speaks similarly in 2 Timothy. 1:12 when he says “I know whom I have believed” and am persuaded that He is able to keep me... Yet the same apostle speaks very clearly of our ability to choose another way. Demas forsook Paul (2 Ti. 4:10); Hymenaeus and Alexander made a “shipwreck” of their faith (1 Ti. 1:19); He spoke of those who had a full experience in the Christian life and then have “fallen away” (Heb. 6:4-6). Jesus Himself said that only those who “endure” till the end would be saved (Mt. 24:13; He also warned His followers to hold fast to what they have, “that no one may take your crown” (Rev. 3:11). Why would He warn against an impossibility? The Bible is very clear that while God is able to keep that which we have committed to Him, we still must commit it to Him in order for Him to keep it, and this is a daily work (1 Co. 15:31).

**“Doesn't the Bible teach that God has already predestined some people to be saved and some to be lost?” (Ro. 9:10-11).** The only predestination, or “election,” that the Bible teaches is the “election of grace” (Ro. 11:5). Some read the passages in the Bible regarding election, as the one here in Romans 9, and assume that what is being said is that God has chosen to destroy some people and save others, and if God has already chosen, what can we do about it? If read carefully, however, the message becomes clear. The Jewish people thought they would be saved – that they were elected to be saved – because of their gene pool. God answers by first making the point that He is God, and as God He does what He wills, and not what man wills (Ro. 9:10-11). Having stated that, He goes on to make the clear points that (1) He has already pre-determined who He will save, and (2) those whom He has pre-determined are those who believe in His Son. Therefore, if a person is of a certain social class or nationality and thinks they deserve salvation more than another, only God's choice counts. He alone is God, and He can choose to save whomever He will; and He has chosen to save those who believe (Ro. 9:30-32; 10:4, 9; 11:6, 20, 23). The Bible is very clear that salvation is available to all. “For God so loved the world... that whoever believes...” (Jn. 3:16); “Whoever desires, let Him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17); “And He Himself is the Propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (1 Jn. 2:2).