



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 60

BELIEVE AND CONFESS

Salvation in Christ is free for all to believe.



MONDAY

THE STORY: ROMANS 10:1-4

Salvation can not be earned. Paul hammers away at the idea that righteousness can not be earned. Paul repeats that we are saved by faith and not by our own works. He wants to ensure that his hearers know that our righteousness comes from Christ and not from what we do. This is important because some, especially in Paul's day, rejected the message and insisted on continuing to follow the law as a means to justify themselves before God. Paul's desire and prayers were for the salvation of Israel.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Paul have such a love for Israel? (Paul was a Roman Jew who was a Pharisee prior to his conversion. He knew what it is like to hear the gospel and reject it.)

Why was the gospel difficult for the Jews to believe? (Most Jews placed their faith in their nation and the law. They saw salvation as freedom from Rome for their country. They were expecting another kind of messiah, one who would free them from the Romans. Jesus came to free them from sin. Paul tells us Christ is the end of the law. This was very difficult for the Jews to accept.)

PRAY:

Thank God for doing the work of salvation for us so that we are no longer under the curse of the law.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: ROMANS 10:5-13

Paul wanted to be sure that everyone was clear that the required work of righteousness has been done by God. Paul suggests that to try and be righteous by the law is like bringing Christ down from heaven by your own power or causing Christ to rise from the dead by your own power. The point is that God has already done these things! There is no more work to be done but to believe the word that is near us. The word is already in our mouths and in our hearts. We simply need to believe what we know and confess our belief and trust in the Lord. Then we will be saved. Salvation is not far away. Salvation is near.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why does salvation seem far away for a person who tries to earn it by works? (We are all sinners. Perfection is impossible. Anyone who tries to earn salvation is faced with the reality that our lives are filled with sin.)

Why can salvation seem close when you accept God's righteousness by faith? (God did all the work. There is nothing left to do but accept what He already did.)

Why is accepting God's salvation difficult for some? Why does anyone refuse? (People refuse because of sin. Men are in rebellion against God. It is only by God's grace that anyone can have faith and believe. Apart from God's saving grace, we reject all knowledge of God. That is why so many deny the world was created by God. See Romans 1:20-21.)

PRAY:

Ask God to pour His saving grace upon each member of your family that they might repent of their rebellion against God and trust the Lord.



**WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

THE STORY: ROMANS 10:9,11

This is one of the clearest passages which addresses our responsibility toward God in salvation.

We must believe that the Jesus who was crucified was also raised from the dead. Though this belief is a requirement for salvation, we cannot simply believe unless God first extends His saving grace. This is because we were completely dead in our sins. When we hear the words of the gospel, the Spirit of God uses them to give us a new heart so that we might believe and confess.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why does salvation seem so easy? (Salvation seems easy because the hard work has already been done by Jesus. We simply need to place our trust in Him.)

Why is salvation so hard for some? (Trusting in Christ means that you no longer trust yourself. Turning to Christ means that you turn away from the world. People reject Christ because they want to trust in their own works and/or don't want to turn away from the world. A person can't have it both ways.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would give each member of your family grace to turn away from the world and trust in the finished work of Christ.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: ROMANS 10:14-18

Salvation is spread by preaching the gospel. The good news is the message that all the requirements of the law have been met in Christ! All the work is done! All across the land people were and are trying to earn their salvation. We need to share the good news that the work is done. All that is left is for us to believe!

It sounds simple, but Paul was aware that not everyone who heard the message accepted the message. Many of the Jews refused to believe, just as the prophets had predicted. Often the Gentiles accepted the message of the gospel which the Jews rejected.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does the kingdom of God advance and grow? (The kingdom of God advances through the proclamation of the gospel, by telling others about Jesus.)

What is the most important question we should take away from this passage? (Will I believe and trust in Christ?)

PRAY:

Pray for those you know who have rejected the gospel. Ask God to soften their hearts to the truth.



FRIDAY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: ISAIAH 65:1,2

Paul connects this passage to Christ in Romans 10:20. Paul pulls the rebellion of

Israel in Isaiah's day forward and speaks of Israel's rejection of Jesus. Jesus is the subject of this passage. Jesus is the one who was rejected by the Jews, the very ones who sought after the Messiah. The Gentiles, however, who did not seek after the Messiah, found a Savior in Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does verse two also accurately describe Jesus? (Jesus ministered among the Jews. He healed them, delivered them, and taught in their synagogues proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. But they rejected Him.)

What is the message we should take away for our own lives? (We need to be careful not to reject the Lord, but to place our trust in Him. Every sin that led the Jews to reject Christ is active in our own hearts.)

PRAY:

Pray that God gives grace to each member of your family to accept the gospel and live for Christ.