

## Week 13 | Salvation & Eternity

### Is mankind good?

Within every human heart is a yearning for r\_\_\_\_\_, for transcendence, something eternal. In fact Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 3:11 that God *"has planted eternity in the human heart."*

Unfortunately, people look for meaning and hope and redemption from within t\_\_\_\_\_. And yet the Bible says that our hope isn't found from within but instead it is *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27).

To hope in ourselves, to try to find redemption within, only leads to death and a C\_\_\_\_\_ eternity. The mistake is that many people think they are born good. But is it true? Is mankind good?

Romans 3:23 says, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* We are not born good, we are born \_\_\_\_\_. And that's a p\_\_\_\_\_. Because Romans 6:23a says that *"the wages of sin is death."* Death is the punishment for \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to understand the d\_\_\_\_\_ of the problem before we can truly r\_\_\_\_\_ in redemption.

The solution to our problem is found in the rest of Romans 6:23b when it says, *"but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Our S\_\_\_\_\_ is the s\_\_\_\_\_. Romans 5:8 says, *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* His death and resurrection is the work that saves us.

We can't work for it, according to Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Only Christianity will allow a person to know God \_\_\_\_\_ and experience \_\_\_\_\_.

## Christianity vs. other religions...

*All other religions refuse to see Jesus as God. And all other religions believe there is something we can do to earn salvation. What separates Christianity from all other religions is \_\_\_\_\_.*

Perhaps you've heard of the acronym for grace...God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Grace is God's u\_\_\_\_\_ favor. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross (and because of the empty tomb), we have all eternal riches available to us.



### **Whole Group Discussion**

*Why do people have a hard time not trying to earn their way to heaven?  
What part does our pride play into it?*

*Do you think most people think humanity is inherently good? If so, why?*

*Why is it so hard for some people to simply receive God's grace?*

Perhaps it sounds too exclusive to say that only Christianity is the way. Well, take that up with Jesus. He's the one who said it.

In John 14:6 He said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Yes, the gospel is exclusive in the sense that salvation is only available to those who embrace Jesus as Lord and Savior. But in reality, it is inclusive.

Salvation is available to \_\_\_\_\_, no matter the color of your skin, or what gender you are, or what you have done in your life.

The gospel is available to all who realize they can't work for it. It's available to all who b\_\_\_\_\_ it and r\_\_\_\_\_ it. How do we do that?

John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Belief that saves requires r\_\_\_\_\_ of sin first. Jesus said so in Mark 1:15, *"repent and believe in the gospel."* And how do we receive salvation?

## **How we receive salvation...**

*"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." Romans 10:9-10*

Receiving salvation happens when we believe in our hearts and \_\_\_\_\_ with our mouths. We express to God repentance for sin, acknowledge belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of our lives.

Another way of thinking of it is the "ABC's of Salvation." "A"... A\_\_\_\_\_ you're a sinner. "B"... B\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus died on the cross for those sins and rose from the dead. And "C"... C\_\_\_\_\_ Him as the leader of your life.

It's really as simple as that. Maybe that's why Jesus said in the gospels that we must "believe like a child." How about you? Do you know your "ABC's"?



## ***Small Group Discussion***

*Take time to share how you came to know the “ABC’s of salvation” in your own life.*

*Read John 3:16-21. What do we learn about salvation in this passage? What do we learn about God?*



## ***Prayer Focus***

Do you regularly take time to thank God for your salvation? Go ahead and take some time to do so now.