

**STUDY MATERIALS & QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL
REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP or FAMILY DISCUSSIONS
July 2 thru July 8, 2023**

—Here are some encouraging Bible references & quotations that relate to our study: (There are benefits in reading passages like this!)

—**Romans 9:32–33** Because they didn't pursue righteousness by faith but by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, "Look, I am laying in Zion a stone that will cause people to stumble and a rock that will make them fall, **yet the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.**"

10:2–4 For I can testify that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not in line with the truth. For ignoring the righteousness that comes from God and seeking instead to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, with the result that there is righteousness for everyone who trusts.

10:8–17 "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach), 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, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and resulting in salvation. **For the scripture says, "Whoever trusts in Him will never be put to shame."** For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, who richly blesses all who call on Him. For "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? **Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"** However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

10:18, 21 But I ask, have they not heard? Yes, they have: Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. ... But about Israel he says, "All day long I held out my hands to this disobedient and stubborn people!"

—*"Under God's sovereignty people still have freedom and are able to act freely in line with their human nature and natural desires. Since people are free to act based on their personal desires, every individual person is responsible for his actions."* —**GAD & Romans 1-8**

—*"Since we're exhorted (& warned) to 'trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't lean/depend/rely on your own human understanding,' it seems as if there are far too many man-centric opinions about God's sovereign authority, human responsibility, personal free will, election, pre-destination, and various other theological perspectives that are based on philosophical logic rather than precisely what the Bible reveals to us. Often, we are impressed with our own intellectual efforts, and we fail to prayerfully filter our conclusions using God's Word. There are times when I know I've been guilty and my prayer is that God will protect us from 'being wise in our own eyes!'"* —**GAD**

—*"The Gospel of Jesus teaches men that a mere profession of faith alone is no sound evidence of salvation."* —**Paul Washer**

—*"You will find all true theology summed up in these two short sentences: Salvation is all of the grace of God. Damnation is all of the will of man."* —**Charles Spurgeon**

—*"To escape the error of salvation by works we have fallen into the opposite error of salvation without obedience."* —**A. W. Tozer**

—*"Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way."* —**A. W. Tozer**

—*"Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior."* —**John Newton**

—*"The only reason that men are offended at the preaching of the Cross is because they have no adequate sense of sin and the holiness of our Lord. When a person refuses to face sin, he will find it easy to dispense with what the Bible teaches about the sacrificial death of Christ."*

—**Lehman Strauss**

—*"Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief."* —**John Calvin**

—*"Keep in mind that when sin is viewed superficially, it is dealt with superficially."* —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“It is not your hold on Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not your joy in Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not even your faith in Christ, though that is the instrument; it is Christ's blood and merit.”

—**Charles Spurgeon**

—“God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’” —**Billy Graham**

—“Saving us is the greatest and most concrete demonstration of God's love, the definitive display of His grace throughout time and eternity.”

—**David Jeremiah**

—“Christ is a substitute for everything, but nothing is a substitute for Christ.” —**Harry Ironside**

—“The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Savior from hell rather than a Savior from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of Fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness.” —**Arthur W. Pink**

—“One of two things you must do; you must either receive Him or reject Him. You receive Him here and He will receive you there; you reject Him here and He will reject you there.” —**Dwight L. Moody**

—“Salvation is not a reward for the righteous, it is a gift for the guilty.”
—**Steve Lawson**

—**Romans 1:16–19** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith, just as it is written, “The righteous by faith will live.”

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness, because what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

—“The unbelief and failure of man can never thwart the intended plan of God.”
—**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—**Here are some questions for personal reflections & discussion.**

—**1**— Are there any of these quotes or scripture passages that you would like to discuss with one another in a specific way? Please notice those which might encourage some very interesting discussion!

—**2**—*In Romans 9, the Apostle Paul expresses deep personal sorrow over the spiritual condition of his Jewish countrymen who have resisted & rejected the Messiah. In Romans 10, Paul focuses our attention on the importance of presenting the Gospel to those who need to hear it. What are some reasons why many followers of Christ are timid or afraid to be messengers of Truth to our lost society?*

—**3**— How do we find the balance between presenting the gospel in an effective (bold) way and being cautious about offending someone with the reality that sin is the reason why salvation is necessary?

—**4**— How can we determine whether zeal is godly or ungodly? To what extent is zeal a part/aspect of one's personality?

—**5**— Some say that if you emphasize the necessity of repentance and obedience to Christ as Lord, you are adding the idea of works to faith. Why is obedience important? How does repentance relate to trusting the Lord Jesus as Savior?

—**6**— *If a person asks, “What about the billions who have never heard about Jesus? Will God judge them? Is this fair?” How would you reply? Some people use these questions as a distraction when the Gospel is presented. What thoughts do you have about this?*

—**7**— How could this study about the Gospel change your prayer life? How could it affect the way you spend your time and money? How does it influence our perspective of being a faithful follower of Christ?

—**8**— *How would you apply the truths of this study if you were talking to a religious person who thought that salvation is by good works?*

—**9**— What specifically goes into “calling on the name of the LORD for salvation?”

—**10**— Why is resurrection an essential truth related to one's confession/profession of saving faith?