



Activate: Salvation
Lesson 9: Jesus = Salvation

Lesson 9, Devotion 1

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” - Colossians 1:15-18

Why? It's the oldest question in the book. We ask it when we're kids. We ask it when we're teenagers. And we keep asking it as adults. We want to know why things happen. We want to know why people do certain things. We want to know why we feel the way we do about things. We want to know why.

Read Colossians 1:15-18. This passage might not answer why you like a particular guy or girl, or why your friend just stabbed you in the back. But it does solve the biggest of all why questions. Why did God create us? Why did He save us? What's the point of it all? Well, the point of it all is Jesus. He's the point of everything.

This whole world, including us, exists to bring Jesus glory. As the passage says, it exists so that He'll be made preeminent. That means so that He'll be supreme, above everything else, most adored. Everything is about Jesus and His glory.

This might make some people ask the question, “Isn't that a little self-centered of God?” Well, yes, it is. And that's not wrong. Why? Because He is above all things. (See how that works?) He's worthy of all adoration and praise. We were created for Him. So, when He receives glory from us, we're most satisfied and fulfilled because we're doing what we were created to do.

Think about this:

- Why is Jesus worthy of all honor and praise?
- Does your life reflect the supremacy of Jesus? How so?



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Lesson 9, Devotion 2

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” - John 14:6

You looked at this verse this week in your Bible study. What did you think about when you read it?

Have you encountered anyone in your life that would disagree with this? What would he or she say is an alternative way to heaven?

Here's the deal: You're going to run into people who think that because you live your life according to God's Word and because Jesus said that He is the only means to gain access to God and heaven, that you are close-minded. That you are hateful. That you are unintelligent and uninformed.

Why do you think people react this way to Jesus? As a Christ-follower, what's the proper response to people who might respond this way? What is your role in answering their questions but also showing them the grace and kindness of God?



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Lesson 9, Devotion 3

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” - Romans 10:13-15

If no one ever told you Algebra existed, would you have any clue how to do it? What if you never took a history class, read a history book, or heard someone talk about the past? Would you know anything about how civilization has progressed over time or anything about how our country came into existence? The answer is no; you wouldn't have a clue. Yes, we learn by experience, but we also have to be told about things, how they happen, and how they work.

Romans 10:13-15. The same is correct about our understanding of Jesus. Sure, there are things we can know and discern about God from just observing the world at work. But for us to understand the truth of the Gospel, someone has to take action. Someone has to tell us the story or put a Bible in our hands and tell us to read. It doesn't just happen out of thin air.

So, this passage from Romans tells us about the beauty and the seriousness of our calling. Put the pieces together: We have a sin problem. Only Jesus can fix the sin problem. For people to know about Jesus, someone has to tell them. And God says that the feet of those who proclaim the good news are beautiful! This is our calling. This is our purpose. We can't pass it off on someone else. We can't convince ourselves that someone else will carry the load. God has created you and put you in certain situations so that you can be the one that shares the good news.

Think about this:

- Do you pass that burden off on other people? Do you convince yourself that someone else will share with the person you're thinking of right now?
- Why is that a flawed way of looking at the situation? How do you change your perspective?