



BEING SURE

more to
life
with Jesus

STUDY OUTLINE

- Study 1 Accepted by God - Romans 3:21-26
- Study 2 Forgiven when we sin - 1 John 1:8-2:2
- Study 3 God answers your prayers - Matthew 6: 5-13
- Study 4 God is changing you! Romans 8: 5-14
- Study 5 God will protect you - 1 Peter 1:1-5

STUDY 1 - ACCEPTED BY GOD

ROMANS 3:21-26

Read Romans 3:9-20

There is nothing more important than being sure that God has accepted you. Most of the world's religions teach that human beings cannot be sure about their status in the afterlife or their acceptance by God. It is all just a matter of "wait and see". What Jesus taught is radically different!

1. What do these verses teach about human beings without Jesus?
2. What evidence from the world around us supports the author's point?

"Law" is an important idea in the New Testament ... and at times a tricky one! In the Old Testament God gave the Jews a "law" which was summed up in the Ten Commandments. Sometimes in the New Testament however, the "Law" is a word which refers to the first five books of the Bible. Likewise the expression "the Law and the Prophets" was a way of speaking about the whole Old Testament scriptures!

Read Romans 3:21-26

3. What has God now done to give people hope of being accepted by Him?
(Verses 21, 22)
4. Use the information above to rewrite verse 21 in your own words.

5. Draw a line to match the word with the definition. The context will help.
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Law and the Prophets | i. To turn God's anger away |
| b. Justified | ii. Trust, reliance, dependence |
| c. Grace | iii. The Old Testament Scriptures |
| d. Atonement | iv. The act of buying a slave freedom |
| e. Redemption | v. Declared not guilty |
| f. Faith | vi. Generosity or kindness |
6. The word "justified" means "declared not guilty"! What do verses 24-28 teach about being "justified" by God?
7. God presented Jesus as a *"sacrifice of atonement"* (verse 25). How do we take hold of the benefits of this gift (verses 25, 26, 27, 28)?
8. How do the following verses give us assurance that we are accepted by God?
- a. Romans 5:1
- b. Romans 8:1

c. 1 John 5:13

9. "Jesus died for us". It is a simple phrase but incredibly profound.

a. What does it mean?

b. Why was Jesus' death necessary?

c. What have you done to deserve God's acceptance?

10. Why should God accept you?

11. Are you sure God has accepted you?
Here's how you can be.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
a. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins on the basis of his death in your place?			
b. Have you asked Jesus to take over the rule of your life as your rightful king?			
c. Do you intend to submit to Him as king knowing that he will help change you?			

STUDY 2 - FORGIVEN WHEN WE SIN

1 JOHN 1:8-2:2

When someone becomes a Christian do they cease to sin? Not at all! They may have a new desire to turn away from their sins, they may have a new hatred of them, they may have a new power to resist them, but even so Christians still sin. Above all however, what the Christian now has is a Saviour who knows all their failures and whose death is also sufficient to pay for them!

Read 1 John 1:8-10

1. What truth is John teaching about Christians in verses 8 & 10?

2. Verse 9 contains a wonderful promise.
 - a. What do you think it means to confess our sins?

 - b. To whom should we confess them?

 - c. What is the promise?

3. Consider the verse below.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live to righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

- a. What does it teach about the basis of God's forgiveness?

- b. Why is God “faithful and just” when he forgives his children?

Read 1 John 2:1-2

- 4. From beginning to end the Christian life is bound up with the death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. What word picture does John use to describe what Jesus does for us in verse 1?

 - b. What word picture does John use to describe what Jesus does for us in verse 2?

- 5. According to these verses:

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Galatians 5:16-17

- a. Is it normal for Christians to struggle with temptations to sin?

- b. What is the source of the struggle?

STUDY 2 - FORGIVEN WHEN WE SIN

1 JOHN 1:8-2:2

6. Consider the verses below. What do these verses teach about God's forgiveness?

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

7. We find it hard to forgive and forget. Why is God able to forgive us completely?
8. Some people confess their sins but still feel guilty. Why might this be?
9. What could keep you from confessing your sins to God?

The term 'Father' as used of God is reserved in the scriptures for the person who has come into relationship with God i.e. for the Christian. The scriptures assure us that God will always hear our prayers. Through faith in Jesus we have been adopted into God's family. Therefore, like Jesus we have unhindered access to the Father!

Read Matthew 6:5-8

1. What warnings does Jesus give about how NOT to pray?
 - a. What questions do these verses raise for you about prayer?

Read Matthew 6:9-13

2. What does Jesus teach about how to pray in these verses?
 - a. What sort of things should we ask for as we pray?
 - b. What sort of things do we most readily pray for?

STUDY 3 - GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS

MATTHEW 6: 5-13

3. The big question about prayer for many people is why God at times seems not to answer. From the following verses, what are some of the conditions for answered prayer?
 - John 15:7

 - James 4:3

4. God always hears the prayers of His children and always answers them, yet this does not mean He will always give us what we want. Why not?

5. In many of the world's religions, people are unable to approach their "god" confidently in prayer. What factors might cause us to feel this?
 - a. Why is the Christian able to approach God confidently?

Prayer is a response to hearing what God has said. This is why prayer and bible reading always fit so well together. The bible does not insist that we pray in any particular posture, sequence or location. It does however, suggest that the following are important examples of prayer for all Christians to recall: Praise, thanksgiving, requests, confession of our sins.

6. What prayers might you pray under each of the following headings?

THANKSGIVING	REQUESTS	PRAISE	CONFESSION

7. What steps can you take to make prayer a regular part of your life?

STUDY 4- GOD IS CHANGING YOU!

ROMANS 8: 5-14

It is often said: "There are two kinds of people in the world". Though many people might agree with this statement, they are likely to differ on what the two kinds actually are! This part of the Bible does not hesitate on this question. There are two kind of people... Who are they?

Read Romans 8:5-8

1. What are the two kinds of people mentioned in verse 6?
2. What differences exist between these two kinds of people? (Verses 5-8, 13)
3. How can we know what the "Spirit desires" in verse 5? (Ephesians 6:17; John 15:7)

Read Romans 8:9-11

4. According to these verses, is it possible to be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit? Why?

5. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in these verses?
 - a. Verse 9?

 - b. Verse 10?

 - c. Verse 11?

 - d. Verse 29?

The Holy Spirit who “indwells” all Christians is at work to make us more like Christ. He does not perform this task alone however. Instead He moves us to believe the scriptures we read and take action to obey them

Read Romans 8:12-14

6. What “obligation” do Christians have? (Verses 12-13)

1 PETER 1:1-9

The Christian life is exciting but this does not mean that it won't be hard. There are distractions, persecutions, temptations to give up. Christians are like salmon...swimming upstream amidst the opposition of friends and family who don't believe and whose life and values reflect this. With so much opposition it is good to know that God will protect us!

Read 1 Peter 1:1-5

1. In his mercy, what has God done for us? (Verses 3-4)
2. How does the resurrection of Jesus give us hope? (Verse 3)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

Revelation 21:3

3. How is God protecting us so that we won't miss out on our inheritance?
4. Is faith our responsibility or is it a gift that God has given us? Consider what the following passages teach about this question.
 - a. Mark 1:15

STUDY 5 - GOD WILL PROTECT YOU

1 PETER 1:1-9

b. Philippians 1:29

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

5. "Trials" and hardship have a purpose.

a. What can you learn about this in verses 6,7?

b. What can you learn about this in James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James: 1:2-4

c. What hardships have you experienced in your Christian life so far?

d. Why should they give us reason for gratitude?

