

appnotes

DAY 1 READ ROMANS 3:21-30

1

The most common response to the question, “How does someone get to Heaven?” is some version of: “I hope I’ve done enough good things.” We often think of getting into heaven in terms of achieving, not receiving. We think we have to do the right things, and we’ll be rewarded with eternal life. But the Bible says there’s nothing we can do. We can’t do enough to get ourselves to heaven. It does say all that’s needed for us to be saved and go to heaven has already been done. Jesus died in our place, and all that’s left for us to do is accept His free gift of grace and trust in Him. Let that freedom sink in. There’s nothing you can do because it’s already been done for you.

DAY 2 READ EPHESIANS 2:1-7

2

There are a lot of things the living can accomplish. But there is only one thing the dead are good for--nothing. The apostle Paul says in Ephesians that we were all dead in our sins. We couldn’t do anything that might make us acceptable to God. As hopeless as that sounds, it makes what comes next all the more amazing. God himself made us alive! He did everything we did not. Because of His great love, God gave His life to bring us new life. We are redeemed, forgiven, and adopted into God’s family. Now, we bring God glory by letting others know that they can have a new life too.

DAY 3 READ EPHESIANS 6:18-20

3

If you had the cure for cancer, wouldn’t you shout it from the rooftops? You’d want to get that message out no matter what. As Christians, we have the cure for sin and eternal death, so why does it sometimes feel like the words just won’t come out? We may be afraid of not saying it right, or being made fun of, or losing a relationship. We often fear the repercussions we might face. But have no fear! You are in good company. The apostle Paul himself asked the Ephesian church to pray for boldness for him to share the gospel message. Even he experienced fear! The next time your tongue gets tied when you want to talk about Jesus, remember Paul and pray for boldness.

DAY READ EPHESIANS 2:8-9

4

Have you ever felt like you're not good enough? It hurts, right? The Bible answers that question in a surprising way. First, it affirms our value in God's eyes (Genesis 2:26-31). Second, it honestly reveals that we are not good enough on our own. Sin has made us a mess. That's where today's reading brings such incredible news: grace is the only way we measure up. Grace is a gift that cost God a lot to give us. What relief when we stop trying to be good enough and simply rest in Jesus being good enough for us. The pressure is off! Third, this grace motivates us to live in a way that pleases God (1 Corinthians 15:10). So are you still trying to be good enough? As one song puts it, "You are accepted because He was rejected." Let striving go and grab onto grace!

DAY READ JOHN 5:31-47

5

Do you follow any celebrities on social media? Or do you have a favorite athlete you know all the stats on? Maybe you've read all the works of a certain author. It's possible to know a whole lot about somebody you've never met. We might even feel like we know them. But the piece that's missing is the relationship. Knowing facts doesn't equal a relationship. You may know the Bible pretty well. You may have all the books memorized and be able to tell all the major stories but still not have an actual relationship with the One who wrote it. Jesus wants a relationship with us. He doesn't want us just to know all the facts. And the only way to have that relationship is to accept His gift of grace. We don't need to know everything. We just need to know Jesus.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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