

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 3.15.26

Based on Romans 3:9-26



Everyone's Greatest Need

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

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How to Access the OBC App?

- 1 Open your App Store
- 2 Search "Olivet Baptist"
- 3 Download the App
- 4 Open & Create an Account
- 5 Access all of our resources!

The smartphone screen displays the app interface with the following elements:

- Time: 9:28
- Signal strength, Wi-Fi, and battery icons.
- Header: OBC
- Image: Sunday Mornings (with text "Sunday Mornings" and "Join us each week as we worship together")
- Image: Podcast Feedback Form (with text "PODCAST FEEDBACK FORM" and "Podcast Feedback Form")
- Bottom navigation bar: Welcome, Media, Giving, Events, Bible

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to humble hearts, open minds to His truth, and help group members honestly evaluate their relationship with Him.

Key Sermon Points

1. Why We Have Such a Great Need (Romans 3:9-20)

- We are born spiritually dead, not spiritually neutral
- No one is righteous; no one seeks after God on their own
- We cannot earn our way to God through good works, church attendance, or religious activity

2. What Our Greatest Need Is (Romans 3:21-23)

- We need to be made completely righteous, not just "better"
- This righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone
- True biblical faith is a "trust transfer" from ourselves to what Jesus did on the cross

3. How Our Greatest Need Is Met (Romans 3:24-26)

- Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross
 - We are justified (made righteous), redeemed (debt paid), and receive propitiation (God's wrath satisfied)
 - Jesus said "It is finished" – nothing can be added to His completed work
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Discussion Questions

Understanding Our Sinfulness

1. Why do you think it's so difficult for people (and ourselves) to accept that we're "not good people" by God's standards?
2. The sermon mentioned ways we try to soften sin (being "tired," "hangry," etc.). What are some other ways we excuse or minimize our sinfulness?
3. Read Romans 3:10-18 together. Which of these descriptions is most challenging for you to accept about humanity? About yourself?

Examining Our Faith

4. The pastor asked: "On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you that if you died right now, you would be in heaven?" What would prevent someone from answering "10" with full confidence?

5. What's the difference between believing God exists and truly trusting in Jesus for salvation? Can you explain the "chair illustration" in your own words?
6. The sermon mentioned many people answer "What gives you confidence in your salvation?" with "Because I..." How should we answer that question?

The Gospel Truth

7. What does it mean that Jesus' sacrifice was a "great exchange"? How does understanding this change how we view ourselves and God?
8. Define these terms in simple language:
 - Propitiation: God's wrath was satisfied
 - Redemption: Our debt has been paid
 - Justification: We are made positionally righteous
9. Why is it significant that Jesus said "It is finished" on the cross? What are we tempted to add to His finished work?

Personal Application

10. The sermon warned against assuming we're "good" spiritually. How can we honestly evaluate our relationship with God without falling into either pride or despair?
 11. For believers: How should remembering "what God saved us from" affect our daily lives? Our attitudes toward others?
 12. What are some ways we try to "earn" God's favor even after salvation? (Examples: perfect church attendance, Bible reading, service, etc.)
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Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection:

- Where am I truly placing my trust – in myself or in Jesus?
 - Am I confident in my salvation? If not, what doubts do I have?
 - If I am confident, is it based on something I've done or on what Jesus has done?
 - How does understanding my sinfulness lead me to greater gratitude for God's grace?
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Key Takeaways

- ✓ **We are born spiritually dead** – not neutral, not good, but enemies of God needing a miracle
 - ✓ **True faith is a trust transfer** – moving from trusting in ourselves to trusting completely in Jesus
 - ✓ **Salvation is a free gift** – we come to God with empty hands, receiving what Jesus has already accomplished
 - ✓ **Assurance comes from Jesus' work, not ours** – look back to the cross, not to a prayer or experience
 - ✓ **Christians should be the most humble people** – God chose us despite seeing all our sin
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Practical Applications

This Week:

1. **Examine yourself honestly.** Set aside time to evaluate where you're truly placing your trust. Write out what gives you confidence in your salvation.
 2. **Memorize Romans 3:23-24:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."
 3. **Share the gospel.** Practice explaining the "great exchange" to someone – that Jesus took our curse so we could receive His blessing.
 4. **Fight pride with truth.** When you're tempted to boast about your spiritual activities, remind yourself of Romans 3:9-20 and what God saved you from.
 5. **Reach out if needed.** If you have doubts about your salvation, talk with a pastor or trusted Christian friend this week.
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Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

Share and pray for:

- Those wrestling with assurance of salvation
- Humility to see ourselves as God sees us
- Gratitude for the finished work of Christ
- Boldness to share this truth with others
- Specific needs within the group

Close by thanking God for:

- His grace that saves us despite our sinfulness
 - The finished work of Jesus on the cross
 - The assurance we can have in Him alone
 - His patience with us as we grow in understanding
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For Further Study

- Read the entire book of Romans (especially chapters 3-8)
 - Study Ephesians 2:1-10 on being dead in sin and made alive in Christ
 - Examine 1 John for tests of genuine faith and assurance of salvation
 - Research the doctrines of justification, redemption, and propitiation
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"It is finished." – Jesus (John 19:30)