
TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

GOD DOESN'T PARCEL
OUT *GRACE* AS IF
HE MIGHT RUN OUT
OF HIS SUPPLY.

MY FRIEND, WHEN
HE BESTOWS
GRACE
ON YOU, HE GOES
THE LIMIT.

J. VERNON MCGEE





WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



ONLY IN CHRIST JESUS

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

How can man stand before God? We can't. But in Jesus Christ, because of His grace, we stand. Dr. McGee highlights our great salvation in Christ Jesus in his study, "One Hour in Romans." Let this excerpt stir gratitude in you for the grace in which we stand because of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Paul brings us to this great subject of how God saves sinners today: *Salvation*.

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference. –Romans 3:21, 22

Man is helpless and hopeless—paralyzed and unable to save himself. But God has provided a righteousness that enables man to stand before God.

RIGHTEOUSNESS PROVIDED

God provides this righteousness not by man working or paying for it, but God *gives* it to him. Man can receive it only by faith. Let me use this simple illustration: I am wearing a watch given to me by members of my board. It was handed to me in a little box with the words, "This is a gift." I have never paid one penny for this watch. All I had to do was believe they were honest and sincere in offering it

to me, and when they held it out, I reached my hand out by faith and took it. That is the only way in the world you can get saved today, because salvation is a *gift*. You can't work for a gift; you can't pay for a gift; you can't promise God anything. If you are going to receive His gift, you must reach out your hand in faith and receive what God has to offer.

That gift comes through Jesus' death on the cross and the redemption He wrought for us. Paul tells us the reason for this:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. –Romans 3:23

There is no exception in the human family—we are all sinners.

That doesn't mean there is no difference in sinners. There is a lot of difference in sinners—some are worse than others, and God recognizes that. But I have found when flying over a rugged area that when I look down from that elevation, I can't tell the height of the hills. In fact, when you get up that high, you can't tell a molehill from an anthill from a mountain. They all look the same when you get up there. When God looks down at you, my friend, though you may think you are head and shoulders above somebody else, you are on the same level—"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

I have an old illustration about the game of "jumping to Catalina," an island located off the coast in Southern California. It is about 25 miles directly across to Catalina from the pier in Santa Monica. Let's suppose we get to the pier, and we run and jump off the end to see who can jump to Catalina. Now up to the present, nobody has made it. There have been some mighty good jumps, and it's a delightful game because when you jump, you get wet, and you can say to the other fellow, "I jumped farther than you did." And it is true—some



Download your free copy of "One Hour in Romans," a personal or small group Bible study here.

jump farther. But no matter how far you jump, you won't make Catalina. All come short of Catalina, although some jump farther than others. All fall short of the glory of God, too. Although some are not as great sinners as others, none has measured up to His standards. For that reason, you and I today need His redemption.

Being justified freely [without a cause; that is, the cause is not within us] by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. –Romans 3:24

What God does, He does by His grace; what God does by His grace, He does joyfully. He does it freely, without holding back. God doesn't parcel out grace as if He might run out of His supply. My friend, when He bestows grace on you, He goes the limit. He is not stingy. He bestows His grace and His love upon you freely without a cause, and it's all "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." So when you come to the Lord Jesus Christ,

Your best resolutions must wholly be waived,
Your highest ambitions be crossed;
You never need think you will ever be saved,
'Til first you've learned you are lost.

–Author unknown

If today I had the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the meekness of Moses, the strength of Samson, the obedience of Abraham, the compassion of Joseph, the tears of Jeremiah, the poetic skill of David, the prophetic voice of Elijah, the courage of Daniel, the greatness of John the Baptist, and the endurance and love of Paul, I would still need redemption through Christ's blood—the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace.

My friend, you and I need the blood of Christ for our salvation—there is no other hope for us at all. That cross is the way God has saved individuals from the very beginning, from the days of Abel outside the Garden of Eden down to the very present hour—because Paul says:

Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed. –Romans 3:25

The "sins that were previously committed" are not your past sins but sins committed before Christ's death on the cross. God has always had only one way of saving sinners, and that is through the cross of Jesus Christ. Everyone God ever saved in the Old Testament,

He saved on credit. He did not save them because they brought a little lamb. The blood of lambs and bulls and goats could not take away sin, but instead they pointed to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Christ died on the cross, that was the payment that made it possible for God to redeem those who had lived in the past. And by faith today, you and I look back to Him for our salvation.

To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. –Romans 3:26



» MY TURN

What's your story with God?

Everybody has a story. It begins when you come to God, believing His Son paid the price with His life for your sins. Your story continues to today and includes all the ways your relationship with Jesus has changed your life ... and your destiny.

Practice how to talk about your story with God so you can share easily and quickly, when God gives you the opportunity to share when someone asks you why you're living the way you are. Here are three ideas to get you thinking:

- 1 | Share a simple statement about why you chose to follow Jesus.**
Like, *What I have found is Jesus Christ is more than I ever thought He was ...*
- 2 | Tell your "before" and "after" story.**
What was your life like before you knew Jesus and what your life is like now. Be simple and let God be powerful!
- 3 | Be current with your "with" and "without" story.**
What life is like today "with Jesus" and what it would be like "without Him."

HOW MANY MOBILE DEVICES DO YOU HAVE?

Gregg Harris

LET'S RUN THE NUMBERS ...

Right now, seven out of ten people on earth have a mobile device. Many have more than one. Over 7.5 billion people live on earth using more than 9.5 billion mobile connections (approximately 5.2 billion unique mobile subscribers).

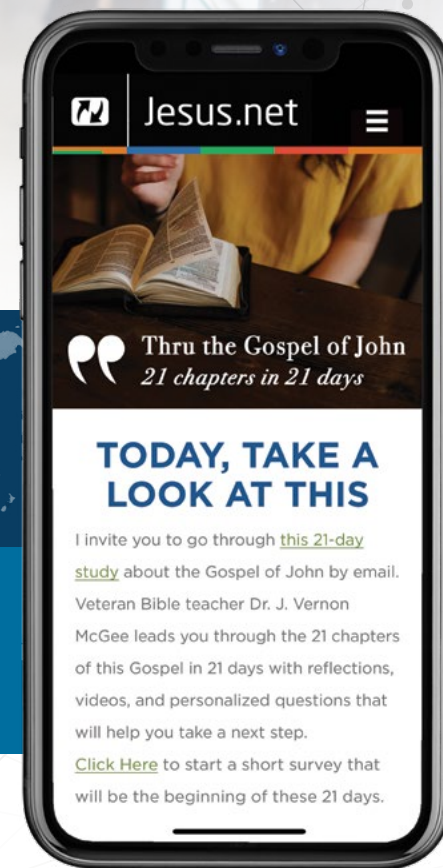
... And digital technology has only just begun in reaching the world.

Thru the Bible is taking seriously the challenge to reach people through mobile devices, the central communication and information tool used by people around the globe. This is vitally important to fulfilling our mission to take the whole Word to the whole world.

In order to accomplish this, we are developing new ministry partnerships with organizations that have unique expertise in reaching people via digital platforms. Recently, we placed Dr. McGee's teaching from the Gospel of John on Jesus.net, an internet ministry with multiple digital distribution channels. Based on their experience, the team at Jesus.net anticipated we would receive several hundred responses to this ministry initiative. We received over 3,000 responses and many indicated significant commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. God is gracious to open new ways for us to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.



See back cover for responses from Jesus.net's audience to studies in John from our same Bible Bus.



Jesus.net

Look at where the people live who engage with *Thru the Bible's study in John on Jesus.net's website, A Miracle Every Day.* Pray for this new way to take "the whole Word to the whole world."



PRAY FOR A BROTHER WHO IS STANDING ALONE

"How do I know what's true?"

That's what we hear from Li Wei who joins us on the Bible Bus in his language of Mandarin. His letter continues:

"Your programs seem to be based in God's Word, but when I ask the local preachers, they criticize me for listening to a radio program and encourage me to believe what they say. Can you pray for me, that I will know what is right and make a difference in my village? My spirit says that you are correct, that God's Word is the final authority, but no one here believes me."

While we praise God for the spread of His Word and the growth of His church in China, pray for more people to have access to the Bible and to sound teaching of God's Word.

As the truth becomes known, may the lies of false teachers be easy to recognize and reject, and the beautiful fruit of those who serve Jesus be easily identified (Matthew 7:15-20).

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY
TO SIGN UP.**

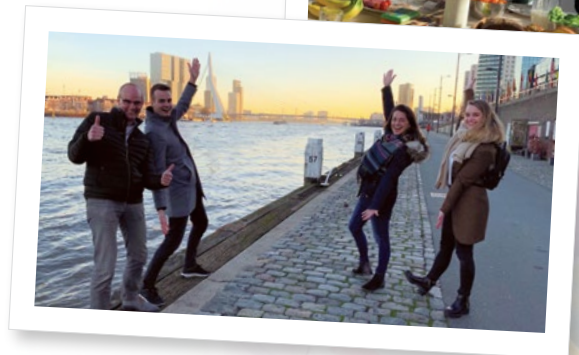
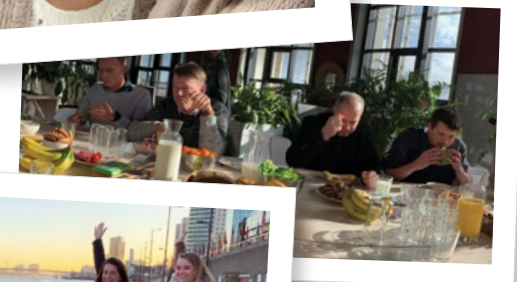
What's Happening at **THRU** the **BIBLE**

THRU THE BIBLE VISITS OUR Jesus.net PARTNERS

The ministry, Jesus.net, is based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Here is the **Jesus.net team showing Barb Peil, Thru the Bible's Communications VP**, around the city.



Check out Gregg's article on pages 6-7 for more on our partnership with Jesus.net.





“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

—Matthew 28: 18-20

I’m sure you’ve read or heard these verses before. They’re among the last ones Jesus says to His disciples before returning to heaven. But if you would, read them again and take note of the striking, comprehensive scope of Jesus’ words:

- He wants us to reach all nations.
- We are to teach everything He has commanded us.
- He is with us always.

Only God Himself can make this extraordinary statement. No human could give such an audacious, staggering command. We are to tell all nations, everything Christ has commanded. How could such a mission be possible?

Well, we celebrate it this month: when Jesus appeared to the disciples *after* He died the Cross, *after* He rose from the dead, this is our proof that He is God and our only hope of ever fulfilling this Great Commission.

They accepted the evidence, obeyed His command and hundreds of millions through history have followed in their path. The train of faithful witnesses continues to this day.

Happy to have you on board the Bible Bus.
We still have so much ground to cover.

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris
President, *Thru the Bible*



WHY STUDY AMOS & OBADIAH?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* (Amos airs **APRIL 7-28** and Obadiah airs **MAY 19-25**) or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

AMOS, an ordinary guy, was not famous or well-spoken. He was a sheep herder and fig picker from the small town outside of Jerusalem. But Amos was willing to do what God asked him to do. In a day of Israel’s prosperity and immorality, he marched into the palace and said, “Judgement is coming if you’re living far from God.” He told people to obey God and turn from their sins today.

OBADIAH’S message to the nation of Edom: “Pride has deceived you.” Edom lived in a false security. In their pride, they thought they didn’t need God. Edomites were descendants of Esau (Genesis 25-27). King Herod the Great (who tried to kill Jesus as a baby) was an Idumean, an Edomite. And speaking of heritage, a large part of the Muslim world today has the blood of Esau flowing through their veins.

TWO PROPHETS: *One message*

God hates it when you live apart from Him.

PRIDE SAYS “I CAN LIVE WITHOUT GOD.”

In Obadiah, that pride lifted up this nation of Edom just like Esau, their father, who said, “I would rather have a bowl of soup than have a relationship with God.”

“*Obadiah is a little book (the shortest in the Old Testament), but it is an example of an atomic bomb in the Bible. It is a small thing, but it has a potent message.*” —J. Vernon McGee

Amos and Obadiah side by side:

Amos lived at the same time as Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah	Obadiah lived at the same time as Jeremiah
Amos emphasized God’s righteousness and sovereignty over history	Obadiah emphasized how much God hates pride



I Love to Tell *the Story*



Responses to our 21-day Gospel of John study on Jesus.net

NOLUMKO | “It has impacted me in a very good manner, in such a way that I truly understand and feel the love of God. And that I should not limit or take God’s words for granted. Thank you so much for this series. May God bless you for reaching out to us.”

JON | “It has truly helped me understand Jesus’ ministry and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross.”

MARJORIE | “Allotting time to read the Bible has become a daily practice since starting the program. I am excited to see what each new day brings. My workdays are not so worrisome, and God is changing my thoughts, behaviors, and giving a fresh look at His love. To Him be all the glory.”

DAN | “I was drawn closer to Jesus this past 21 days.”

RHONDA | “I was really impacted by this series. Even though I have read John many times, I never before dug deeper and understood who Jesus really is and what He wants for me.”

ZOË | “It helped me grow in my faith. It really helped me see that God is on my side and loves me more than I could imagine.”



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