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

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**YOU CAN'T LIVE THE  
CHRISTIAN LIFE ON YOUR OWN.**

**IF IT'S NOT WORKING,  
ASK GOD TO TAKE OVER.**

J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU** the **BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



## THE POWER TO LIVE FOR GOD

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Before me is a letter that tells the story of failure in the Christian life. The man writes, "I'm living in Romans 7 and can't find the way out. I have the way, but can't get to Romans 8. I am fighting a losing battle, seemingly singlehanded."

The writer goes on to describe the struggle happening in his heart, as it does in many other born-again Christians.

But Romans 8 delivers us. The purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to lift our shackles so that all might come to the place of salvation, and also to give power to those who want to live for God.

Romans 8 is one of the great chapters of the Bible. Theologians have called it "the Mount Whitney of Scripture." It opens with "no condemnation," closes with "no separation," and in between "all things work together for good to those who love God." Now, friend, you cannot have it any better than that.

Salvation means to be *in Christ*. It doesn't mean you have to join a church or say a prayer or *do* anything. When you are saved, you are *in Christ*.

THERE IS  
THEREFORE NOW  
*no condemnation*  
TO THOSE WHO ARE IN  
*Christ Jesus.*

ROMANS 8:1

We also need to understand the expression "justification by faith."

First there is a negative aspect. You and I were once hell-doomed sinners because we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). You may be better than somebody else, but you have nothing that is acceptable to God. Every one of us stands before Him as a lost sinner. Therefore, when we come to God, we don't come offering Him anything. Salvation is not by works of righteousness. We come to Him empty-handed, as lost sinners, and we trust Christ as our Savior.

Now here is the positive aspect of justification. God not only subtracts our sin, not only paid the penalty for our sin, but He puts us in Christ. God looks at us *in Christ*. My friend, you are completely saved in Christ or completely lost out of Christ. You are in Him 100% or out of Him 100%. If you are in Christ, God sees you in Him, and you have as much right in heaven as Christ—or you have no right there at all, because you and I have none in and of ourselves. But *in Christ* we are accepted. The poor lost sinner, the moment he trusts Christ, is as much saved today as he will be a million years from today.

We cover this tremendous truth earlier in Romans; the eighth chapter just reaches back and summarizes what's been said before.

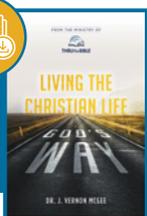
You see, there is no judgment for sin to those who are in Christ. If you are in Him, God sees you in Christ, and He accepts you because of Christ. Christ's righteousness is your righteousness. Paul summarizes this in Philippians 3:9, "And be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith

in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith" (Philippians 3:9).

This righteousness comes to us by faith in God only, and it's available to you now. If today you have Christ and are in Christ, you are not condemned for your sin.



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"Living the Christian Life  
God's Way" for free.



Paul tells us this from experience. He fell on his face as a Christian, as he describes in Romans 7. He talks about that in the next verse:

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made me free from the law of sin and death.* —Romans 8:2

Here he mentions the Spirit for the first time. Back in Romans 5 he mentions eight wonderful results of our justification by faith, one of which is that we have the Holy Spirit, but he doesn't mention the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer until he gets to Romans 8. He mentions it here because this is the way of Christian living.

Paul discovers something important in Romans 7: Even after he was converted, he could not live the Christian life in his own strength.



A great many of us find this out the hard way. That was my experience. I thought when I got saved that I'd be walking on top of the world, but that's when I fell on my face. Nobody told me I could not live the Christian life. In fact, they patted me on the back and told me I could. But I couldn't, and I found that out.

The Christian life is the Holy Spirit working through the believer, producing the life of Christ and what *He* wants. Anything the Holy Spirit doesn't produce is of the flesh. It's no good at all, and it's not Christian living.

Christian living is the work of the Holy Spirit. What a marvelous truth.

## MY TURN

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY WITH PAUL'S EXPERIENCE DESCRIBED IN ROMANS 7 AND 8? If you can identify with feeling frustrated on your own in spite of your desire to live God's way, then be encouraged that you're not alone in this feeling—and there's a way out! God provides the power to live His way through His Spirit that lives in you.**

- 1 **Read Romans 7 and 8 together a couple times.** Then, in your Bible in the space between Romans 7 and 8, write, "God provides the way" and then **circle** or **underline** or **highlight** Romans 8:1.
- 2 **Ponder the phrase "in Christ."** That's where you stand today if you know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. You are not condemned for your sin, and you have the power of His Spirit to live a life that pleases God because you are "IN Christ."
- 3 **How does that truth stir your faith and give you confidence to live a life that pleases God?** Think of one area of sin/frustration that you have been dealing with and ask God to show you how to have victory over it today—from your position *in Christ*.





## ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Every week on the  **WorldPrayerToday** Team, we intercede for those far from God in every country of the world. But, surprisingly, what happens when they hear the Bible taught is many respond in faith.

... *with ears by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* -Romans 10:17

### **We pray for the spiritually persecuted.**

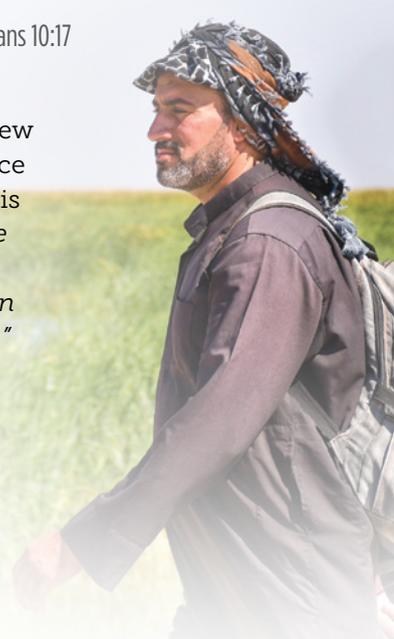
A respected businessman in Iraq discovers new life in Christ, but his family despises his choice to follow Jesus. They not only refuse to say his name again, but they seek his life. *"But please don't worry,"* he whispers to us. *"Now that I know Jesus is the only Savior, my life is safe in His. I will not stray. Please pray for my family."*

### **We pray for the culturally removed.**

It was the first time the young man in North Korea heard the gospel, explained to him by his neighbor who secretly listens to Christian radio. *"If what you say is true,"* he contests, *"then everything we've been taught is a lie. What do we do with that?"*

**We pray for those who walk in darkness.** The young rickshaw driver in Hong Kong heard the Bible teach "God already is wherever you go," and so he asked God to walk with him into frightening places. *"If He is the light of the world,"* he said, *"I will stand in His shadow."*

*No matter where we live, God sees us all—individually. He hears our cry for Him.*



## JOIN US IN CRYING OUT FOR THEM!

Sign up for the  **WorldPrayerToday** Team at [TTB.org/pray](http://TTB.org/pray) and travel the world on your knees.

## PRAY FOR A NEW CHURCH IN ANDHRA PRADESH

God's Word is spreading in unlikely places ... and His people are finding favor.

Today our travels bring us to the state of Andhra Pradesh, India, where more than 90% of the population is Hindu and only 1% follow Jesus Christ.

As we make our way through larger cities and small villages, we meet up with a listener of THRU the BIBLE's Kannada language broadcasts. He eagerly shares his story:

*"I came to know Jesus Christ through your program. My wife and I have listened to your programs for 25 years. During my free time in the evenings, I go out and share the gospel and distribute tracts and literature.*

*"It is unusual, but our small village has a church. Nearly 30-40 people come to listen to your program and worship. We used to meet in a small home, but over the years we have developed a good relationship with our village political leaders,*

*so they allowed (and many helped) us to build a small church. We praise God for this place to worship Him and pray more people will come through the doors each time we meet."*

Today thank God for this man and his fellow brothers and sisters who are taking the responsibility upon themselves to share God's love and His Word with their neighbors. Let's pray everyone in their village comes to hear the name of Jesus Christ and choose to accept His grace and mercy in their lives.

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](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY) TO SIGN UP.

# What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE

## HIS EXCELLENT WORD



### THRU THE BIBLE'S THEME MUSIC REFRESHED

Roger Kemp leads the team at  rk media who partner with THRU the BIBLE in radio station relationships and delivery.

From the earliest days, THRU the BIBLE has invited listeners to board the Bible Bus with a grand anthem of the Christian faith. No hymn seems more fitting than the one written centuries ago, “How Firm a Foundation.” The lyrics declare the strong footing on which Dr. J. Vernon McGee planted his teaching ministry.

At the beginning of every program, listeners are called into the classroom with the acapella choir singing,

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.*

*What more can He say than to you He has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed for I am Thy God,  
and will still give you aid. I'll strengthen you, help you,  
and cause you to stand upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

“How Firm a Foundation” has been, and will always be, THRU the BIBLE’s cherished theme song. Together, as a global family of Bible students, we rally around these timeless promises.

Historians tell us the lyrics were written by John Rippon in 1797, inspired in part by the ministry of English pastor and hymnwriter, Isaac Watts. You might be surprised to learn that one of Dr. McGee’s contemporaries, John Lundberg, arranged, performed, and recorded the selection we enjoy every day on the program. Lundberg dedicated this arrangement to THRU the BIBLE in the 1960’s while he served as Professor of Music at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.



Last year, Gregg Harris commissioned our creative team to restore the traditional theme song. Immediately, our audio engineers launched a treasure hunt. In a matter of weeks of searching, we located a 65-year-old vinyl recording in its original sleeve—on eBay! Using the latest technology available, the track was digitally transferred and restored to its classic stereo state.

If you noticed the enhancement to the theme song in recent programs, you’re not imagining things! Beginning with the 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of our 5-year journey through the Bible, we started using the repaired version. In addition to refurbishing the original audio, a Christian music composer underscored the men’s chorus with piano and a string quartet. Beginning on Friday, April 2, 2021, we are delighted to introduce this restored stereo version with our global audience as a way to celebrate “God’s excellent Word.”

In this same spirit, we’ve also brought the closing music theme, “Jesus Paid It All,” to its full original state. The song and lyrics were written in 1865 by Elvina M. Hall with music by John Grape. For generations, Christians have celebrated the substitutionary atonement of Jesus through this traditional favorite. Inspired by Romans 5 and Isaiah 1:18, we take comfort in knowing that ...

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain;  
He washed it white as snow.*



THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

## What is God Teaching You?

We often ask that at the end of the daily program. The letters and emails you send from all over the world testify to the transforming power of God's Word. The Spirit of God Himself makes the Word of God real to our hearts. We know this to be true.

I read a letter today from a fellow Bible Bus rider named Llewellyn who testifies to this fact and encourages me. I think he will encourage you, too:

*"The prayer team is an important part of the ministry because it puts on display our dependence on God and expresses our desire to be in alignment with His will. When we unite in fervent prayer to God, the load becomes so much lighter and stress and anxiety is illuminated; we rest in the faithfulness of God, and He intervenes and directs our paths. Prayer is our highway to God, and it's never closed. He expects and waits for our prayers. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer.... Let's pray with wisdom, let's pray with thanksgiving, let's pray without ceasing."*

I count it one of my greatest privileges to pray with you and for you today.

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President

# J E S U S I N *Genesis*

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....  
Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. –Genesis 1:1, 3*

**We cannot say too much about Jesus, and we will never in this life be able to grasp Him in all of His wonder and in all of His glory.** But let's consider Him now in a new light.

Think back, back as far as our imaginations will take us, to the very beginning of creation, and Jesus is there. Jesus didn't just show up on the planet as a baby in Bethlehem. He who was never created, did the creating (see Colossians 1:16).

Jesus, who calmed the stormy sea, created those depths and everything in it. It just follows that nature recognized and obeyed His voice.

Jesus, gazing up at the carpet of stars over the Galilean countryside, remembered when He formed those planets and assigned them their place in the galaxy. Maybe He even named them.

**And not only did Jesus create all things, but they were created for Him and He sustains it all.** His creative power reaches from the micro molecules to the universe expanse; He holds it all together. The universe would be empty without Him. His breath fills our lungs.

**Who do you think Adam and Eve fellowshiped with in the Garden of Eden?** It was Jesus—*pre-incarnate* is the word—describing Jesus before Bethlehem. Jesus, the fullness of the Godhead in a body (Colossians 2:9), stepped into His creation.

Take a closer look at the first time we meet "the image of the invisible God." It's here. Jesus, walking in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day, came "looking" for Adam and Eve after they sinned, seeking those who had been lost.

Luke 19:10 tells us that Jesus Himself said His purpose was to "seek and to save that which was lost." God's plan for creation had not been upended by Satan's strategy or by mankind's sinful choice. Jesus had already planned to redeem this moment and the spiral of sin that followed from then to now.

**How? Jesus, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, is also the Lamb of God, slain before the foundation of the world, to redeem the people He created and loves. This is the way He planned it to be even before "in the beginning."**

WHY DO YOU

the Bible?

**It's our favorite month of the year—Letter Month!**

**... When we celebrate what God is doing in your life.**

**We love your stories!**

“As we count our blessings, one of these certainly is our daily trip on the Bible Bus studying His whole Word. My wife and I also pray for the outreach to His whole world—that many in Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist worlds will hear the gospel and believe, and that our daily time in God’s Word will be an encouragement to the saints, near and far. It’s a privilege to send this offering to you. Put some more air in the tires of the Bible Bus—we’ve got a good stretch in front of us.”



**Friends from Lafayette, Indiana**

“What a joy and privilege it has been to read the testimonies from those around the world whose lives have been changed by God’s Word. It’s an even greater joy to pray for these dear ones. The power of God’s Word is so evident in these testimonies. My heart is especially blessed by the stories of those who can’t read but receive God’s Word by listening to radio.”



**An email from Nancy**

“Listening to stories from believers in countries where they are persecuted by their families, neighbors, and the government for having faith in Jesus and the Bible humbles me. I’m so thankful *Thru the Bible* embraces and seeks out every means possible to reach the dark corners of the world. All the latest technologies are truly miracles. I pray that in 2021 more opportunities will become available.”



**An email from Bill**



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