

Romans 3:9-31

Learner
Session
Guide

Focus Statement

We are not saved by anything we do, but by God's grace alone.

Key Verse

They are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. [Romans 3:24](#)

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Focus Image



© 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Gather

Check-in

Take this time to connect or reconnect with the others in your group.

Pray

Gracious God, thank you for meeting us here in this moment. We join this group for a variety of reasons and with a variety of emotions. But we all come together to better understand you and your Word. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Open our hearts and minds to the promise of your grace, which comes to us in many ways, but especially today in Paul's letter to the Romans. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Focus Activity

Some people picture salvation as a journey, and some think of it as a destination. Look at the Focus Image. List three things that come to mind when you see the words *saved* or *salvation*.



Notes

Open Scripture

Read Romans 3:9-31.

- What words or phrases in this Scripture text stand out to you?

- What confuses or concerns you?

- What gives you hope?

Join the Conversation

Historical Context

1. Knowing the historical setting and background can help us better understand a Scripture text. Paul, a missionary who worked throughout the Roman Empire, wrote this letter as well as several others. We do not know much about the members of the Roman church that Paul was addressing, however, or about the specific circumstances under which he wrote the letter. In this case, the text itself holds some important clues.

- Paul speaks about both Jews (God's chosen people who had been promised a Messiah) and Gentiles (all people who are not Jews). What might this tell us about members of the church in Rome? How do you suppose they viewed each other?
- Read Genesis 17:9-14. How does this passage help you tell who the circumcised and uncircumcised are in the Romans passage (3:30)?