

MAIN POINT

Jesus is the only thing we need to experience salvation and new life.

INTRODUCTION

What are some areas of life you find identity in? Do you think these areas are harmful or helpful?

Have you ever found yourself thinking Jesus's gift of salvation was too good to be true?
What led you to think that?

Sometimes, salvation seems too good to be true. We find ourselves asking, "do we ONLY need to receive Jesus to be saved?" We wonder if it can really be that easy. But the answer is yes! All that you need to receive salvation and a new life with Jesus is accept Him. For many of us, we find this strange or difficult. We are uncomfortable with the idea that you can sin repeatedly and still be loved and accepted by Christ. But that is the power of God's grace and a deep relationship with Jesus. Relationship with God makes us want to change for the better. We strive to do the right thing not because we have to but because being closely connected to Jesus makes us want to be like Him.

DISCUSSION

> READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-15.

Early in this passage, Paul warned against being taken captive by philosophy and deceit. What are some examples of this that might threaten a believers faithfulness to Jesus?

Paul wrote this letter to bolster the church of Colossae. Why is it important that he encouraged them? What are some ways we aim for improvement through discouragement? Why is encouragement more effective?

God is loving, just, merciful, gracious, righteous, and kind. How does recognizing that you are one with Him change the way you think about yourself and your relationship with Christ?

Consider your typical perspective of Christ. What is the difference between viewing Jesus merely as a hero, prophet, or good example as opposed to Lord of all things?

How should accepting Jesus as your Lord change the way you live your life and walk through everyday routines?

Reread Colossians 2:6. What does it mean to be rooted, built up, and established in your faith? Why is this impossible apart from Jesus?

The end goal of the Christian life is not simply moral improvement. What is the end goal and how can Christians work towards that?

APPLICATION

Where in life are you seeking a substitute identity? How can you practice finding your identity in Jesus rather than other things?