

GOD IN ACTION



ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together

We will...

- deepen our spiritual life
- unite in prayer
- identify and develop leaders
- increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means

We will...

- emphasise our integrated ministry
- reach and involve youth and children
- stand for and serve the marginalised
- encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will...

- communicate Christ unashamedly
- reaffirm our belief in transformation
- evangelise and disciple effectively
- provide quality teaching resources

**God in Action Bible Study Manuel produced by Captain Michael Ramsay at the Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, September 2012.*

Doctrines of The Salvation Army

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God; and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness; and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
8. We believe that we are justified by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

In this Bible Study we will be looking at different ways in which God is active in our world today. We will look at various scriptures and ask ourselves, ‘what are we going to do about it’?

Lesson 7: 2 Peter 1; 1 Thessalonians 5; Romans 8:1-17

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Background and context: Paul’s letter to the Romans was written in the mid-to-late 50s and is arguably addressed to a Gentile dominated church. In the mid-to-late 50s, Rome was by far the Mediterranean world’s dominant power and Nero was the Roman Emperor. Immediately prior to this time, Claudius had banished the Jews from Rome. When Nero officially ascended the throne in 54 CE, many of the Jewish Christians returned. Things had changed and this was the historical context of Paul’s letter.

As far as 2 Peter is concerned, it is most likely that this letter was written in Rome also sometime in the first Century. If we accept that Peter was the author of the letter then it would have also have been written before the conclusion of Nero’s reign (ca. 64 CE) as tradition has it that Peter was martyred under Emperor Nero by being crucified upside down on a cross.

Pertaining to Thessalonians, tradition states that this letter was written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica even earlier. It was probably one of the earliest of his letters that we still have being composed ca. 50 CE. We are now living in the 2nd Century and all three of these letters were composed during the 1st Century. Let us look at these passages and see what we can learn about that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit that are necessary to salvation.

2 Peter 1:1-21

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4

1. From where did we receive everything that we need for life and godliness?

2. In what way is it known that we received these?

3. What is the result of receiving this?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9

1. What is the response that we must have to the gift of life?
2. Why must we support our faith with all of the above listed attributes of a believer?

Read 2 Peter 1:10-11

1. What must we do?
2. Why must we do it?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

1. What else must a believer do?
2. How is it that a believer is to do it?

Read Romans 8:1-7

1. Why is there no condemnation in Jesus Christ?
2. How are those who are not regenerated by the Spirit different from those who are?

Read Romans 8:9-17

1. Who belongs to Christ and who does not (v. 9)?
2. Who will live and who will die (v.13)?
3. What does it mean to be children of God?

Further Reading:

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