

## 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 8: Galatians 3:1-4:7**

*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.*

**Background and context:**The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Galatians was written circa 49-57CE to a church or a number of churches in a region of modern day Turkey. Paul is quite concerned because it appears that there are some “false believers” who actually want the church in Galatia to rely on rules, regulations, feasts, celebrations and the Law rather than relying on Jesus for their salvation (cf. Galatians 3:10, 4:9,10 cf. also Deuteronomy 27:26)

**Read Galatians 3:1-10**

1. How does Paul begin this passage? What sort of language and tone does he use in the first 5 verses?
2. What can we infer from Paul’s words about his feelings about the situation at hand?
3. Why is Paul upset?
4. Who is a descendant of Abraham?

5. Are Jews or Gentiles saved in any different way from each other? Are some more privileged than others? Are Gentiles now any less God's chosen people than the Jews?
  
6. Who is blessed along with Abraham?
  
7. What befalls those who try to really on their own actions or race/association/family (works of the law) for their salvation? Are you saved because your mother goes to church? Are you saved because you do good things?
  
8. How do the righteous live? What does it mean to live this way?
  
9. What, according to our passage here, did Christ redeem us from? How? Why?

**Read Galatians 3:15-18**

1. Write a version of the example Paul uses here in your own words:
  
2. What is his point in saying this?
  
3. To whom did the Law (received by Moses 430 years after Abraham) apply?

4. Read Genesis 12:1-3, to whom does God's covenant of Salvation extend?

**Read Galatians 3:19-4:7**

1. Why did God give Moses the Law?
2. Was the Law opposed to God?
3. In Verses 3:23-25 and 4:1-7, to what professionals does Paul compare the Law?
4. What then was the purpose of the law (cf. especially 3:24, 4:2)?
5. Is there any different way that some people are saved from other people (cf. especially 3:36-29)? Are some different than others in Christ Jesus? Is the Jew saved because he was born a Jew or the woman simply for being born a woman?
6. What is the status of all those that receive the promise of the Spirit (cf. especially 3:14, 25-29, 4:6-7)?

What does all of this mean for us here today, thousands of years later?

### **Further Reading**

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