



Sermon Discussion Guide

Sept. 6 & 7, 2025

"What Does It Take to Get Into Heaven?"

[Romans 10:5-13](#)

During this new series, we will dive into some of the most common and poignant questions about life after death. While we have been given the assurance of everlasting life through Jesus, this topic can stir up a lot of emotions. Join us as we see what the Bible has to say.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on hopeonline.tv. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Deuteronomy 30:15-16](#) – *"The Choice of Life or Death"*

- When have you felt like you were spiritually alive versus spiritually dry, and what made the difference?
- Why do you think God gave Israel the choice between life and death instead of forcing obedience?
- What are some "wrong ladders" people try to climb to find life? How does this passage invite us to reorient?
- How could your decision to "walk in God's ways" influence others around you?

Read [Romans 10:5-13](#) – *"Salvation is for Everyone"*

- How does this verse cut through the pressure to do more? What might change if you trusted this fully?
- How is confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart different from religious performance?
- What makes it difficult for us to believe "Jesus + nothing" is enough? How do you personally wrestle with adding extra conditions?
- What does it look like to declare Jesus as Lord not just in words but in your influence and leadership?

Read [Romans 3:23-24](#) – *"Christ Took Our Punishment"*

- How do you react emotionally to the phrase "everyone has sinned"? What does it stir up for you personally?
- Why is it essential to see our falling short and God's grace in the same breath? How does this passage balance truth and hope?
- In what ways do you sometimes still try to "prove" yourself to God? How does this passage free you from that cycle?
- How could remembering this truth change the way you treat others who fall short?

Read [Philippians 3:12-14](#) – *"Pressing Toward the Goal"*

- What does it stir in you to hear Paul admit he hasn't "arrived" yet? How does that honesty encourage you in your own walk?
- Why is it important to "forget the past and look forward" in light of grace? How does this perspective protect us from guilt or pride?
- Where do you feel tempted to run without aim or discipline? How could keeping your eyes on Jesus give you focus?
- How might pressing on toward the heavenly prize inspire you to lead others? What does it look like to run not just for yourself but so others may experience God's grace?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Grace reset.** Take time to hit the reset button spiritually by reminding yourself daily that your worth is not earned but received through God's grace. Each morning before checking your phone, pray aloud: "I am loved by God, and today I will live in his grace."
- **Step off the ladder.** Identify one area of life where you've been trying to climb through performance. Instead, surrender that area to Christ and rest in his finished work. As a practice, write that area on a sticky note and place it near a cross or Bible at home as a daily reminder to release it.
- **Eyes on Jesus.** Choose one intentional action (prayer, Scripture, service, or sharing your faith) that will keep your focus on Jesus rather than on yourself, and commit to it daily this week. For example, read one Gospel story each day and end by praying: "Eyes on Jesus, not on myself."