

## 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

## **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 innocency, 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 1**

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 Timothy 3:1-4:5 (John 5:31-40)**

**Background and context:** Assuming Pauline authorship of 2 Timothy, Paul probably wrote this letter while he was in prison in Rome under Emperor Nero in the mid-60s CE. Now, this imprisonment was different than other imprisonments that Paul had suffered. Previously Paul was under house arrest – an electronic monitoring type of situation, albeit before electronics of course - where Paul had a fair bit of leniency in his imprisonment. Now, however, he is in a dungeon. Tradition has it that this is Paul’s final imprisonment as well. He will only leave the dungeon for the grave. Paul will die via capital punishment here in Rome and he is now in prison awaiting that conclusion. The conditions in the dungeon were probably not as bad as those for the people today trapped in Guantanamo Bay but Paul’s experience may not be entirely dissimilar and probably even worse than prisons in this country. It certainly is not the house arrest that Paul had experienced earlier. This is a new style of imprisonment for Paul and this is what life is like for Paul as he is writing this letter to his friends and church family.

**2 Timothy 3:1-9** speaks about those who oppose the truth. How can we tell what is the truth?

What qualities abound in those who oppose the truth?

**2 Timothy 3:10-16** speaks about persecution that arises from proclaiming the Scriptures. What happened to Paul when he preached the scriptures?

What can happen when we preach the scriptures? Does this apply to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Canada?

What good is scripture?

Is the potential persecution worth it? If so how would we prove that it is worth it? What risks have we taken for the sake of God and the scriptures?

**2 Timothy 4:1-5** speaks of a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Is that time now?

What is it like when people do not put up with sound doctrine? Are people doing this now?

What should we do when sound doctrine isn't even accepted in our community or our churches in this community?

### John 5:31-40

**Background and context:** John, a first century fisherman was probably the author of this letter. John and his brother James (The sons of Zebedee) actually dropped their work mid-day and left their dad to run the family business without them to follow Jesus. John was known in the Gospel of John as ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’ and had a prominent role in serving Jesus as a disciple and later as an apostle.

**John 5:31-39** speaks about studying the scriptures. Why does Jesus say that we should study the scriptures?

How important is it to study the scriptures?

What would happen if we didn’t study the scriptures? What would we miss? Would it be anything really important?

Are we willing to commit to pray and read the scriptures a little bit everyday?

## **Further Reading**

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