



## LESSON 2: An Awkward Invitation Esther 1:1-12

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Read Romans 3:21-26. According to these verses, righteousness is a characteristic of whom?

How do we receive righteousness? (Verse 22) Why is no distinction made, in God's eyes, between any two men?

Why did God send Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins? (Verse 25)

According to these verses, do we, as believers, have anything to boast about contributing to our salvation? That is, did God choose you or I because of how good we are compared to others? (Read verses 27-30 for extra information.)

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. When we followed the course of the world, feeding our fleshly desires, how does Paul describe us here? (Verse 1)

What fleshly desires do you struggle not to follow?

By our nature, what were we children of?

Whose wrath was that?

What did God do for us while we were dead?

What quality or characteristic of God does that demonstrate? How so?

How and by what have we been saved? (Verse 8)

Did you contribute anything to this process? We are God's workmanship, His art, His creation.

What were we created to do? Where do we get this life?

We must always remember that God chose us, not because of how amazing we were, but by God's grace. Without His grace, we, too, would still be living for our flesh, dead in our sins. We must remember that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual realm, as

Ephesians 6 tells us. Today, as you spend time with God, praise Him for the salvation that He has given to you, freely.

Ask Him to help you to remember to pray for those who are lost in their sin instead of despising or looking down on them. We were all once dead in our sins, ladies. Praise God that, while you were still dead in your sin, Christ died for you, paying the debt you owed but couldn't pay. We serve a mighty, holy, merciful and just God who was satisfied to pardon us because Christ took our punishment.