

Welcome to the Family



Mickie Cogbill



FOCUS GROUP KICKOFF

January 21st

6 p.m. in the gym

meet you group members

**if you have not signed up but would like to
participate, please contact Derek Williams**



Our Theme For 2024:

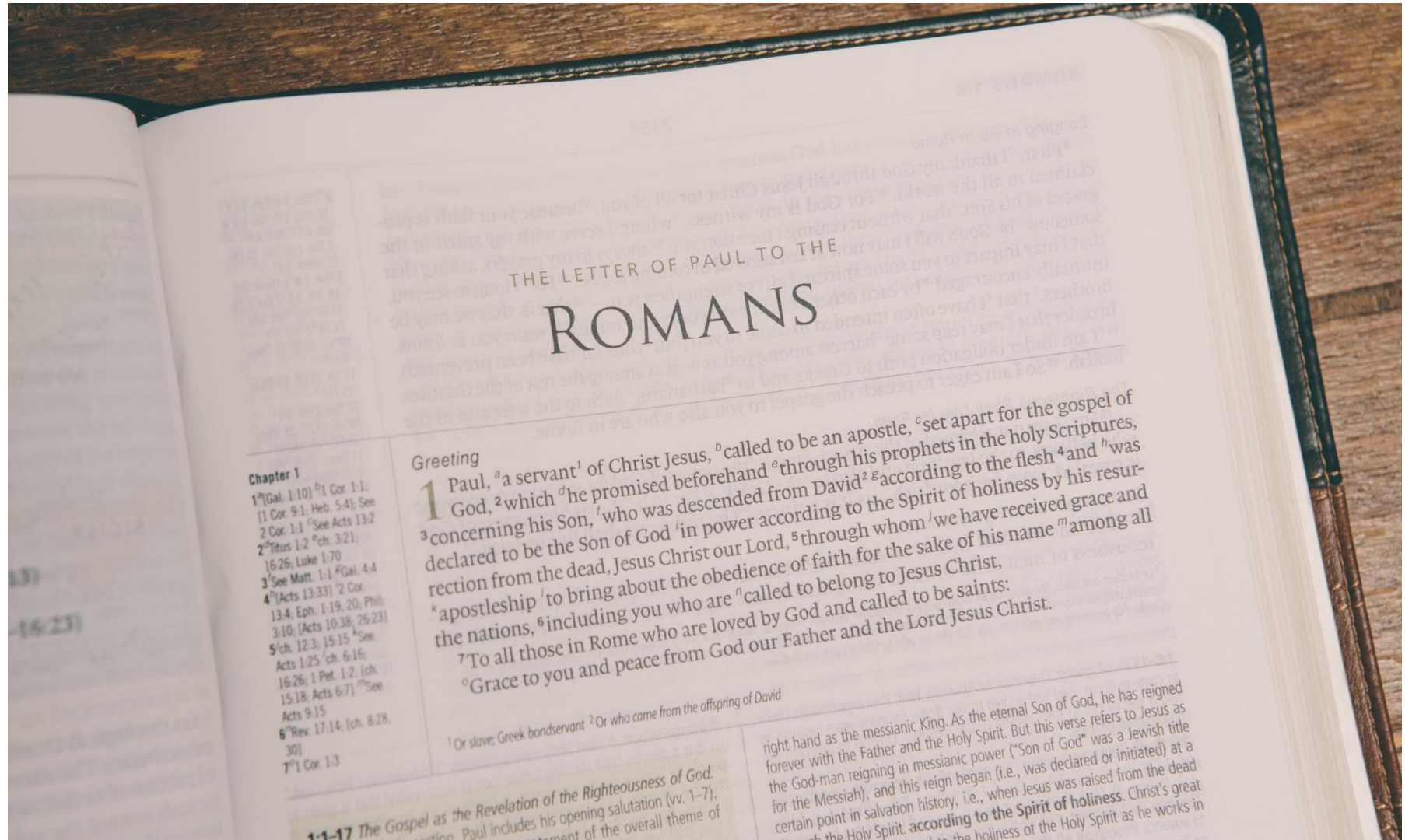
SHAPED
by the
GOSPEL

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard*

The Story of Romans



It's a Story of Transformation



Romans 1:1

¹ Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

It's a Story of Transformation



Image from: lightstock.com

- Paul once persecuted Christians.

Acts 7:58

⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him* [Stephen]; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 8:1-4

¹ Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:1-4

...

³ But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 9:1-6

¹ Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,
² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-6

³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

Acts 9:1-6

⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”
And He *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,
⁶ but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

It's a Story of Transformation



Image from: lightstock.com

- Paul once persecuted Christians. But after Jesus appeared to him, his entire life was transformed.

Acts 9:19-21

¹⁹...Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

²⁰ and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Acts 9:19-21

²¹ All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and *who* had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

It's a Story of Transformation



- He has been preaching for over 20 years, but he has never preached in Rome.

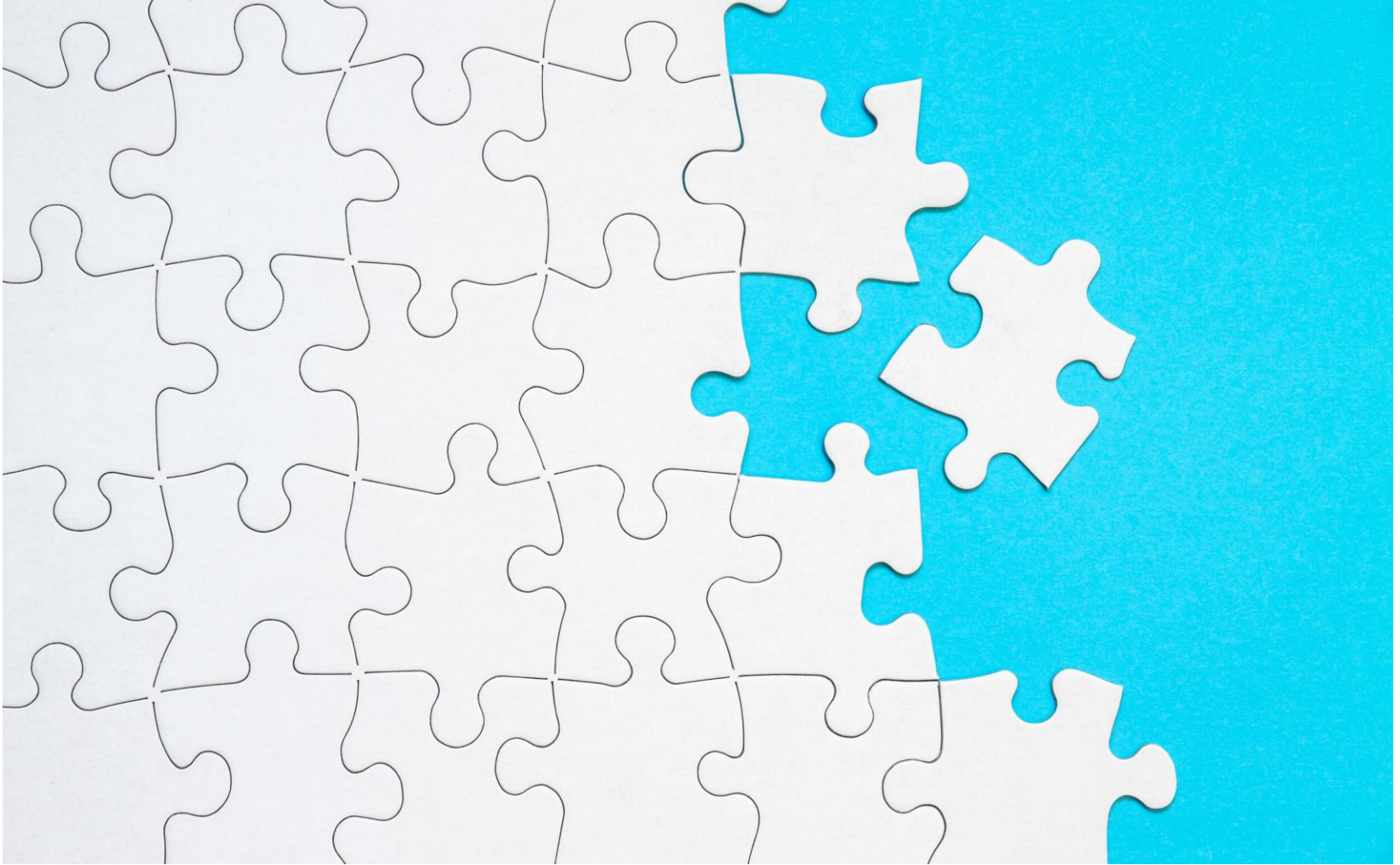
Romans 1:13

¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

Romans 1:8

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

It's a Story of Unity



Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

It's a Story of Unity

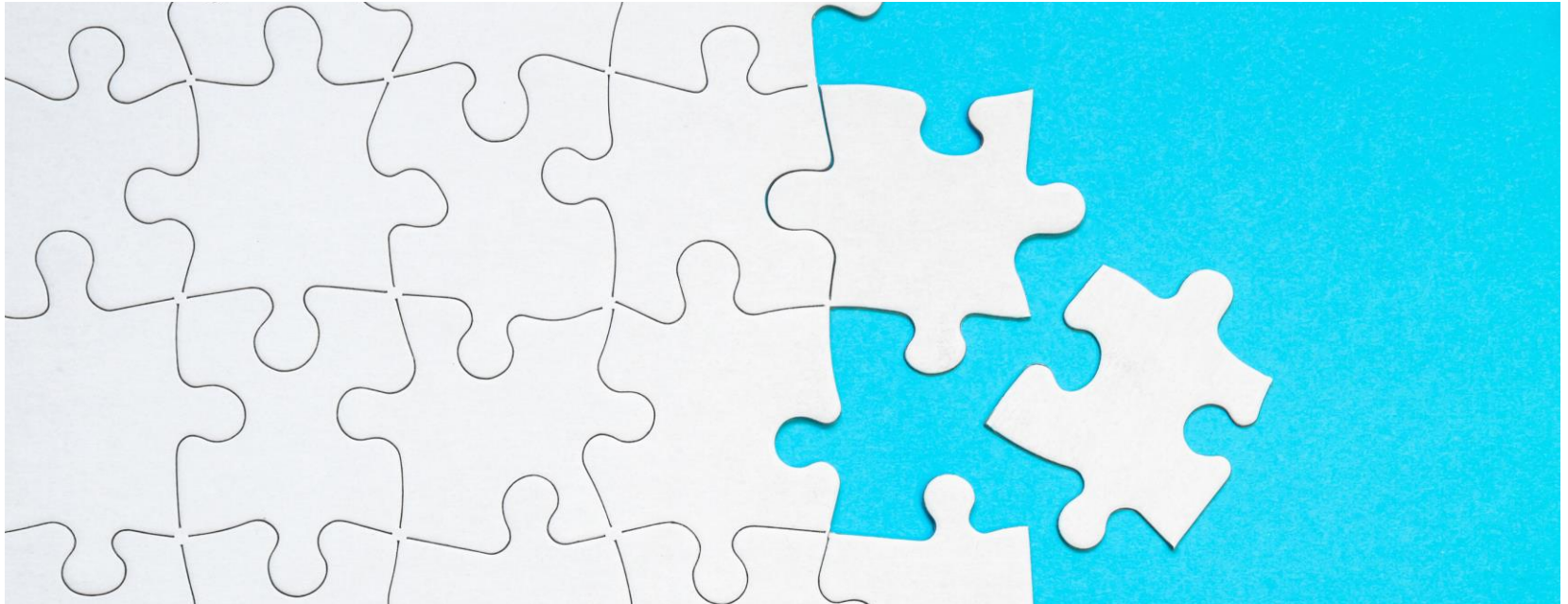


Image from: lightstock.com

➤ Romans is indeed all about the gospel.

But it also shows that there were tensions between Jews and Gentiles.

Acts 18:2-3

² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. [AD 49]

He came to them,

³ and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.

Roman Historian Suetonius (AD 121)

*The Lives of the Twelve Caesars,
Divus Claudius 25.73-74*

“...Since the Jews constantly made
disturbances at the instigation
of Chrestus,
[\[74\]](#) he expelled them from Rome.”

Romans 16:3

³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

*[Emperor Claudius had died in AD 54;
Paul writing in AD 57]*

It's a Story of Unity

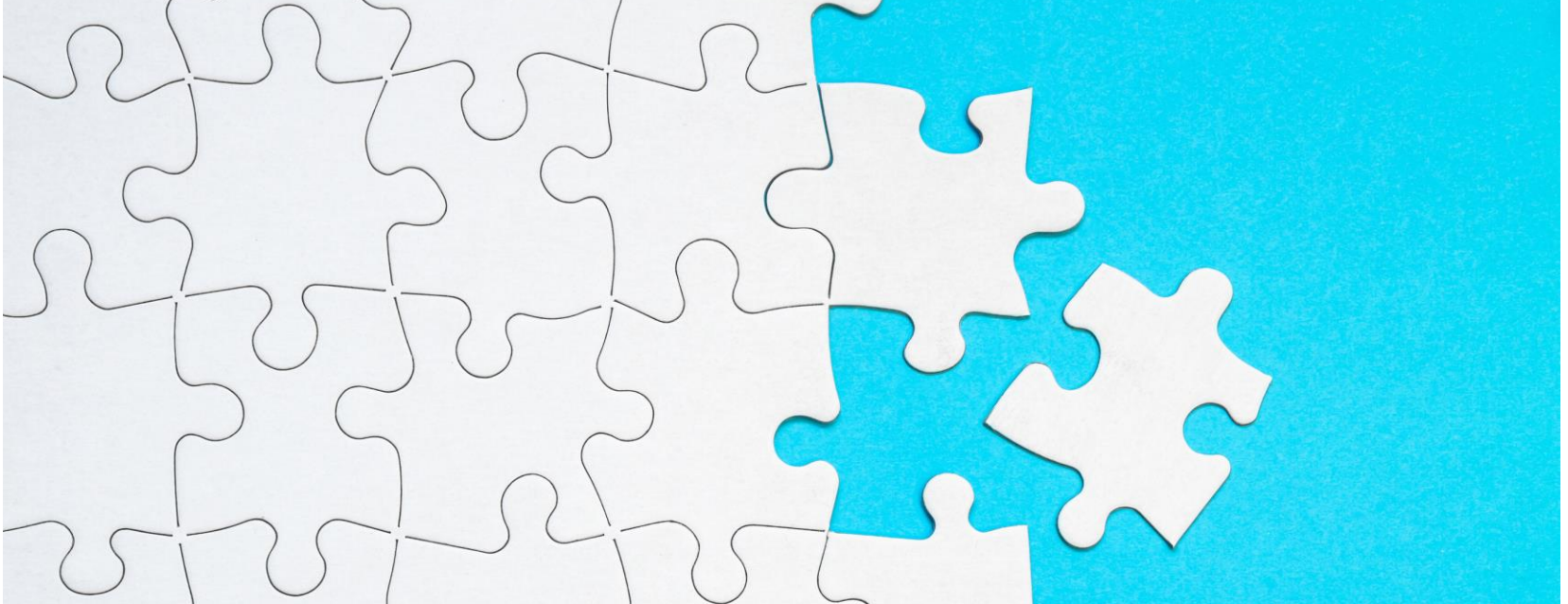


Image from: lightstock.com

- Some “one another” passages to notice:

Romans 14:13

¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Romans 14:19

¹⁹ So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Romans 15:5-7

⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-7

⁷ Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

It's a Story of Gospel Commitment



Romans 1:14-16

¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Romans 1:14-16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

It's a Story of Gospel Commitment



- Paul was always dreaming for the gospel.

Romans 15:20-26

²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;

...

²² For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you;

Romans 15:20-26

²³ but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you

²⁴ whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while—

Romans 15:20-26

²⁵ but now, I am going to
Jerusalem serving the saints.

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have
been pleased to make a contribution
for the poor among the saints in
Jerusalem.

It's a Story of Gospel Commitment



➤ Paul was always dreaming for the gospel.

Yet he remained faithful and patient when life went differently.

Acts 28:30-31

³⁰ And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him,
³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

It's a Story of Gospel Commitment



- Commitment to the gospel
connects us.

Romans 15:1-3

¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

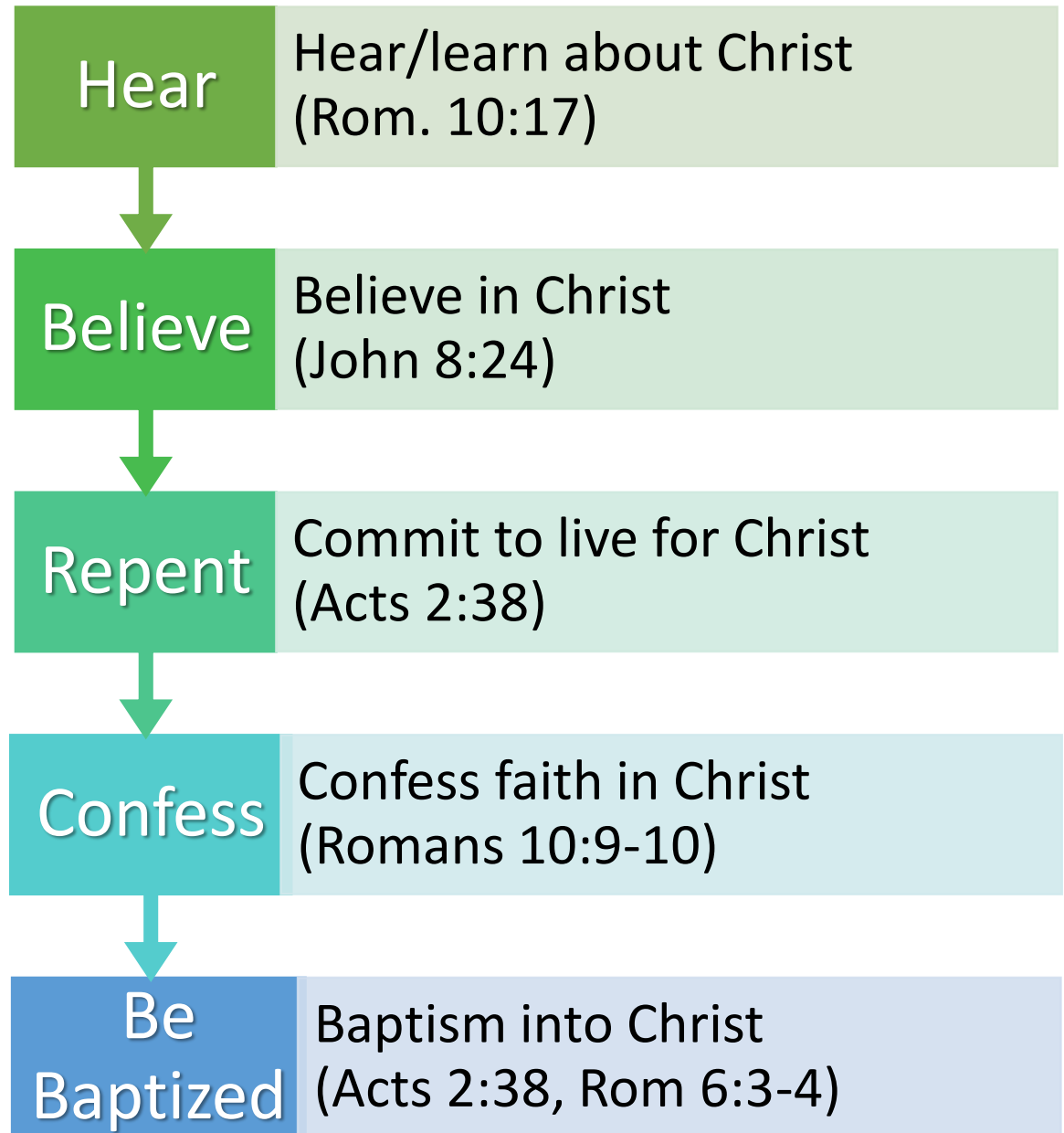
² Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.”



Romans reminds us the gospel
requires sacrifice;
God will bless it!

What Must I Do To Be Saved?



James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.