

## S.O.A.P. Bible Study

**Scripture & Observations:** The 'Big Question' this week is 'Is Jesus the only way?' Summarize the biblical response to this question as presented in these passages: Acts 4:8-12; John 14:5-6. According to the following texts why is Jesus (and not some other religion) necessary for salvation? John 3:16-18, 36, Romans 3:34-25a; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:27-28a; 10:4-7, 14.

**Application & Prayer:** All this is eloquently summarized in *The Message* paraphrase of Ephesians 2:1-6 and Colossians 2:13-15 (below). As you read this passage slowly, what words or phrases particularly strike you and why? Formulate them into a prayer of response to Jesus your Savior.

**Ephesians:** *It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.* **Colossians:** *When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross.*