

PASSION CITY CHURCH

Study Guide

The Glorious Comma - From Do To Done

Louie Giglio
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Major Points

- 1 All have sinned and missed the mark of God's glory, resulting in spiritual death, not merely moral failure**
Romans 3:23
- 2 Religion, summed up in the word 'do,' can never bridge the gap because dead people cannot earn their way back to God**
Romans 3:20
- 3 The 'glorious comma' after Romans 3:23 leads to justification — being made righteous freely by God's grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus**
Romans 3:24
- 4 Justification is not a future hope but a present identity — believers are not just sinners saved by grace but new creations made righteous in Christ**
Romans 3:22
- 5 The blood of Jesus, foreshadowed by the animal sacrifice in Eden, is the only means of being made holy, righteous, and justified before God**
Genesis 3:21

Key Quotes

“Sin does not make you a bad person, sin makes you a spiritually dead person.”
at 7:00

“And that's religion. You keep trying and doing and adding and subtracting and padding but you're no closer to the perfection of God than when you started.”
at 15:37

“The enemy has sold us half of the truth. Now understand, the half of the truth that we've got is 100% true. It's just not 100% of the truth.”
at 22:14

“I am definitely not just a sinner, I am alive in Christ. I am not even just a sinner saved by grace. I am a sinner saved by grace justified in Christ a new creation and a new position with God.”
at 23:06

“They don't do the right thing to try to become the right thing. They do the right thing because they've been made the right thing.”
at 33:18

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Giglio says the enemy has sold us 'half of the truth' by stopping at Romans 3:23 without continuing to verse 24. How has an incomplete understanding of this passage shaped the way you view yourself before God?
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2. Pastor Giglio contrasts religion as 'do' with the gospel as 'done.' In what areas of your life are you still operating on the Stairmaster of self-effort rather than resting in the finished work of Christ?
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3. Pastor Giglio argues that calling yourself 'just a sinner saved by grace' is incomplete theology. What does it look like practically to live out the full identity of being justified, righteous, and a new creation in Christ?
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4. Pastor Giglio uses the Gustaf Dore lithograph of Adam looking back over his shoulder to illustrate how all of humanity longs for God. How have you seen this longing expressed in people around you who may not use spiritual language?
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5. Pastor Giglio states that 'justified people don't carry rocks' of shame and condemnation. What specific burdens of guilt or shame do you need to lay down in light of your justified standing before God?
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Word Studies

αμαρτάνω

hamartano

Greek

To miss the mark, to err, to sin. Originally an archery term meaning to miss the target. In New Testament usage it denotes falling short of God's standard of righteousness and glory.

Usage: 43 times

δικαίω dikaioo

Greek

To declare righteous, to justify, to acquit. A legal term meaning to pronounce a verdict of 'not guilty' and to confer the positive status of righteousness. It indicates both the removal of guilt and the granting of a new standing before God.

Usage: 39 times

απολύτρωσις apolytroosis

Greek

Redemption, release effected by payment of a ransom. In the ancient world it referred to buying a slave's freedom. Paul uses it to describe Christ's work of purchasing believers out of bondage to sin and death through His sacrificial death.

Usage: 10 times

Cross References

2 Corinthians 5:21

Directly parallels the great exchange Pastor Giglio describes — God made Christ who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:4-5

Reinforces the theme that we were dead in transgressions but God made us alive with Christ — salvation from spiritual death is by grace, not effort.

Titus 3:5-7

Echoes that God saved us not because of righteous things we had done but because of His mercy, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs of eternal life.

Philippians 3:8-9

Paul's personal testimony of abandoning his own law-based righteousness to gain the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Christ — a parallel to Giglio's contrast between 'do' and 'done.'

Colossians 3:9-10

Supports the new-identity emphasis by urging believers to put off the old self and put on the new self, which is being renewed in the image of its Creator.

Further Reading

- **The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism**
by Timothy Keller
- **Not in It to Win It: Why Choosing Sides Sidelines the Church**
by Louie Giglio
- **Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers**
by Dane Ortlund

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Romans 3:23-24	Read Aloud	3:00	<i>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of...</i>
Romans 6:23	Read Aloud	7:00	<i>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God...</i>
Isaiah 53:6	Read Aloud	8:30	<i>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us h...</i>
Genesis 3:21	Read Aloud	11:30	<i>The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and hi...</i>
Genesis 3:23-24	Read Aloud	13:00	<i>So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Ed...</i>
Romans 3:19-20	Read Aloud	20:00	<i>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to...</i>
Romans 3:21-22	Read Aloud	25:30	<i>But now apart from the law the righteousness of Go...</i>
Matthew 5:20	Read Aloud	34:30	<i>For I tell you that unless your righteousness surp...</i>