

The “Musts” of Christianity

Mark 10:42-45

Is Christianity optional, or are there some things that we must do to _____ God? Today we're going to _____ the word “must” as it's used in Scripture. The Lord God speaks to us today through His _____ word; and the Bible says, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who _____ in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:35-36). The idea that faith _____ is sufficient to maintain a right relationship with God is simply not found in Scripture; _____ to God is also necessary. In fact, it's a must. When a person will not obey, he faces the _____ of God and cannot have eternal life. This is how _____ God's teaching is, and why we teach it with love. We want everyone to _____ the Lord.

The word “must” is out of _____ with most people today. It seems politically incorrect to _____ people must obey God's teaching. Our culture is more inclined to make up their own faith or religion or to select what they _____ to obey rather than to follow all the teaching that's revealed in the Bible. Most people want _____, and the word “must” means they have no choice. “Must” is a verb that _____ an obligation, a requirement, or a moral necessity. “Must” removes every other _____. If we want to _____ God and have eternal _____, there are some things that we must do. This really isn't strange, because even _____ had some things that he must do. So do we!

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to Mark, chapter 10, verses 42 to 45.

We generally think of God as so far above mankind that He has nothing that He must do, but God's _____ and _____ for mankind led Him to send Jesus into this world. Love cannot exist _____ obligation and commitment. Jesus knew that He must do His Father's _____. Jesus said, “We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work” (John 9:4). While on earth Jesus lived within _____ constraints, and so must we. We must now do God's will.

Jesus knew that He had to _____ on the cross. He prophesied His _____ and resurrection. **Read Matthew 16:21-23.** Though Peter didn't _____ Him to die, Jesus knew that He _____ die in order to fulfill God's plan of redemption.

Read what Matthew 26:51-54 records when the crowd came to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus and bring Him in to try Him. The Lord Jesus _____ that He must die in order to fulfill the eternal _____ of God. He could have _____ it, but it was necessary for Him to fulfill the Scriptures.

Jesus was utterly _____ to the Father, even when the Father _____ everything from Him. When the Father commanded His Son Jesus to go to the _____, the Lord Jesus obeyed. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane, and He told them, “My soul is very _____, even to death; remain here, and watch with me” (Matthew 26:38). The Lord Jesus _____ on his face on the ground. Luke 22:44 says, “And being in _____ He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.” The persistent _____ of Jesus was this, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your _____ be done” (Matthew 26:42).

The example of Jesus is _____ to us. We’ve got to _____ in His steps. **Read Hebrews 5:7-9.** The Father _____ His prayer. Many think the prayer of Jesus was just to _____ the cup, and that’s certainly what He wanted. But the ultimate prayer of Jesus was “your will be _____,” and God heard that prayer. Jesus was perfect in His obedience to the Father and that opened the way for us. He became the source of eternal salvation to all those who _____ Him. We must _____, but we must also _____!

Some say, “You don’t have to _____ anything to be saved. God has _____ it all.” We’re saved by grace through faith; and the Scripture clearly says salvation is a _____ in Romans 6:23; and Ephesians 2:8-9 makes this point as well. But we must also realize that gifts often have conditions or obligations to _____. Meeting a condition doesn’t _____ the gift, but that doesn’t mean conditions don’t obligate the person who will receive the gift. In John chapter nine Jesus _____ a blind man by anointing the man’s eyes with some mud that He made with his saliva. Then Jesus told the man, ““You go, _____ in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent).” So, the man _____ and _____ and came back seeing. The Lord Jesus _____ that man his sight; and no one would ever suggest that by washing in the pool the man healed himself or earned something so precious as his sight; but that doesn’t mean that he still did not have to meet the _____ of washing before he enjoyed the healing! The blind man didn’t _____ with Jesus; he simply went to the pool and washed.

So while we are saved by grace, God’s grace is _____. The Scriptures plainly teach that there are things that we must do in order to please God; they’re not _____. First, we must _____ to Jesus. Acts 4:12 says, “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other _____ under heaven given among men by which we must be _____.” If one is to be

saved at all, he _____ come to the Lord Jesus; no one else can save him. The Lord Jesus said, “If anyone serves me, he must _____ me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone _____ me, the Father will honor him” (John 12:26). We _____ follow Jesus.

Second, we must _____ in God. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it is _____ to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Faith in God means believing what He _____ and that He will keep His _____. It’s absurd to _____ that we believe in God, if we are unwilling to believe what He teaches. In a conversation with the Jews about whether Jesus was from God and the Son of God, the Lord Jesus said, “I told you that you would die in your sins, for _____ you believe that I am he you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). Faith in Christ means believing that He is the Christ, the _____ of God, and the _____ of all. Believing in Him means taking what He _____ seriously. The Lord must be heartbroken that some people are Christians in _____ only, and they profess to believe in Christ, but follow after the ways of man.

Third, we must _____ of our sins. The Lord Jesus said, “unless you repent, you will all likewise _____” (Luke 13:3). Repentance is not an _____ for anyone who wishes to live with God. Romans 6:11 describes what repentance does. “So you also must consider yourselves _____ to sin and _____ to God in Christ Jesus.” Repentance means _____ our old sinful ways and _____ for God. **Read Romans 8:12-13.** To live with God, we _____ repent.

Fourth, we must be _____. **Read what the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5-7.** This birth of water and the Spirit refers to _____, just as every early Christian testified. One must be baptized in order to enter God’s _____. When Saul of Tarsus was blinded on the road to Damascus, the Lord Jesus Himself told him, “get up and enter the city, and it will be _____ you what you must do” (Acts 9:6). Saul prayed and fasted for three days; yet he was not _____. Ananias came to Saul and told him, “And now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and _____ away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16). God didn’t wash away Saul’s sins _____ he was baptized into Christ. We _____ be baptized!

Fifth, we must _____ in spirit and in truth. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in John 4:23-24.** Many today have _____ worship with various forms of entertainment. True worship _____ from pretense or man-made worship, as well. Jesus _____ that difference in two things. Is their worship genuinely _____ their spirit or heart? And, is their worship authentically what God _____ in His Word? If it differs, it isn’t _____ worship. According to Matthew 15:8-9, if their practices come from the _____ of men, then their worship is in _____.

Sixth, we must pay close attention to God's _____. **Read Hebrews 2:1-3.** Some think God ought to be _____ with just whatever we offer Him, but the Scriptures _____ that we pay attention and keep His commandments carefully. We must not _____ to or _____ from God's teaching. We have no _____ to rewrite God's teaching to suit ourselves or to satisfy the whims of our culture.

Seventh, we must _____ God first. When the apostles appeared before the Sanhedrin, the high priest said, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us" (Acts 5:28). In verse 29, Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must _____ God rather than men." We must _____ for our God and our faith above all else. We must never suppose that God is _____ to be one voice among many. God is God, and He _____ to be obeyed.

Eighth, we must _____ the weak. Paul said, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to _____ than to _____'" (Acts 20:35). Christians must stand _____ to help those who are in need, to provide what they can for those who cannot provide for themselves. Christians _____ of themselves, just as Christ _____.

Why does all of this matter? Because there's _____ more "must." We must appear before God in _____ (2 Corinthians 5:10). On judgment day, you will be there; you cannot _____ this appointment. The Lord Jesus will _____ righteously, saving His followers and condemning those who don't believe or won't obey Him. You and I must _____ before Him. Will you be _____ to face God?

Read the parable the Lord tells in Matthew 25:7-11. While Jesus _____ His gift of salvation to everybody, sadly not everyone is _____ to meet the Master when He comes. Just as the virgins needed oil, so you and I must not _____ until the Lord comes to get right with God. We don't _____ the day nor the hour when the Lord will return, so we must be prepared at _____.

Have you met the conditions that God demands in order to _____ His grace? Do you _____? Have you _____? Have you _____ Jesus as the Christ? Have you been _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? Have you _____ watchful and ready to meet Him? Please don't _____ another day unprepared. Get right with God _____. Accept His offer of grace by _____ what He commands.