

## Mack Lyon

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Hello, I'm Chris Lyon, and this is a Bible study, "In Search of the Lord's Way." As many of you know, my father, Mack Lyon, founder of Search, left this life on August the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Today this special program will remember him and honor his request to preach for us one more time. We will be sharing some of his lessons that have made a difference to millions of people over the many years of his ministry.

Phil Sanders: Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way! We're excited to have you join us for this special program looking back over Mack Lyon's television ministry. As always, we're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. From my earliest days as a Christian, I saw the need to follow the Scriptures and to be a New Testament Christian. Without the New Testament we wouldn't know what the Lord Jesus is like, what He expects from us, and how we can have eternal life in heaven. Without the New Testament we wouldn't know how the church is to worship or be organized. Without the New Testament we wouldn't know how wonderful and glorious is the grace of God. The New Testament provides for us what we most need to know in order to please God and to enjoy His grace, His mercy, and His blessing. That's why we go back again and again to Scripture.

For more than thirty years you were able to hear Mack Lyon preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ on this program. As we mentioned, he went home to the Lord on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 93. We miss him, and we know that you miss him, too! He was indeed a great soldier of the cross who loved the Lord and His cause. Mack loved to preach the gospel. In recent years Mack suffered from Parkinson's disease which prevented him from being able to preach. Earlier this year, Mack told me that every night he dreamed of being able to preach again.

Since many of you wanted to hear Mack again, we selected some clips from our library to share with you today. We have sections of three sermons. The first is from 1984, from the early days of the Search program. He'll speak of the power of the resurrection. The second section from 1998 speaks of the need to glory in the cross. Our third clip comes from 2010 and reveals the need for a standard.

This first section comes from 1984, when Mack was only on a few stations in Oklahoma and the surrounding states. Early on, Mack dreamed of reaching the entire state of Oklahoma. God opened doors and ultimately he reached the whole nation. In this section, Mack will be discussing the power of the resurrection. Listen with me.

The essential elements of the Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ are all confirmed by historical evidence. The birth of Jesus Christ is a matter of historical \_\_\_\_\_. His life and the fact that He also secured a great following of people during His personal ministry in so short of time is a matter of \_\_\_\_\_. His \_\_\_\_\_ upon all of that part of the world can be attested by history. It can be \_\_\_\_\_ by historical evidence. Not only so, but the fact that Jesus Christ was crucified on a Roman cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem that day is also an historical \_\_\_\_\_. And that His grave was \_\_\_\_\_ the next Sunday morning is a matter of history as well. **Read Luke 24:1-9.**

The grave really and truly was \_\_\_\_\_. The body was gone, but how do you \_\_\_\_\_ it? Various attempts have been made to \_\_\_\_\_ the disappearance of the body of Jesus in that three day period. Some have said that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus came and stole away the body. But surely had that been true, they would have delivered the \_\_\_\_\_. Only about seven weeks later, the apostles began to \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and therefore was the Son of God. They would have produced the body of Jesus, and would have silenced those apostles \_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_. Christianity never would have been \_\_\_\_\_. The Jews then

would have had the \_\_\_\_\_ over the claims of Jesus Christ merely by having presented the body which they were supposed to have stolen.

Somebody has said, “Well, the enemies didn’t steal away the body, but we don’t know who stole it away because the \_\_\_\_\_ said somebody stole the body while they \_\_\_\_\_.” Doesn’t that sound a bit ridiculous to you. If the guards were so sound asleep at the grave of Jesus that somebody could come in and roll away that huge stone and then remove the body, then how would they know \_\_\_\_\_ it was that stole it? How would they \_\_\_\_\_ that somebody had come and stolen the body of Jesus. The truth is they couldn’t \_\_\_\_\_ as to what happened. They wouldn’t be very \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses.

Others have tried to explain away the empty tomb by saying that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus came and stole away the body and then went out and said that He was raised from the dead by the power of God. But that isn’t reasonable either, is it? In reality these men \_\_\_\_\_ severe persecution for preaching the resurrection of Jesus. Some of them were beheaded; some of them were crucified; some were crucified head downward; some were exiled. They were persecuted even to \_\_\_\_\_. Don’t you know that while they were being persecuted, and while they were enduring all of this suffering, if they knew in their own \_\_\_\_\_ that they had actually stolen the body of Jesus themselves and they were only propagating the doctrine, a \_\_\_\_\_ doctrine that He had been raised from the dead, that they would have renounced that? They wouldn’t have continued that even to the \_\_\_\_\_ of death.

Phil Sanders: In this second section from 1998, Mack Lyon reveals his love for Jesus Christ and the importance of the cross in the life of a Christian. The Lord Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me” (John 12:32). We’ve got to look to Christ and His cross if we would be right with God. Let’s hear what Mack Lyon has to say.

The cross of Christ, the message of Christ’s crucifixion, His burial and His resurrection from the dead is the very \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian message. Paul, the great man of God, wrote to the Corinthian Christians, “I brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of \_\_\_\_\_ or of \_\_\_\_\_, declaring unto you the testimony of God.” He had not appealed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of their great wisdom, nor had he exhibited great oratorical \_\_\_\_\_ before them for he continued, “I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” It isn’t that He \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned the church, or obedience, or baptism, or worship, or judgment, or heaven, or hell, or a whole host of other Bible subjects. But, whatever He taught them had meaning only in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the cross of Jesus Christ. He said, “I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling, and my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and the power, that (oh now that word that means that here is a statement of purpose) that your faith should not stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ of men, but in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

Oh, for more preaching like that today, that your \_\_\_\_\_ should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. The cross of Jesus Christ packs power into the \_\_\_\_\_. The preacher that thinks he has something \_\_\_\_\_ on which to build your faith is blinded by his egotism and pride. God forbid that I should \_\_\_\_\_, save in the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross, the story of the crucifixion of Jesus, His burial and His triumphant resurrection is the \_\_\_\_\_ immoveable foundation, the truth on which the church would be built. How audacious, how outrageously vain, how conceited, how very prideful and deceitful of any man to start a \_\_\_\_\_ of his own and to dare to compare it with the one that Jesus, the Son of God, built upon the firm foundation of His \_\_\_\_\_ stained cross.

“Upon this rock,” He said to Peter, “I will build my \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 16:18). It wasn’t that He was building a stone, like the impetuous sometimes wavering Peter. The church was to be built upon Jesus Christ, who by His death, and burial, and resurrection fulfilled God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for human redemption. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). Jesus, keep your church near the cross.

The church is important to the world only as long as it relates to the \_\_\_\_\_. The church simply must not permit itself to lose \_\_\_\_\_ of the cross. Religious traditions are \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 15:1-10), except as they relate to the cross of Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:15). Religious rites and ceremonies are meaningless, save as they \_\_\_\_\_ to the cross of Christ. Innovative changes in church doctrine, in the worship, in the agenda of the church, all is but glitter, except as they draw us \_\_\_\_\_ to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. God forbid that the church should glory in any of that, but only in the cross.

Phil Sanders: In this last section, Mack Lyon says, “Give Me a Standard.” He reveals the need to go to God’s standard in the New Testament in order to obey the Lord the way the Lord wants to be obeyed. How desperately our world needs to turn away from pluralism and come back to the teaching of Christ. Let’s listen again:

We need a \_\_\_\_\_. A standard by which all of us can \_\_\_\_\_ what’s right and what’s wrong, and what will be right and what will be wrong everywhere and with all people wherever we go. The pluralism of the prevailing post-modern \_\_\_\_\_ is just not working. It’s wreaking havoc on our national \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Like the merchant who carefully balanced the sack of coffee in his hand until it \_\_\_\_\_ like a pound. Many people do what they do in religion simply because it \_\_\_\_\_ right to them, or they feel \_\_\_\_\_ to do it. They seem not to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth of which the Bible speaks. There is a way that \_\_\_\_\_ right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 16:25). Chaos and confusion \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere. Anarchy reigns, and we cry “O God, give us a standard.”

Like the old time merchant who \_\_\_\_\_ his yard of gingham between two notches cut out in the counter by his grandfather or grandmother. He knew that his grandfather was \_\_\_\_\_ and would never \_\_\_\_\_ a customer, though he really might have been doing it all along without even knowing it. So, many people today are \_\_\_\_\_ to the religious beliefs and practices of their honest and good fore-parents. They have no other \_\_\_\_\_ for being what they are, or doing what they do, but that their grandparents were that, and that’s the way they did.

Oh, how we do need a standard. Something by which \_\_\_\_\_ can live and be certain he’s doing and believing what’s right. Just as it was before we had a Bureau of Standards of Weights and Measures, when each state had its own. In religion today there is no standard. Each group has its own authoritative \_\_\_\_\_ or maybe it’s a \_\_\_\_\_ that defines truth for them. What’s said to be right for one group is not right for others. Each one does what is right in its own \_\_\_\_\_. The result is confusion and chaos, even unbelief. Oh, how we do \_\_\_\_\_ a standard.

That one short verse we read for our text aptly describes not only the conditions that existed in a period of some of the formative days of Israel’s history, but it just as aptly describes the conditions in our own period of religious and moral decline in America. It was during the reign of the judges, and the times were difficult because God’s will had been abandoned, and the scripture says “every man did that which was \_\_\_\_\_ in his own eyes.” God has given us a standard even as He had then. But the people \_\_\_\_\_ it then as many do now. The Bible is God’s Word. When man \_\_\_\_\_ it and sets

his own rules for life, he's on the downward course to disaster. Jeremiah cried, "Oh Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man who walks to \_\_\_\_\_ his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). It's an awesome truth that God has spoken and revealed His \_\_\_\_\_ to man. It's awesome not only because it's inspired and inspiring and wondrous, but because it's fearful and appalling, and it makes a dreadful demand on man for an appropriate \_\_\_\_\_. The only such response is \_\_\_\_\_ to it. It's irreverent and even blasphemous the way some people profess to \_\_\_\_\_ for God, pretend such camaraderie with Him as to carry on casual conversations with Him, at their own will and at their command. God does not come down and sit on the side of the bed and \_\_\_\_\_ to these people. He never did. Even \_\_\_\_\_ was not permitted to do that. God said to Him, "You cannot see My face; for no one shall see Me and live" (Exodus 33:20). Nor, does God speak to us through the traditions of our ancestry, not even through the councils of the best-of-intentioned men, neither in creeds written by the most scholarly of them, but through His Word, the \_\_\_\_\_. There's our standard!

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.** There's our standard. Oh my, we must get back to it!

Of course, there have always been in every generation those who have given short weights and measures for ill-gotten-gain. They flourish and prosper in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bureau of Standards of Weights and Measures, and so it is in Christianity. There have always been, and always shall be, the Elmer Gantry's, who \_\_\_\_\_ upon the unlearned and unsuspecting for profit. That's why the Scripture says, "Be diligent (King James says, "study") to present yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (Some versions say, "handling aright the word of truth.") It's "the word of truth." Let's not forget that. Let us pray. Holy Father, thank You for the revelation, the translation, the preservation of Your Holy Word, a standard by which we can all live in unison. We pray Your blessings as we strive to walk in its light. In Jesus name, Amen!

How we need to get \_\_\_\_\_ to the Bible, God's standard for our lives today. Most of the problems that people face today come from their unwillingness to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ against God and expect God to \_\_\_\_\_ you. When we study the Bible, we must truly want to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives and our faith to it and to it \_\_\_\_\_ as God's everlasting and unchangeable standard. We must always be on \_\_\_\_\_ against imposing our opinions and prejudices on the Word of God, and trying to use the Bible to justify our preconceived ideas or our selfish desires. We must follow the Lord. Faith in Christ means \_\_\_\_\_ everything the Lord says in His Word, and conforming our lives to it. If you aren't willing to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and to follow Christ, you are a Christian in name only. True disciples \_\_\_\_\_ their faith!

There is still but \_\_\_\_\_ standard gospel of Christ, and we must \_\_\_\_\_ that gospel to be saved. To become a Christian \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord with all your heart. Out of love \_\_\_\_\_ of every sin and turn your heart and thoughts to righteousness. Confess your faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and be \_\_\_\_\_ into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Baptism is an immersion in water that \_\_\_\_\_ us to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We don't sprinkle for baptism because it's not God's standard, and we don't baptize babies because they aren't mature enough to believe and repent. The apostle Peter said, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). That's what we urge you to do today.

And now a final word from Mack Lyon: "Say! We're so glad that you were with us today. We pray you've been blessed. And, we hope you will join us again next week. God bless you now. We love you."