

True Religion Colossians 2:6-8

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

Our dear friend and brother in the Lord, Mack Lyon, began this program in 1980 and was its only host for thirty years. Our dear friend passed away August 5th and is now with the Lord. We remember him.

We're here to _____ the Scriptures for God's will. Mack Lyon recently reminded me of Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called in one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." When there is just one, there can't be _____ than one. We want to _____ that one true body, the one true Spirit, the one true hope, the one true Lord, the one true faith, and the one true baptism, and the one true God who is over all.

On September first, 1980, Mack Lyon spoke on In Search of the Lord's Way for the very first time in Ada, Oklahoma on KTEN. Brother Lyon saw the _____ to broadcast the gospel truth to our nation so people could see the _____ between the church of the New Testament and many religious groups today. He wanted people to become _____ Christians and be added to the New Testament church, and that's our desire today; so, we go to the Bible, the Word of God, to find the truth. We want nothing more and nothing less.

Brother Lyon was a genuine Christian. What you remember on television was what he was _____ day! He wanted everyone to _____ and _____ the Lord. He spoke the _____ in _____, and a whole generation became endeared to his kind and humble ways. Because of God's _____ and his hard work, people in every corner of America today can view this television program. We're grateful for the love of God that we saw in his _____.

Our reading today comes from the Epistle to the Colossians 2:6-8. We must live our lives according to the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ in His Word.

Since this program is entitled, In Search of the Lord's Way, we _____ for the true, genuine, and authentic faith in Christ. We realize that there are many _____ religions in the world; we're seeking the true religion, the true church. We aren't interested in imitations or substitutes; we're not interested in opinions or the guesses that arise out of someone's imagination. We want the truth, unembellished truth, uncompromising truth, and the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If we settle for anything more than the truth or less than the truth, we'll find that our _____ has no firm foundation.

The Lord God rebuked Judah more than once because the people would forsake the truth to follow the _____ of the nations surrounding them. **Read what God said through his prophet in Jeremiah 2:11-13.**

Ancient Israel knew how precious water was because they had so _____. Many of their creeks would only run during certain _____ of the year. Living water was flowing and pure; the water in cisterns would often become _____. If a tiny crack formed in the plaster inside the cistern, all the water could eventually leak out, and the cistern would be _____. The Jews _____ a broken cistern in their idols over the living river of water in God. How shocking! Who would do that?

People today have done the same thing! They've _____ the genuine Christianity of the New Testament for pop psychology, for manufactured religions from false prophets, for entertainment-based enterprises, or for a false god that accepts everyone and everything and never judges. They've _____ the truth for a fantasy, for a broken cistern.

Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14. These verses _____ a lot of people; they don't even know the Bible says this. Most people think that almost everyone is going to be _____ and almost no one's going to be _____, but the Bible doesn't teach that. Even people who call Jesus "Lord" may be lost if they _____ to live as God teaches (Matthew 7:21). We're saved by God's grace, but not a grace that _____ people no matter what. God expects His people to do His _____ on earth as it is in heaven.

True religion points to the Lord Jesus; false religion points to the _____ who presume they are an addition to or better than Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Later, Peter told the Jewish Council, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other _____ under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We have God's _____ in Jesus Christ! If we _____ anything to Him or _____ anything from Him, we have left the truth for a broken cistern. Jesus is Lord; He's the only Lord. He alone paid the _____ for your sins and mine; He alone has _____ from the dead; and He alone will _____ you on the last day. Don't sell Him short; He has no _____.

True religion realizes that we're created in the image of _____; false religion tries to recreate God in our _____ image. Many people don't want God unless He's like us or _____ with what we already think. Many people would rather manufacture a god that suits them than they would to _____ to the true and living God that's revealed in the Scriptures. This is not a new thing; people throughout time, throughout history, have resisted God in order to

_____ their idols. They wanted a god that followed them rather than the one _____ God they had to follow. **Read Romans 1:18-23.**

True religion _____ to the inspired Word of God, the Bible; false religion _____ to the writings of men, or to creeds and councils. True religion _____ the Scriptures to see if these things are so; but false religion swallows whatever people _____. True religion is content to hold to what is written in Scripture; but false religion feels it must _____ what God has said to suit the times. If you want to find the truth, you must _____ for it in the right place. You can't get a _____ understanding of God in the woods, or in space, or in philosophy, or even in people; you _____ God in the Scriptures. The Lord God revealed Himself most fully and most accurately through the _____ word. Paul wrote, "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

This is why Solomon said, "Buy truth, and do not _____ it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). You find that truth by your diligent _____ of the Scriptures; there are no substitutes or shortcuts. The Bible applauds those who _____ themselves to a careful, serious study of Scripture. The Bereans didn't take the word of some individual; they wanted to know what the _____ itself said! (Acts 17:11). The Scriptures settled the _____ for them, and it should settle the truth for you, too!

True religion is poor in spirit; while false religion is full of _____ ambition. **Read how James described the difference in James 3:13-17.** Many religions make their followers their focus, wanting them to do what makes them feel good about themselves. Instead of helping people to become focused on God, they _____ them to become focused on themselves.

True religion sees our utter _____ for God; false religion thinks God has an utter need for us. True religion is about _____ and _____ to God and others; false religion is all about self-esteem and what I feel. True religion longs for truth and fellowship with God; false religion longs for _____. True religion makes one a _____ of the living God; false religion turns a human into a god. True religion loves the truth and grieves at the _____ that men tell; false religion so longs for its own ways that it ignores or dismisses the truth.

True religion appeals to the _____ and the _____; false religion appeals to the _____. True religion is unashamed; false religion must _____ what it really believes. True religion wants righteousness; false religion wants to please _____ or please _____. Many churches today have _____ as moral what God calls immoral in Scripture. They have chosen to _____ the people rather than follow God's teaching. Moses said about Israel, "If they were _____, they would understand this; that they would discern their latter end!" (Deuteronomy 32:29). People will live as they choose, but God will _____ them according to His standards, not theirs (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

True religion calls men to _____; while false religion demands everyone accept them as they are without the need for repentance. True religion understands that repentance is turning away from what God defines as _____ to what God defines as righteousness; false religion wants to _____ what God says about morals. While true religion accepts responsibility and repents; false religion _____ its sins by pointing to the failures of others. False religion says that since everyone sins, we should accept everyone as they are without asking them to _____. False religion says accepting people is more important than accepting God's moral _____. The world expects _____ to change, but God expects the _____ to change. When religious groups leave God's will, they leave God. When churches _____ the truth and the morals of God, God removes them from His grace.

True religion makes every person responsible for _____ while false religion blames our sins on _____. Throughout the eighteenth chapter of Ezekiel God says clearly that each of us will face judgment for our _____ actions, not the behaviors of our parents or our children; God will hold each one of us accountable only for our own sins, not for the sins of others.

True religion recognizes that the _____ of God is real, while false religion ignores it. True religion realizes that Jesus will return someday to _____ the world, but false religion acts as if everyone will be saved regardless of their beliefs or behavior. If your sins aren't washed away by the _____ of Jesus, you will face God as a condemned sinner (John 3:36).

Jesus predicted that evil people would hate _____ and hate _____ who followed Him because evil people hate the _____ that exposes their evil deeds (John 3:20). Jesus loved the world, even when the world hated Him. People who love others _____ them the truth even when it _____; but people who remain silent about sin and allow half-truths and lies to be spread, these are people who have no compassion. You may think you're being _____ by being tolerant toward those who are in sin, but remaining silent about the destructive forces of sin is the _____ kind of cruelty! Remaining _____ about sin or false doctrines _____ people of hope and salvation. Jesus loved sinners, but His love for them meant calling them to _____. Jesus didn't _____ people where He _____ them. He didn't leave them deceived about sin or about salvation, or even the church. Jesus spoke out against sin and against doctrinal error because He loved their souls.

If you love your soul, if you love the Lord Jesus, then place your _____ in Him, turn away from every sin, _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be _____ into Christ! You're baptized into Christ when you're immersed in water in His name. In baptism, God _____ you with Christ; He makes you His child; He _____ you to His church; and He _____ every sin. Don't wait another day to become a child of God.