

March 20, 2016

Your Salvation

Romans 5:6-10

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

Most people think everybody is going to heaven, but the Scripture distinguishes the _____ from the _____. Does it _____ whether we're saved? The New Testament _____ more than a dozen chapters to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus died upon the cross so that _____ might be saved. We study the Scriptures because we know they tell about Jesus, and we want a relationship with the Lord Jesus, and to be saved by His _____. For us, the _____ is not merely words on paper; they give us _____. **Read what the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:1-2.** We want everyone to be saved; we don't want anyone to believe in _____.

Jesus came to earth "to save His people from their _____" (Matthew 1:21). "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus is in the saving business, the _____ business. He takes people where He _____ them and He _____ them into the kind of people that He wants them to be. He's the _____ of sinners! He's like the _____ who leaves the ninety-nine in the open pasture and searches for the lost sheep until he finds it! He brings it home on his shoulders _____! God rejoices over every sinner that _____ (Luke 15:7). The Lord is _____ for you if you're a sinner, my friend. He wants to find you. He doesn't want you to be _____!

Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to the Romans 5:6-10. God's Word tells us about the great demonstration of the _____ of Jesus.

What does it mean to be lost spiritually? We know what it means to lose our _____ or our _____. We know what it means to lose our _____, our savings, or our _____. We have _____ alerts for a lost child and _____ alerts for a lost senior citizen. When a child is missing or a senior is missing, we'll turn over every rock to _____ them. All these things are tragic, but they're trivial compared to the loss of our _____. Being lost spiritually means that we're without _____ and without _____ in this world. Being lost spiritually means that we can't enjoy the blessings or the _____ of God in this life or in the one to come. God doesn't want _____ to be lost. First Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good, and it's pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The fact is that many are lost and don't _____ it. Our nation has become so morally and religiously confused that many have come to _____ that everyone is okay with the Lord. The Lord Jesus, however, clearly taught that not everyone is saved. He said, "Enter

through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are _____ who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are _____ who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). Wouldn’t it be _____ not to be among that few who find life? Scripture reminds us that there is salvation in no one else, “for there is no other _____ under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Even many religious people think that they are right with God, but not everyone who is _____ is saved. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will _____ the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the _____ of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” When people _____ to follow the will of the Lord, even if they’re religious, the Lord will not allow them into heaven. But when people do love the Lord, when they are willing to _____ to His Words and obey Him, God opens His heart and opens the way for them to enter into Heaven. When you get away from the Words of Jesus, you get away from Jesus.

The prodigal son had lived wickedly until he ran out of _____. When he became destitute, he took a long look at his _____ and life. The Scriptures say, “he came to his senses.” He realized that he needed saving. What about you? Do you need saving? Are you in _____ and in need of forgiveness. The prodigal son decided to go home to his father and _____ that he had sinned against heaven and in his father’s sight. In his _____, he was no longer worthy to be his father’s son. Sin makes us small in our own _____. Sin ruins our lives. Our sins _____ be atoned for. Jesus _____ on the cross to atone for our sins. We must be willing to _____ to Him for forgiveness.

The prodigal son was afraid of what might happen, and many today have a _____ that the Lord or the church won’t accept them. When people come home humbly and penitently, willing to do the will of the Father, God will _____ them. When David came to God for forgiveness, he said, “For You (God) do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:16-17). Just as the prodigal son’s father, God will _____ His arms to us, run to meet us, embrace us, and kiss us. The Father knew his son had been wicked, but the father _____ loved him. God still loves us!

“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was _____ and has come to _____ again; he was _____ and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:22-24). God celebrates when people recognize their sins and come home in _____. Do you need to come back to God?

God wants to _____ you, to save you from sin because He loves you. Your salvation is so very important. Preaching the gospel means _____ about sin and salvation. That is what gospel preaching is all about.

What happens when you're saved? Let's see:

First, your salvation means that God has _____ you clean from sin. Sin leaves a _____ and it causes us to feel the sting of our _____. When we become Christians, the stain and the guilt are _____. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** When we're washed clean, we're also made _____ and righteous. God no longer sees what we _____ but sees what we have _____, and what He caused us to become. We're _____ creatures.

When we're baptized, we're _____ out to God for a good conscience (1 Peter 3:21). Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "Now why do you _____? Get up and be baptized, and _____ away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16). That's how we _____ upon God for salvation. First Peter 3:21 explains, "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an _____ to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." In baptism, we're asking God to _____ our souls and our consciences so that we can be right with Him and right with ourselves.

Second, your salvation means you are _____ and reconciled to God. Reconciliation means I'm in a right relationship with God; God and I are _____ again. To be _____ of sin and know you're not forgiven is scary. To think I will _____ eternity without God's favor, without His friendship, and having no hope; my friend, that is frightening. Hebrews 10:31 reminds us, "It's a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the _____ God." I wouldn't want to face God outside of Christ, lost in sin, never having believed or never having _____ the gospel. I wouldn't want to face God having forsaken the _____. I wouldn't want to face God living in sin and being unwilling to _____.

I'm thankful for the words of 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow about His _____, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for _____ to come to repentance." God doesn't want to _____ anybody. He wants people to believe, to love Him, and to _____ their ways. He wants us to leave our sins and to become _____. I'm thankful God is _____ with us. I don't want to presume on the _____ or the patience of God. I know I must change my _____ if I want to see the grace of God work in my life.

My favorite saying is this: "I'm not all I _____ to be; I'm not all I _____ to be; I'm not all I'm _____ to be; but thank God by His mercy and grace, I'm not what I _____ to be." God's grace and forgiveness transforms us. When we're obedient to the gospel, we become a _____ of God. We become _____ people, transformed into a child of God. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.** Being forgiven means that God no longer holds my sins against me, and that allows me to _____ friends with God once again.

Third, your salvation means that you are _____. What does that mean? It means God _____ you holy and regards you as holy. **Read how Peter describes obedient Christians in 1 Peter 2:9-10.**

If God has forgiven you, and cleansed you by the blood of Jesus, and He's made you holy, then you should _____ that way. **Read what God's Word says in 2 Timothy 2:19-22.**

Fourth, when the Lord saves you at the time that you're baptized, He _____ you to His kingdom, His family, the church! When you're baptized into Christ, you're also baptized into His _____. **Read what Peter said in Acts 2:38-41.**

These penitent believers were _____ to do what God says. They didn't _____ with God. They committed themselves, and God recognized that. So, He added them to the _____ believers, to the church. Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord was adding to their number (that is, the church) day by day those who were being _____." My friend, to be saved means to be added to their number, and to be a part of the church, the family of God.

Why does this matter? It matters because we're talking about your _____ and your _____. To be saved means every _____ in Christ is yours. To be lost means you have no relationship with God and no _____. Don't gamble with your _____. Buy the _____ and do not sell it. Get right with God and don't let anything come _____ you and God ever again. Don't _____ with God. Life is too uncertain to put off putting your _____ in the Lord and _____ the gospel in repentance and baptism. If the Lord Jesus came in the clouds this day, would you greet Him with love or would you be _____? Why would you remain afraid? Get right with God!

How are we saved? God saves us by His grace; it's a _____. God has always wanted to save and redeem us from _____. Ezekiel 18:23 says the Lord takes "no _____ in the death of the wicked" but He wants us to "turn from" our sinful ways and live! God is in the saving business. People lose their souls when they _____ against God, or _____ to believe in God, or will not _____ God. God grieves when His people sin. He made and loves you and He doesn't want anybody to be lost.

Some people want the grace of God, but have little _____ in what He teaches or commands. They want a Savior, but not a _____. However, you can't separate Him from His _____. Wanting Him means _____ to what He has to say. First Corinthians 1:21 says, "God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the _____ preached to save those who believe." God saves through a message. **Read what 1 Peter 1:22-23 says.** God saves us through the _____ (Romans 1:16).

If you _____ and are willing to _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God; if you're willing to _____ of your sins; and if you're willing to be _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, you too can be saved and the Lord will add you to His church. Peter told the people to repent and to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38). Ananias told Saul of Tarsus to rise and be baptized and wash away your sins (Acts 22:16). That is how a person responds to the grace of God. Won't you repent and be baptized today?