

## What God Wants for You

### Romans 8:31-39

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

As parents, Jackie and I wanted to give our children the very \_\_\_\_\_ that we could because we loved them. In the same way, our Father in Heaven wants to meet our \_\_\_\_\_ and to give us the best life possible. Only in Christ can we find the \_\_\_\_\_ life; that's what we'll explore today.

When God, your Father, created you, He created you with \_\_\_\_\_ in His heart. God said to the nation of Israel, "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_'" (Jeremiah 29:11). God has plans for our lives, too! He wants to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives and meet our needs. The Bible says, "Every good thing given and every perfect \_\_\_\_\_ is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17).

All the physical blessings we enjoy, however, are not going to make up for what our \_\_\_\_\_ need. We're spiritual beings with souls, and the physical things of this life will not \_\_\_\_\_ for the things that we need inside our hearts and souls. We need \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. He's the difference between wisdom and foolishness. He's the difference between existing and an abundant life. He is the difference between chasing after the wind and living with meaning and purpose. God knows what is \_\_\_\_\_ for us and He wants to provide the things that we need most for our souls.

**Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 8, verses 31 to 39.** God is our Father and, like any good parent, He wants what's best for us spiritually because He loves us and He knows that our spiritual well being is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm so thankful for the Bible because it helps us understand the very heart of God. The more we know God, the more we'll love Him and want to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ. Here are seven things God wants for our lives.

First, God wants you to be \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who \_\_\_\_\_ all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4). There's nothing in this world worse than being \_\_\_\_\_ in sin. God says in Ezekiel 18:4 that the soul that sins will \_\_\_\_\_. He's not here speaking of physical death, but spiritual death which is far \_\_\_\_\_.

Sin is a terrible thing. The Lord Jesus said, "Do not fear those who kill the \_\_\_\_\_ but are unable to kill the \_\_\_\_\_; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Sin will \_\_\_\_\_ you from the love of God and from His blessing. But God has a plan for us to save us from sin by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ when we believe in Him and obey His commandments.

Some people think God made up His mind long ago who would be saved and who would be lost, but this simply isn't \_\_\_\_\_. God gave us the \_\_\_\_\_, which teaches us how to be saved; and He gave us free will, which allows us to choose to follow Him or to reject Him. God, however, wants us to choose Jesus and to be saved. He doesn't want anybody to be lost.

**Read what the Bible says when God speaks in Ezekiel 18:30-32.**

Second, God wants you to come to know the truth and to be \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus promised those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly \_\_\_\_\_ of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). God gave us His Son, Jesus, so that we might come to know and understand His \_\_\_\_\_ for us. The Bible says, "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has \_\_\_\_\_ God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him" (John 1:17-18).

Some people say they believe there is a God in heaven but we don't \_\_\_\_\_ anything about Him. We \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ know something about Him. We can know God through looking at \_\_\_\_\_. **Read what the Lord Jesus once said to the apostles in John 14:7-9.** We know the Father by knowing the Son!

Third, God offers us the privilege of \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ from us. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:7-11.** We don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ God to let us pray to Him; the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us and wants us to bring our requests to Him. Just as a father loves his children, so our Father in heaven loves us. He wants to hear from us and to have a relationship with us. The Bible is how God \_\_\_\_\_ to us, and prayer is how we \_\_\_\_\_ to God. God loves us enough to hear our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_. He will always answer with what is \_\_\_\_\_ for us, not always with what we \_\_\_\_\_, but always with what we \_\_\_\_\_.

Fourth, God wants us to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age. **Read Titus 2:11-14.** God wants only what is \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Living sensibly, righteously, and godly blesses our \_\_\_\_\_ and blesses those who surround us. God's grace and forgiveness open an opportunity for us to \_\_\_\_\_ a sinful and destructive lifestyle for one that is godly and productive. The gospel of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ lives from selfish to loving, from hurtful to helpful, from dishonest to devoted, and from troubled to trustworthy. God's grace works through the Word to teach us to \_\_\_\_\_ what is wrong and to \_\_\_\_\_ what's right.

Fifth, God wants you to have an \_\_\_\_\_ life. The Lord Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy; I came that they may have \_\_\_\_\_, and have *it* abundantly" (John 10:10). Everybody wants to be happy, but "the abundant life" is far \_\_\_\_\_ than merely just being happy. It has real, inner \_\_\_\_\_, real life. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ life; it's a life "to the full." Christianity is a way of life that doesn't lack any worthy thing that we \_\_\_\_\_.

Sinful pleasures may satisfy for a \_\_\_\_\_, but they cannot give you the lasting joy of

the Christian life. Sinful pleasures are \_\_\_\_\_; they promise much but destroy those who pursue them. Sinful pleasures are addictive, enslaving, and destructive. God wants something better for His children than \_\_\_\_\_ to sin. He offers the \_\_\_\_\_, which is so much better than the \_\_\_\_\_. God's Word says the Father "has blessed us with every spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavenly *places* in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

In Christ, we have God's amazing \_\_\_\_\_ to sustain us, God's abundant \_\_\_\_\_ to comfort us, God's \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven to give us endurance, and God's Word of wisdom to guide us. In Christ, we've become God's holy and beloved \_\_\_\_\_. Being God's child is the greatest privilege. Nothing else compares.

As part of the abundant life God gives us, He gives us the church as a \_\_\_\_\_. As part of the local church, we have brothers and sisters who know us and love us, who \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ for our souls. As part of a local church, we have a place to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ as children of God. God gave us the church to bless our lives and to help keep us \_\_\_\_\_ in our faith and love for Him. Living as a part of God's family, the church, and serving Christ gives us a great \_\_\_\_\_ of purpose and fulfillment.

Number six, God wants you to find peace. The Bible says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). God knows that we often come on \_\_\_\_\_ times. Just like any Father who loves His children, He puts His arm around us and says, "Let me handle it." When we put ourselves into God's hands, He sets a \_\_\_\_\_ around our hearts and our minds and \_\_\_\_\_ us from doubts and fears. He replaces all our worries and uncertainties with His perfect \_\_\_\_\_. Isaiah 26:3-4 says, "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, *we have* an everlasting Rock."

In Philippians 4:8-9 God's Word says, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there's any excellence and if there's anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things that you've learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." When people \_\_\_\_\_ good thoughts and \_\_\_\_\_ righteous lives, they can go to sleep at night with a clear conscience, knowing they're right with the living God. The peace that passes understanding is truly, truly a blessing!

Number seven, God wants you to come home to live with Him \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus said, "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also" (John 14:1-3). The Lord has prepared and reserved a \_\_\_\_\_ with your name on it. God intends to bless us in ways far \_\_\_\_\_ our

understanding. The Bible says, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were \_\_\_\_\_ in our transgressions, made us \_\_\_\_\_ together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and He raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:4-7). God wants to give you a marvelous, amazing \_\_\_\_\_ forever in His house as part of His family.

These are only seven things God wants for you and for me. There are many more. To enjoy them God wants your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_. You can't please God and remain on the fence or apathetic. You have to come to that point where you make a \_\_\_\_\_ to God from this day forward and forever. The Bible says, “The Lord is not slow about His \_\_\_\_\_, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to \_\_\_\_\_ but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God wants you to find His love by \_\_\_\_\_ your life. You must \_\_\_\_\_ the old way of sinful pleasures and \_\_\_\_\_ Him into the abundant life. Today is the best day to get started on a new and better life!

The most important thing that we can do in \_\_\_\_\_ to God is to love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. A person who loves God will \_\_\_\_\_ upon that love by placing their faith in Christ (John 3:16), repenting of every sin (Acts 2:38), confessing the name of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 10:32-33), and by being baptized (that is, immersed) in water for the forgiveness of their sins. When a penitent, believing person is baptized, the Lord washes away his \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 22:16), adds him to His \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:47), counts him as His child (Galatians 3:26-27); He buries him and raises him up with Christ (Romans 6:4-5), and He \_\_\_\_\_ him (1 Peter 3:21). This is why it's so necessary to be baptized. That's when \_\_\_\_\_ acts upon you. Baptism is not something that we do; it's something that we have done to us; God is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ in baptism.

God wants you to live with Him forever. The way to live in His house forever is to come into His family in this life. The church is God's family (1 Timothy 3:15). As His child, you will want to be with other members of God's family by \_\_\_\_\_ church regularly. God has designed the church to \_\_\_\_\_ your spiritual needs and to provide the loving family you desire.

God's arms are open wide, and He longs for you to come home to Him and to the family He has on earth. No one will ever love you or ever bless you the way God loves and blesses you when you become one of His people. No one else can provide a home reserved in heaven for you. No one else can give you a Godly, loving family like Christ does. Won't you come to Him; won't you serve Him; won't you live with Him? If you're looking for a close, loving, personal relationship with God, why not visit one of the churches of Christ near you? They're loving brothers and sisters who want to help you to go to heaven. My friend, you'll never regret doing what is right, but you'll forever regret passing up the gifts of God. God wants you to act in this life so that you can enjoy the blessings of the life to come.