

Knowing Christ

John 17:1-5

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

People say, “knowledge is _____.” If you could closely and personally know someone who could give you eternal life, would you want to _____ Him? Eternal life can be yours! If we could live _____ with good health, joy, peace, and love, we’d feel truly blessed! The fact is: while this life on earth is temporary and filled with troubles, there’s an eternal life beyond _____ with joy, peace, and love. You can have this eternal life and much more; it’s _____! It comes by the grace of God and by knowing Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus in a prayer to His Father said, “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only _____ God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

Eternal life is not merely living forever and ever; eternal life is a _____ of life built upon a relationship with God who gave us our life. We have eternal life because we know—and we have that close relationship with—God! To know God well will bring about _____ and devotion. To let God’s _____ permeate our heart and our life brings about the greatest blessings. God’s life is the best life forever; it’s true life forever; it’s love forever; peace forever, and joy forever! Eternal life can be yours, if you let it.

The inspired apostle Paul said, “For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living” (Romans 14:7-9). Eternal life means I _____ to the Lord, and I belong to him now and in the life to come.

Today’s reading comes from the lips of Jesus in The Gospel According to John 17:1-5.

Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. More than wisdom, more than might, and more than riches, God wants you to _____ and know Him. In God’s mind, that’s the greatest blessing and the greatest _____ of our time. Can you say honestly that you understand and know the God of Heaven and His Son Jesus? The Lord Jesus said, “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). There are different _____ of knowing. We might say we know Tiger Woods, but most of us have never _____ him face to face or shook his hand. We know a little about who he is, but we don’t know him personally. The next level is that of an acquaintance, someone we’ve met but aren’t necessarily _____ to. Then there are colleagues who _____ some part of our lives. A colleague may or may not be a _____. A friend is someone you truly _____ for and are interested in. You want to be around a friend; you

_____ him. Then, there is _____. Families live and work together; they know each other at a very deep level. The Lord Jesus wants us to know Him on that deep family level.

We cannot say that we're really close to the Lord, however, if we don't know and _____ His will. **Read what the Bible says in 1 John 2:3-6.** Many people _____ that they're close to the Lord but show by their lives that they're only deceiving themselves. Knowing God is the same as loving Him; and our love for God is perfected by _____ His commandments.

Some think they can know God by getting out into _____, but nature won't tell you all you need to know about God. One comes to know God through a _____ of God's Holy Word. The apostle Paul wrote, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom didn't come to know God, but God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the _____ preached to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21). It takes _____ God's Word, the message preached and recorded in the Bible, to know God. The Bible helps us to understand who God is and what His _____ is for our lives.

Read what the Bible says in Romans 10:14-17. We come to _____ in God by hearing what He has to say in the Words of Christ.

Scripture speaks of the noble-minded Bereans who were _____ to find out what God says. Acts 17:11 says, "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether those things were so." The Bible helps us distinguish what is and is not _____ about God. Many articles and television programs say things about God that simply are not _____. But you can always trust your _____ to tell you the truth. You should _____ what you hear by the Scriptures. Without the Scriptures we lose spiritually. There's a significant _____ between people who know the Lord and people who don't.

People who don't believe in God or love God don't realize what they _____ in rejecting God. They become futile in their _____, selfish, callous, and confused. People who _____ God turn to selfishness and sin which ruins their lives. It ought to be obvious to all of us. When fleshly ways _____ our lives, we get in a terrible mess. **Read what the Bible says in Galatians 5:19-21.** You can't have sin as the focus of your life and expect to _____ favor and joy with God.

Whether a person truly loves God matters. One who loves will not _____ like one who doesn't love. When someone doesn't love and _____ God, he becomes selfish and apathetic. But someone who knows the love of God _____ caring and generous. One lets sin _____ him, while the other finds _____ in Christ. One lets his selfish desires _____ his life, while the other lets Christ be Lord of his life. Our society is morally confused because it has set God _____. People ignore God to their own destruction.

God spoke through the prophet Hosea to Israel who had forgotten Him and had followed the pagan nations. They no longer knew God, and their apathy toward God _____ them. God said, “My people are destroyed for _____ of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children” (Hosea 4:6). When people reject God, they _____ their children of an opportunity to know the truth about God and about the life that God gives.

A recent survey said that eighty percent of American adults recall attending church regularly as children, but many have wandered away from their spiritual _____. They’ve been _____ by the worldliness of our culture that has pushed God out and brought in an anti-God, anti-church mindset. This mindset _____ children morally and spiritually. We constantly teach our children that moral truth is relative and not to _____ anything as right or wrong. What happens? We have more immorality than we’ve ever had, and we have more confusion than we’ve ever had. In a world without God, people do unspeakable things. Without God reigning in their hearts, you can be sure that sinful, destructive things will control their lives.

Read what the Bible says in Romans 1:18-26. Again, the Bible says: “For those who are according to the flesh set their _____ on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is _____, but the mind set on the Spirit is _____ and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it doesn’t subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot _____ God” (Romans 8:5-8).

God loves us so much, however, that He wants to _____ our hearts and our minds away from what will destroy us to what will bless us. God wants to bring you back to Himself. That’s why He sent Jesus into the world. Romans 5:6-8 says, “For while we were still _____, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet _____, Christ died for us.” God was willing to go to that extent so that you might have a _____ life on earth and live with Him in joy and in love _____.

We can know God by _____ to Jesus. The Lord Jesus told his disciples, “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him, and have _____ Him” (John 14:7). Again, in John 1:18, Jesus _____ God to us. We know a better way of life _____ of the love and the goodness of Jesus Christ. He is the _____ of what righteousness and goodness is. He teaches us by his life what _____ life is all about.

Jesus can make such a meaningful difference in our lives if we are _____ to let

Him. The Bible says, “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we’ve done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:3-7).

God wants something _____ for us, lives full of hope and love, not sin and apathy. He wants to _____ us from the enslavement of sin so we can live righteous and productive lives. God knows how sin _____ our lives and homes and how it _____ us from everything that’s good. Through Jesus Christ, God opens a _____ to life that rises above what the world offers. The Bible says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). The most beautiful, wonderful people I know have _____ in their lives. The Lord Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly” (John 10:10). I’ve seen what Christ can do in the lives of believers, and I know what He can do in your life.

If you let Him, Christ can _____ your life here on earth and give you eternal life with Him in heaven. When I think of heaven, I think of Ephesians 2:4-7. “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us _____ together with Christ (by grace you’ve been saved), and 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 toward us in Christ Jesus.”

God wants to _____ the kindness of His grace and love on you forever. He starts that process on this earth by giving us the _____, a message of good news about the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for your sins, so that you might be _____; and God raised Jesus up from the dead, so that you might be justified and have hope of eternal life. You can have this life when you put your trust in the Lord Jesus.

“Without faith,” the Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, “it’s impossible to _____ God.” Out of this faith and love for God, you must turn away from sin in _____ and turn to the Lord. When you _____ the name of Jesus as your Lord and Christ, you are ready to be _____—that is immersed in water—for the forgiveness of your sins. God will forgive your sins; add you to the _____, His family; and call you His son or daughter. It’ll be the beginning of a new life that can last _____. I hope you’ll be baptized this very day.