

The Heart of Jesus Philippians 2:5-8

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

If you want to _____ someone, look into his heart. We search God's Word for the Lord's Way. The Bible _____ that way for us so that we can know the Lord. We don't rely on opinions, or polls, or hunches. We know the Bible teaches the truth, so we _____ on God's Holy Word.

Jesus _____ people. God sent Him into this world because the world _____ Him so very badly. Jesus _____ about people and fed the hungry, healed the sick. He invited people to cast their cares upon Him. But, more than anything, He cared about their _____. He preached repentance, because He wanted everyone to be _____ with God.

The Bible _____ the heart of Jesus. It says, "Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of harvest to send out workers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:36-38). Jesus _____ what we needed, and that we needed His protection and guidance.

Galatians 1:4 says Jesus "gave Himself for our sins so that He might _____ us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." Jesus lovingly died for us so that we might be _____. No one loves you _____ than Jesus.

Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:5-8.

Jesus has _____ existed in the form of God. He is indeed Divine. Some think of Jesus as a man and _____ His Deity. Some think of Him as a great _____ and only the son of Mary. Still others think that He was a great, moral _____. The Scriptures, however, present Jesus as truly Divine. They argue that He's always existed.

John 1:1-3 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." In this passage "the Word" is a reference to Jesus Christ. He was in the beginning; He was with God; He was and is God; and _____ took place through Him. John 1:15 says, "John bore witness about Jesus, and cried out, 'This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'"

In His prayer to His Father, Jesus _____ of His existence before creation. He said, "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you _____ the world existed" (John 17:5). Later, in verse 24, Jesus prayed, "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My _____ that you have given Me because you loved Me before the foundation of the world." The Lord Jesus has always existed.

Jesus was truly God before He became a _____ person. Then, without ceasing to be God, he was willing to lay aside the glory of being _____ with God. He emptied Himself of divine

privileges by becoming human. Philippians says that Jesus Christ was made in the _____ of men and found in appearance as a man. He became something _____ than what He was before. He left His place in Heaven and took on _____.

John 1:14 says, “And the Word became _____ and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only (begotten) Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus Christ was quite unique. John saw His glory, but that glory didn’t come during His _____ ministry. It didn’t come until He _____ on the cross and was _____ from the dead. Jesus was God, yet became flesh. One might ask why.

Hebrews 2:14-15 answers that question. “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might _____ the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” The devil possesses the power of _____ in that he tempts people to sin and to come under sin’s penalty, which is spiritual death.

Jesus took on flesh so that through dying He could take _____ of death. He shed his blood on the cross to set men _____ from sin and from the consequences of sin. He conquered death when He _____ from the dead. The Christian, then, who faithfully follows the Lord, does not have to _____ death or the judgment. He knows there is the _____ of heaven awaiting him.

By leaving heaven and coming to earth, the Lord Jesus _____ Himself, taking the form of a servant, literally a slave. Jesus didn’t empty Himself of His Deity, but of His _____. His focus was not on being equal with God but of taking the form of God’s _____ or slave on earth. The Lord Jesus said, “the Son of Man didn’t come to be served, but to _____, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus was and is the Lord of Glory, but He walked upon this earth like a common man.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in the place where the animals stayed, “because there was no _____ for them in the inn.” He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a _____. He worked most of his life in Nazareth in a carpenter’s _____. While Joseph and Mary knew of his miraculous birth, his neighbors in Nazareth took offense at His _____ to be the Messiah and sought to kill Him. To them, Jesus was _____ the carpenter’s son.

Jesus never did any of the worldly things that people associate with earthly greatness. He never led an _____, never ruled an earthly _____, never owned any land or built a great _____, never possessed great wealth, never wrote a _____, and never traveled far and wide. He never _____ or raised a family. He didn’t come to glorify Himself; He came to glorify the Father and to do His _____.

The Lord Jesus left everything holy and good to come and _____ sinful mankind from this present evil age. Second Corinthians 8:9 says, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was _____, yet for your sake He became _____, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Paul used the example of Jesus’ servant attitude to speak to the _____. The Bible says, “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let

each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4). Jesus never taught anyone to think of himself as _____ than others, or to be selfish, or to be conceited. Paul once asked, “What do you have that you did not _____?” (1 Corinthians 4:7). Everything we have, everything we are, everything we hope to be comes by God’s providence. When we consider the grace and the providence of God, we have no _____ to be arrogant.

The Lord Jesus practiced and taught _____. Jesus taught his disciples, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and _____ of all” (Mark 9:35). He was saying, “You don’t become great by putting yourself before everyone else. You become great by putting yourself _____, by serving other people.” God doesn’t want arrogant people; He wants people who greatly humble themselves. Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient. Servants and slaves _____.

A humble person has no arrogance and realizes His dependence on God. Humble people aren’t concerned with prestige. Jesus was Divine, but He stooped _____ in humility for our sake. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, “Although he was a son, he _____ obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who _____ him.” The humble obedience of Jesus opened the _____ for your obedience and opportunity for eternal life.

The Lord described His humility in Matthew 11:28-29. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in _____, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jesus Christ was approachable by the common Jew, even by those who felt weary and burdened. The downtrodden and the sinner could find a _____ in Jesus. They found _____ for their souls in Jesus. The Lord Jesus never sinned, but He was not afraid to stoop down and lift up the fallen, broken people.

Read what Hebrews 4:14-16 says.

Many people shy away from God when they sin, but we have a high priest who understands _____ our weaknesses and knows what it is to be tempted. Rather than shy away from God when we’re tempted, we should draw close and pray for _____. The Father understands and will help us through temptations and struggles. We can receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus was obedient, and He did it to the point of death on a _____, not an easy thing. Many have been crucified, but none compares to His: there He bore our sins, taking our _____ and enduring the wrath of God that we should have received. The death of Christ was nothing less than Christ experiencing _____ for sin, so we would not have to bear it ourselves.

The Bible speaks of how personal this death was for Jesus. First Peter 2:24 says, “He himself bore _____ sins in his body on the tree, that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness, for by his wounds you have been healed.” Jesus’ death was a deeply passionate and personal, personal sacrifice for our sins, so that we could _____ forgiveness and spiritual healing. Second Corinthians 5:21 says God made Jesus “who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might _____ the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus was entirely selfless in dying on the cross, so we might be blessed.

Jesus didn’t merely die for us and _____ us. People ask what is Jesus doing _____. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus is still _____ us today. Jesus is interceding for God’s children.

Hebrews 7:25 says, “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw _____ to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” He’s pleading the case for your _____ before the Father who is in Heaven. The Bible says, “My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. And He is the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1-2).

The One who prayed for the forgiveness for those who nailed His hands and feet is also interceding with the Father today on your behalf, if you’re a _____ Christian. Jesus never stops loving us as long as we _____ to follow Him. He’s constantly taking up our _____ with the Father in Heaven. The One who died for us is now pleading for our _____ forgiveness. Even when Christians _____ the Lord, He’s willing to go to the Father on our behalf. When I consider the cross of Jesus and His constant loyal defense before the Father, I cannot fully grasp such great, great love.

My prayer is like Paul’s in Ephesians 3. Paul wanted the church to comprehend the love of God, which is to some extent _____ our ability to comprehend. He prayed that they “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses _____, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Can you imagine the changes that you’d make if you really grasped how deep and wide the love of God is for you? We often take the love and the blessing of God for _____. We forget all He has done and all that He’s doing for us. We get so caught up in our own little world and our desires, that we lose _____ of the heart of Christ and His devotion to us. We desperately need the heart of Christ to be in our own hearts. It’ll make a difference. Do you have the heart of Christ?

Because Jesus humbled Himself, God has exalted Him. **Read Philippians 2:9-11.** God blesses those who humbly _____ Him.

We need hearts like the Lord’s heart. “Have this mind in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). We too must humbly obey God and sacrifice ourselves out of _____. Instead of challenging the Lord with our beliefs and our opinions, we need to humbly step back and _____ what God has to say, and _____ the Lord. Love and grace do not _____ us from the need for repentance or the need for obedience. Love moves us to do whatever He asks and to live every single day in His _____.

Love for God moves us to trust Him; to _____ to the whole world that we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. So, we gladly acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and we belong to Him. Love also moves us to think of _____ differently. We realize that sin will ruin our lives and so we _____ of sin and we turn to the Lord. Put on Christ in _____. Baptism is when we go into the death of Christ; we’re baptized into His death according to Romans 6:3. It’s where Christ shed His _____. In baptism God then washes away our sins and gives us newness of life (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:4-7). That’s why we need to take the necessary step of being baptized into Christ. That’s when you’ll receive the forgiveness of sins.