

**God's Word
Psalm 1**

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

Of all the books in the world, no book is so _____ and so true as the Bible. Today, we're going to see many important _____ to hear and to follow the Bible. The Scriptures show themselves to be _____ time and again! God gave us this unique and marvelous book to be the _____ of the truth that leads to eternal life. No other book has so many prophecies, practical advice, or relevance. The Scriptures gives us the _____ that we need to live as Christians and as heirs of eternal life in a world that doesn't always understand or appreciate us.

I was blessed eight years ago to come to In Search of the Lord's Way. The Lord permitted me to be a part of this great _____ to America and many other nations. We all miss brother Mack Lyon and are deeply grateful for what he has done. We're also deeply grateful for all the churches and individual Christians who _____ for us and are behind this ministry. We're praying that God will give us many more years to serve, and _____ the gospel of Christ to the nation and the world. As we begin this New Year, please keep us in your prayers.

I challenge you to _____ the entire Bible during 2017. Reading God's Word and hearing His wisdom and truth is the most valuable way to use your _____. First Peter 2:1-3 says, "Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord." I hope that you hunger and thirst for God's Word. Nothing else will bless you more than knowing and practicing God's will!

Our reading today is from Psalm 1.

What is your _____? What is it you look forward to each day? The psalmist said the blessed person has a delight "in the law of the LORD, And in His law he _____ day and night." The more one _____ the Word of God, the more that Word will become a delight. David said, "They (speaking of the Scriptures) are more desirable than _____, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than _____ and the drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:10).

Romans 1:2 calls the Bible the "_____ Scriptures"; and 2 Timothy 3:15 calls them the "_____ writings." Repeatedly, the Scriptures claim to be the very Word of God. Henry Morris estimates that the Old Testament claims to be the Word of God some _____ times. The Lord Jesus considered the events of the Old Testament to be _____ history. Jesus took Jonah's three days and nights in the belly of the great fish as _____. Jesus used the punishment of Lot's wife as a means to _____ his disciples not to turn back (Luke 17:32). There's no evidence that Jesus ever regarded the creation, the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, or any other story of the Bible as a _____ or a fable.

Jesus underscored the truthfulness of the book of Genesis when He referred to the "beginning" of creation as the time when a man and a woman were created and joined together by God in _____. **Read what Jesus said in Mark 10:6-9.** By quoting from the creation account the Lord Jesus acknowledged its _____. By using the words, "What God has joined together..." He recognized God to be the _____ of these Genesis writings.

No one can _____ the Word of God because no one can conquer God. Just like God, the Scriptures are _____. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven." The Lord Jesus could say, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My _____ will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

The apostle Peter calls the Word of God an imperishable _____. **Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.** Yes, the Word of God, found in the Bible, is here to stay and it will _____ till the end of time.

The Bible contains the _____ and the _____ of God. We can know God best by reading the Bible. He loves us and has always wanted the _____ for us. First Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be _____ and to come to the knowledge of the truth." From the very beginning, God has always wanted that _____ relationship with each person. He's wanted each of us to live _____ lives and to stay away from the sinful things that destroy us. The Bible is _____ about people. It tells the good and the bad. It teaches us how to live wisely and how to _____ the pitfalls. Psalm 119:9 asks the question, "How can a young man keep his way _____?" The answer is, "By keeping it according to Your _____." One can say, "Your word have I treasured up in my heart, That I may not _____ against You" (Psalm 119:11). Have you treasured up the Word of God in your heart? If you haven't, do you realize how you have _____ yourself?

The Bible offers us the precious _____ of truth. We need the truth, not a _____. We want to know what's _____, not a myth and not a fantasy. I would rather know the truth that _____ for a short time but blesses me eternally than to hear a lie that _____ for now but costs me my soul. The Scriptures give us that _____ to sort through the many voices of our day and to be able to unlock the truth. The psalmist proclaimed, "The sum of Your word (what's written in the Bible) is _____, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting" (Psalm 119:160). The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one _____ to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). He promised, "If you continue in My word (the words He taught that are recorded), then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _____" (John 8:31-32). The Lord Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word (speaking to His Father) is truth" (John 17:17). The Lord Jesus told Pontius Pilate, "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to _____ to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth _____ My voice" (John 18:37).

Because the Word of God is inspired and true, we can have _____. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." The Word of God

tells us where we came from, why we're here, where we're going when we die, and what the promises of God are! They give us true _____ and they give us hope that there's something better than this sinful and dark world that we live in today. Sometimes we think we face problems that no one has ever _____ before, but there's usually a circumstance in the Scriptures much like our own. God helped the _____ of old, and He can help and He will help us, too! God's character hasn't changed. He shows compassion on those who _____ and _____ Him. He'll help us through every struggle and every heartache.

Read the promise of 1 Peter 5:8-10.

Were it not for the Scriptures we would know very little about _____ and His ways. We wouldn't know what the eyewitnesses said about Jesus. We wouldn't know anything about creation or heaven. We would be as ignorant as the Stoics and the Epicureans who built an _____ to an unknown God. Scripture opens up God's heart, God's truth, and His promises.

God gave us His Word to _____ us. The apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the _____ of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). James 1:21 says, "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in _____ receive that word (that is, the word that's in the Bible) that's implanted, which is able to save your _____." When Peter came to Cornelius' house, he brought "_____ " by which Cornelius and his household were saved (Acts 11:13). Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Second Corinthians 5:19 says the gospel is the "word of reconciliation." Philippians 2:16 calls it the "word of _____." The Lord Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63).

Because the word is inspired and true, it has power to _____ into our hearts and souls. Jeremiah 23:29 says about the Word, "Is not My word like _____?" declares the LORD, 'and like a _____ which shatters a rock?'" At some point the Word of God hits us between the eyes with a truth that we need to _____. Its truth stuns us, even cuts us to the heart, but in the end it _____ us. Acts 2 tells about the response of the Jews when Peter _____ about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Verse 37 says: "Now when they heard this, they were _____ to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'" Verse 38 gives the answer, "Repent, and each of you be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

These folks were _____ of Christ's death on the cross. I'm sure they didn't at first want to hear about their _____ against God. They probably didn't want to _____ that they had crucified the Lord and the Christ who was the Son of God; they needed to _____ the truth. The Word reproves them, and reproves us and it rebukes us, not because the Word of God is cranky or mean-spirited. The Scriptures speak out against sin but they don't _____ us hopeless and unredeemable. It informs us in order to _____ us from evil and to deliver us from sin. It helps us see where we're going; and when we're going in the _____ way, it

straightens us out so we can go in the right way, in a direction that will help us save our souls.

In Proverbs 2, a father is trying to impart God's _____ to his son. He wants his son to "seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures." If his son pays attention and treasures up God's wisdom, then God "stores up sound wisdom for the upright; and He's a shield to those who walk in integrity, Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones" (Proverbs 2:7-8). Many books can give you the wisdom of _____, but only the Bible can give you the wisdom of _____.

Beyond all this, the Scriptures help us to _____ ourselves spiritually. There are times that we need to see ourselves so we can make the _____ necessary to please God. **Read James 1:22-25.** Don't just listen to God's Word, do it!

Listening and obeying is the _____ of our relationship with God. The apostle John said, "By this we know that we have come to know Him (that is, have a relationship with Him), if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I've come to know Him,' and doesn't keep His commandments, is a _____, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the _____ of God has truly been perfected" (1 John 2:3-4). When you listen and obey, you show true and perfect love for God. Do you love God?

Robert Johnson of Longview, Texas, wrote: "We must never be ashamed of the _____, because it is God's will. It possesses those same characteristics that God Himself possesses, endowed with His divine authority. It will never _____. Though everyone has free will and many will choose to ignore it, or try to alter it, or reject it altogether, the gospel will _____. The one who has committed his or her life to it will not be disappointed, as through His word, God will accomplish His _____ work of salvation. May we be committed to its principles and precepts, to _____ them out in our daily lives, and faithfully communicating them to those around us. Those who take their _____ in the enduring word of God shall endure forever with Him. 'Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him' (Proverbs 30:5)." Thanks, Robert.

When people _____ God's word to fit themselves, they cheat themselves and those who agree with them. Sadly, people often try to make the Bible teach something _____. They're only fooling themselves. When you distort doctrine, you have a distorted disciple. The Bible frequently says, "Be not deceived," and it says that because people often _____ to themselves rather than face the truth. That's why we must continually _____ closely to Scripture.

I worry about those who think they've been _____ but haven't listened closely to Scripture. Don't be fooled. The Bible teaches that one must _____ Jesus Christ is the Son of God to be saved (John 8:24). Out of love for God, one must _____ of sin and turn to righteousness to be right with God (Luke 13:3). A loving, penitent believer then must _____ their faith and be _____ into Christ. Just as those on Pentecost needed to be baptized to have their sins forgiven, so do we. Baptism is the time that God sets us _____ from sin (Romans 6:3-7). I hope that you're going to listen to God's Word and obey it.