

May 7, 2017

## Christian Values Matthew 6:19-24

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

You can tell a lot about people by looking at their \_\_\_\_\_. Today, we're going to explore Christian values and what they \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus promised, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my \_\_\_\_\_ will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Nearly 2000 years have passed since the first book of the New Testament was written, and today we have billions of copies. The New Testament has been translated into more than \_\_\_\_\_ languages, and parts of the New Testament into more than 2000. Though governments have tried to \_\_\_\_\_ every copy of the Bible they could find, the Word of God continues to be the most treasured book of all time.

People often talk about family values or moral values, but they sometimes assume everyone \_\_\_\_\_ their values. The word "values" can mean many \_\_\_\_\_ things; and this word is often overused and sometimes confusing. Not everyone thinks alike or shares the same moral and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. Our culture loves to \_\_\_\_\_ words and make them mean things they never meant before. You may speak of a value and mean one thing, while your neighbor's values are entirely different.

Because we \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, we learn to give value to the things that God values. God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. **Read God's Words in Isaiah 55:8-9.** The things that people \_\_\_\_\_ are so important may not be important to God. We may invest our whole lives in things that will not \_\_\_\_\_. How sad it would be to live a life that \_\_\_\_\_ to lead to heaven!

**Our reading today comes from the words of Jesus Himself, in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:19-24.**

Today, we're talking about Christian values, and what matters to Christians? What do they hold \_\_\_\_\_? The Lord Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your \_\_\_\_\_ will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our values capture our hearts and set the \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives. We \_\_\_\_\_ to the things that we love; we nourish and protect them. So, let's consider the things that really matter to Christians who love God.

First, they value God and His \_\_\_\_\_. Strong Christians \_\_\_\_\_ God and believe what God says. They enthusiastically \_\_\_\_\_ their children about the deity of Christ, about the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures, and about the resurrection. They don't apologize for taking the Word of God seriously when it speaks about sin and the judgment.

Strong Christians take God's grace and His \_\_\_\_\_ seriously. They realize that apart from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, they would have no blessing, no salvation, and no hope of heaven. They point to Ephesians 2:8-9 that says, "For by grace you have been \_\_\_\_\_ through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." They realize that God saves us, and we cannot save ourselves by \_\_\_\_\_ our way to

heaven. They also apply God's plan of salvation rather than \_\_\_\_\_ with God over what He asks of them.

If you ask me why I am a Christian, I would point first to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. Jesus loves me; this I know, for the Bible tells me so. I tell you no one ever loved me like Jesus. He suffered great pain and humiliation; He shed His \_\_\_\_\_ to wash away my sins and save me. Because of the love and the grace of God, I'm willing to \_\_\_\_\_ my life to Christ. I pray that you are, too!

Christians also realize that God will, day to day, give them what they \_\_\_\_\_, help them find what they \_\_\_\_\_, and open the door when they \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 7:7-8. They "know" God causes all things to work together for \_\_\_\_\_ when they encounter rough days (Romans 8:28). They cast their cares on God because they know that He cares for them (1 Peter 5:7).

Second, they value \_\_\_\_\_. The early church devoted itself to the apostles' \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:42); and faithful Christians today will do the same thing. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding." Strong Christians realize the necessity of standing \_\_\_\_\_ in the truth. Paul knew the day would come when men with itching ears "will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own \_\_\_\_\_, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The Lord Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my \_\_\_\_\_, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you \_\_\_\_\_" (John 8:31-32). To stay in God's Word means we'll be true disciples and know the truth. We have no desire to \_\_\_\_\_ from the Scriptures into human traditions or self-made religion. We want the truth!

Third, they value the \_\_\_\_\_. If the church were not important, Jesus would not have \_\_\_\_\_ it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Because the church was so important to Jesus, it should be important to us. Christians who love the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the church with their presence, their money, and their energy. They're interested in the church growing, and so they tell everyone they know about the Lord Jesus and His love. They \_\_\_\_\_ to the cross and to the resurrection. They want everyone to have the \_\_\_\_\_ that they enjoy. They consider being a member of the church, that is the body of Christ, as the greatest privilege of life. They see the church as the very family of God. Christians are brothers and sisters with God as their Father and Jesus as their Lord.

The Scripture exhorts us to "love the brotherhood" (1 Peter 2:17). Congregations that plant other congregations in nearby areas produce \_\_\_\_\_ for generations. The churches of Macedonia and Achaia helped the needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). Christians love one another and support each other throughout the \_\_\_\_\_.

Fourth, they value \_\_\_\_\_. Every person has a soul, and that soul will spend \_\_\_\_\_ either with God or without Him. God loves every person, and so do we. Because every soul will spend eternity in heaven with God or in hell without God, you and I both will all spend it somewhere. So, Christians take souls seriously. Nothing is more important than having a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In 1 Timothy 2:3-4 Paul says, "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to come to the knowledge of the truth." God wants you to be \_\_\_\_\_, and so do we.

Words like “lost” and “saved” seem \_\_\_\_\_ to many people. Sadly, many people don’t know their \_\_\_\_\_ are lost and need to be saved. To be lost means that they’ll spend \_\_\_\_\_ without God. People are lost because they’ve sinned. Sin takes place when someone breaks God’s \_\_\_\_\_ or fails to keep what God wants them to do. First John 3:4 simply says, “sin is lawlessness.” When a person ignores God’s laws and goes outside of them, he becomes lawless. “So whoever knows the right thing to do and \_\_\_\_\_ to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17). When people sin, they break God’s law, and God’s \_\_\_\_\_. God is gracious and doesn’t want anyone to be lost.

People speak about big sins and little ones, but in God’s eyes \_\_\_\_\_ sins matter. Every sin is offensive to God. God is utterly \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot approve of sin, any sin. God said, “Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who \_\_\_\_\_ shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Again, Romans 6:23 says, “For the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is death, but the free \_\_\_\_\_ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This death is not physical, but spiritual. Death is a separation. Physically, death is the separation of the body and the spirit. Spiritually speaking, death is the separation of man from God. Sinners are no longer in fellowship with God. **Read Isaiah 59:1-2.** Spiritually, dead people stand outside the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Christians teach people the good news, the gospel, about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ because they \_\_\_\_\_ them. They challenge them to believe and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. They ask them to give up their sins and to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. Evangelism is both confrontational and persuasive. Christians speak out about sin because they \_\_\_\_\_ the consequences of sin. Christians try to persuade people to forsake their sins and to come to the Lord because they \_\_\_\_\_ their souls. Christians aren’t your \_\_\_\_\_ because they ask you to repent of sin. They teach you the gospel because the gospel opens the \_\_\_\_\_ to your salvation from the consequences of sin. Someone who teaches you the gospel of Christ is your \_\_\_\_\_!

Fifth, they value righteousness. The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). Oh, how I wish people today not only knew what righteousness is, but also would \_\_\_\_\_ it! Faithful Christians understand that God Himself, not \_\_\_\_\_, ultimately defines righteousness, holiness, and morality. Christians recognize that they are accountable to God, not man, for their eternal \_\_\_\_\_. They realize that God has the \_\_\_\_\_ word in all matters, and that no one can silence, change, or overrule His voice. You can disagree with God; you can propose a new theory about things; you can even act as if God does not exist; but in the end, God will have the last say.

Hebrews 12:14 tells us, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.” If you wish to see the Lord, you must turn from sin to live a \_\_\_\_\_ life. First Peter 1:14-16 says, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your \_\_\_\_\_, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” The world has always been, well..., “worldly.” It’s always followed its own \_\_\_\_\_. **Read what Paul explained in Ephesians 4:17-24.** Because Christians value holiness and the world doesn’t, we must be \_\_\_\_\_ in a dark world, hoping to lead everyone to Christ.

Sixth, they value \_\_\_\_\_ others. Paul said, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your \_\_\_\_\_ is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Christians view serving others as if they were serving the Lord Jesus personally. Jesus said this about inviting in the stranger, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me” (Matthew 25:40).

Serving others builds \_\_\_\_\_ in the servant and produces thanksgiving in those who they serve. While no one \_\_\_\_\_ for disasters like a tornado, a fire, or an earthquake, such events provide outstanding opportunities for Christian service and compassion to those in need. They open doors that might not open otherwise. When hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the Gulf Coast, churches of Christ in many states \_\_\_\_\_ quickly to the needs of the people. Congregations not only sent financial aid but also thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ into the devastated region. In the wake of the disaster, workers planted five new congregations. These Christian servants not only blessed a devastated region, they also built up their home congregations as well.

Last, they value their relationships with other people. They value their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The greatest wish of any Christian is for God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to come upon all the people they love. They take seriously the command to love one another. The Lord Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my \_\_\_\_\_, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Because Jesus loves us, we learn how to love one another and even love our \_\_\_\_\_. Wouldn’t you like to have Christian values in your life?

Do you love the Lord and value Jesus? Do you value what He did on the cross, His grace, and His teaching? Do you value Him enough to give yourself to Him \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of your life? We must be God’s people, doing God’s work God’s way, so that we may one day \_\_\_\_\_ with Him in glory. Paul said, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is \_\_\_\_\_” (Philippians 1:21). I think of the old song, “He is my everything; He is my \_\_\_\_\_,” and that’s the way it should be. I don’t want to spend one day without Christ as the center of my heart and life. Loving Jesus means listening to Him and obeying Him. Jesus said, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23). If you want to live with God in the next life, you must be willing to serve God in this life.

To become a Christian, \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Repent of your sins! Turn from them and turn to the Lord in love and devotion. Confess your faith in Jesus and be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. Colossians 2:12-13 says, “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.” In baptism, we are buried and raised with Christ through faith in God’s \_\_\_\_\_. When we are baptized, God forgives us of all our sins. I hope you won’t wait another day to enjoy God’s grace and forgiveness. Oh, become a Christian today!