

In Christ

Luke 13:24-29

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

Many people _____ about being “all in.” Are you “all in” with Christ? Today, we’re going to _____ what it means to be “in” Christ. Because God has spoken in Scripture, we can know what is _____. There are so many voices in this world, and not all voices tell the truth. If you want to know the truth about spiritual matters, go to the _____ of God. God will never lie to you; He’ll never lead you astray; and He’ll never take back what He’s spoken; He’ll always keep His _____. You can trust God to tell you truth in His Word. So read your Bible,; study it; memorize it; and take it to heart. You’ll never regret doing the right thing.

There is a great _____ between being “in” Christ and “out” of Christ. That difference will _____ every aspect of our lives on earth and determine our eternal destiny. The Lord Jesus said, “I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Jesus is the only door to the Father; there is no other. The apostle Peter said about Jesus to the Jewish leaders, “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be _____” (Acts 4:12). We must go to Jesus if we want the forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven.

The apostle Paul said, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone _____ in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me” (Colossians 1:28-29). We could certainly say the same. That’s why this program exists. We want you to be mature in Christ and to _____ with Him forever.

Our reading today comes from Luke 13:24-29.

Of all the blessings I’ve ever received, _____ compares with the joy, the peace, the hope, and the love found in being in Christ Jesus, my Lord. Being in Christ means more to me than anything else. I wouldn’t want one day, one hour, one minute, or even one second to pass outside of Christ. I want to belong to Him, and I want Him one day to say to me, “Well done, good and faithful _____. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the _____ of your master” (Matthew 25:21).

There are many blessings that _____ to the one who is in Christ. Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with _____ spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.” We have every spiritual blessing in Christ we could imagine. I think of the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 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.” Each of these things is a _____ in life. We find them

in an abundant life in Christ, _____ from misery. If we don't have it; oh, how miserable we are. Can you imagine how _____ our lives would be without love, without joy, without peace, without patience, without kindness, without goodness, without faithfulness, without gentleness, or without self-control?

In Christ, we can find the _____ of life! Even while Paul was in prison, he found _____ to rejoice in the Lord! In Christ, we find the secret of contentment. Philippians 4:8-9 says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, _____ about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of _____ will be with you."

In Christ, we have a sure _____ and a sure promise. Paul said, "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For _____ the promises of God find their Yes in him. That's why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory" (2 Corinthians 1:19-20). God doesn't tease or take back what He promises. You can count on God to _____ His Word!

In Christ, you can count on God to love you. Even in the hardest of times; in Christ, we never leave the love of God. The early church went through terrible persecution, and many lost their lives. **Read what Paul asked in Romans 8:35-39.** God's love does not _____ regardless of what happens to us on earth. In Christ, we have God's love ever with us.

In Christ, we have God's forgiveness. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In Him we have redemption through his _____, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." We should never think of our forgiveness as _____. It cost God His Son Jesus; and it cost Jesus a painful death on the cross. Jesus shed His blood for our _____ so that we could be forgiven. Paul reminds us of what we were _____ Christ and what we are in Christ. Paul told the Gentiles, "remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no _____ and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought _____ by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:12-13). Because of the cross, we could be _____ from sin. Because of the cross, we can come close to God. Ephesians 2:19 describes what forgiveness through the blood of Christ does. "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are now fellow citizens with the saints and _____ of the household of God." Paul explains, "For our sake he made Him" (Christ), "to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him" (Christ), "we might _____ the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The blood of Jesus has delivered us and brought us into the _____ of God. "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and _____ us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). When we're in Christ, we're in the _____, the kingdom of God. When we're in Christ, we're no longer following darkness and sin, but we're following righteousness.

Sin brings spiritual death and separation from God, but Christ brings redemption and _____. Ephesians 2:4-7 says, “But God, being _____ in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were _____ in our trespasses, made us _____ together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Being in Christ means I’m saved by grace; it means I’m raised up with Christ and I’ll live with Him in _____. In Christ, I’ll enjoy all the immeasurable riches of God’s grace and kindness in the ages to come! I tell you that promise alone makes me want to _____ Christ all my life!

In Christ, God doesn’t look at you like He once did. He doesn’t see the _____ person who was lost in sin and had no hope. God now sees the _____ person who has been forgiven and transformed into the likeness of Christ. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation. The old has passed away; behold, _____ things have become new.” In Christ, I’m no longer what I used to be. God has caused me to be _____ with a new kind of life. Romans 6:4 says, “We were buried therefore with Him by _____ into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in _____ of life.” In Christ, we don’t think or act as we did before that time when we became Christians.

In Christ, we have presented ourselves to the Lord as _____ of righteousness. We have stopped the _____ and started living holy and loving lives. Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for _____ works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should _____ in them.” Instead of living selfish lives, we now give of ourselves to the service of _____ and to the blessing of _____. We’ve been created in Christ for good works.

Read what the apostle Paul explains in Ephesians 4:17-24.

As Christians, we’re not perfect, but as time passes we _____ to put away the old sinful habits and to start new and godly habits. We’ve left the old ways to be _____ Christ. “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are _____ one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest _____ with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting _____ come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:25-29). The new man can no longer think, talk, or act like he once did. He is indeed a new creature!

The new Christian must also _____ other people differently than he once did. He can no longer let his selfish _____ get in the way of loving others. Ephesians 4:31-32 says, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be _____ to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ

forgave you.” Because God has forgiven us, Christians forgive one another, love their enemies, and show compassion. To practice forgiveness is no small matter in Christ. One of the real differences between Christianity and many other religions is the ability to _____. The inability to forgive has caused multiple wars and acts of violence, even in today’s world.

For this and many other reasons, Paul could say, “But whatever _____ I had, I counted as _____ for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may _____ Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (Philippians 3:7-9). Oh, this is why being in Christ matters!

Are you in Christ, or on the outside? Will God’s favor and love be yours because you _____ to Him? The Lord Jesus said, “Strive to enter through the _____ door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But He’ll say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’” (Luke 13:24-27). Some will _____ living with God forever, because they didn’t believe in Christ, or they wouldn’t repent of their sins, or they wouldn’t obey God’s instructions found in the Bible. My friend, don’t be shut out; come to the Lord!

Even though the church in Laodicea was lukewarm and so distasteful that Jesus wanted to spit it out of His mouth, He still _____ the people. He urged them to _____ and said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. And if anyone _____ my voice and _____ the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Even when we shut God out, He’s knocking on our door, wanting back in our lives, and wanting to have a _____ relationship with us. God wants us to be with Him forever.

May I ask, “Do you have a _____, loving relationship with God? Are you _____ with God?” The only way to God is _____ Christ Jesus, our Lord. So if you wish to be right with God, you must be “in” Christ! You must be asking how can we get into Christ. The Scriptures give us the _____. Some folks will tell you that we _____ into Christ; and others will say we _____ a little prayer into Christ; but the Bible doesn’t teach these things.

God has told us how we get into Christ. Romans 6:3 says, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His _____?” Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through _____. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have _____ Christ.” We come into Christ when by faith and repentance we’re baptized into Christ. We put on Christ and become God’s child in baptism, and not before and not until!