



The Message Preached
1 Corinthians 1:21-25

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

What do you think about the _____ and its message? Do you know of its _____? Today, we will examine the treasures found in God's Word! You might think the Bible is old, or boring, or confusing, or even irrelevant; but have you taken the time to _____ it for yourself? The Bible actually contains some treasures that you _____. It may be old, but it's stood the _____ of time. You might think it boring, but a closer reading and a knowledge of its background will _____ you how exciting and interesting it can be. You might think it confusing. Of all the books you'll ever read, _____ are as relevant as God's Word. Your circumstances of life are not so unique that the Scriptures cannot guide you and help you through your _____.

Some people look at the Bible and look at preaching negatively. They regard the Bible and preaching as something that makes them feel _____ about themselves. Some act as if preaching were something dreadful and punishing. But the message preached is actually your greatest treasure and _____. Nothing will bless your life more than the knowledge of the gospel found in your Bible. The Bible is your treasure!

Paul said, "Now I make known to you, brethren, the _____ which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:1-2). The message preached and welcomed was the _____ of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is good news, because it gives us the information that we need to have the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

Our reading today comes from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 21 to 25. God is wise and strong. We need to _____ to Him.

Whether we realize it or not, _____ makes people feel badly about themselves. Nothing will make you feel small and worthless in your own _____ more than sinful behavior. God made us with a conscience, that moral _____ inside of us, that constantly evaluates what we do. Even people who know little of Scripture have a _____ sense of right and wrong.

Read how Paul described people who didn't know much about God in Romans 2:14-16.

Our conscience works every _____ telling us about what we did or we didn't do. It accuses and rebukes us when we do something _____ and excuses us when we do something _____. The conscience makes us like the judge, the defendant, and the witness all in one. The witness always knows the _____ about what we did or didn't do. When it condemns us, we know that we're _____. We can _____ the truth from other people,

but our conscience knows what we did. That guilt causes us to be _____ of ourselves. Our behavior determines our guilt, but shame comes from our disappointment with ourselves. A person who's never forgiven himself feels shame in his _____ every day.

We must all live with the nagging _____ of our sins, and the Scriptures teach us what is right and wrong. We may reject the Scriptures, ignore the Scriptures, or deny what the Scriptures teach; but that doesn't _____ what they say or relieve our consciences. Inside, we know the truth about ourselves. Nothing will make you feel small and worthless in your own eyes more than _____ behavior. Nothing will make you feel _____ about yourself than doing the right thing!

David committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged for the death of her husband, Uriah. **Read how he cried out to God in Psalm 51:1-3, and how he accepted responsibility for his sins and asked God's forgiveness in Psalm 51:7-12.** David understood that he would never feel _____ about himself until he restored a _____ relationship with God. Neither will we!

Unlike David, some people seek to find every way possible to _____ their sins rather than face them and deal with them. Some run off to a far _____ like the prodigal son. Some hide in the _____ like Adam and Eve. Some _____ others for their faults. Some blame culture, or their parents, or the media, or the internet, or a teacher, or their DNA, or some other thing for their own _____ in life. Many think that if they _____ God and the Scriptures that they all of a sudden are free thinkers, but they're only fooling themselves. When someone rejects God and rejects His morality because he wants to continue his sinful behavior, what he does is he _____ himself to sin. The answer to the _____ of sin is not more sin. You can't drink or drug your way out of a guilty conscience. You can't destroy God's Word or vote God out of _____ the universe. You can't change God's _____ in the Word. Remember, God has the last say at judgment. Psalm 119:160 says, "The sum of your word," speaking of God's Word, "is truth, and every one of God's righteous rules endures _____."

The book of Hebrews _____ people not to drift away from God or the Scriptures. **Read Hebrews 2:1-3.** God didn't give you the Scriptures to suppress you, or manipulate you, or discourage you, or to enslave you. God gave you the Scriptures to _____ you from injuring yourself with sin and _____ you a better way of life. God wants the best for you! He's your friend, so listen to Him please!

Many Christians have wandered away from the _____ of God and have ended up with hardened hearts. Hebrews 3:12-13 warns, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to _____ away from the living God. But _____ one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Don't let your sins deceive you into thinking that you don't _____ God. When you reject God, you _____ everything that you hold dear.

We need God's love, God's grace, and God's wisdom to _____ abundant and prosperous lives. The Bible itself is a treasure _____ beyond anything this world can provide. It contains for us great wisdom. **Read Proverbs 3:13-18.** David calls the Scriptures "sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:10).

God's way is the way of hope, of forgiveness, and of _____ over. You might look at yourself and because of your _____ despise what you see, but there's hope for you. There's a way to _____ the past and start fresh. You can be born again! Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Rather than looking at Christ and the Scriptures as putting you down, see them as the way to a better life, _____ from guilt and shame.

You can _____ your life and your relationship with God. You don't have to be stuck in sin, stuck in guilt, or stuck in being ashamed of yourself. God can help you _____ above your past to something far better and nobler. You can start looking at yourself not as a sinner but as a _____ of God. Please don't fall for the devil's _____ that you cannot change your life. Don't fall for the lie that God will accept you whether you _____ or not. He won't! God expects us to _____ our sins and to live in righteousness. Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Many fail to realize that they have sinned or what the consequences of their sins _____. A large number of Americans fail to _____ their Bible and they fail to go to _____. Recently I learned of a couple who was simply living together without _____. They didn't realize that what they were doing was _____. I also recently learned of a person who supported herself by prostitution, and she didn't know what she was doing was wrong; no one had ever _____ her better. Nearly 40 percent of Americans have grown up without any spiritual _____ at all. My friend, when you break one of God's laws, you not only sin against God, you endanger your own _____. You sin against yourself.

Isaiah 59:2 says, "your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have _____ His face from you so that He does not hear." Sin breaks your relationship with God and leaves you without _____. Paul described what sin does.

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What a terrible condition!

The Lord Jesus came to deliver us from the _____ in our world and to transform our lives into godly people. Titus 2:11-14 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing _____ for all people," that includes you and me, "training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed _____, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good _____."

We can be born again; we can leave the _____ man of sin behind and we can start a _____ life. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). You can have a new life if you are willing to believe in Jesus Christ, turn from sin, and _____ the truth in baptism. Romans 6:4 says, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” The apostle Peter wrote, “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:22-23). When we obey the Word of God, the Bible, God purifies our souls and causes us to be born again through an imperishable seed. We must listen to the Word of God and obey it.

Wouldn't you like to have _____, to start each day knowing that you have a right relationship with the Lord Jesus? God is not _____ you. He wants you to _____ by being born again to a newness of life, a life better than you've ever known. God wants to _____ you; He wants to _____ you from sin and give you eternal life, hope, peace of mind, and joy. If you ignore or reject Him, just think about what you're _____. You only have one life. Don't _____ your opportunity to be right with God.

Our time on earth is brief, so don't waste your life. Don't imagine that you'll get right with God one day. Remember the _____ virgins who failed to have oil for their lamps in Matthew 25. When the bridegroom arrived with the wedding party, they had gone in to town to buy oil and they _____ the homecoming. So he closed the door and rejected them. The foolish virgins had good intentions, but didn't _____ for His coming. To suggest that the Lord will forgive us anyway, even if we're not prepared, is also foolish.

The Scriptures show people were so excited and ready to _____ the Lord in repentance and baptism that they didn't _____ their obedience in the least. Three thousand gladly received Peter's message; they repented, and were baptized on the day of Pentecost according to Acts 2:38-41. They didn't wait! Acts 8:12 says, “But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the _____ of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” They didn't wait! When the Eunuch saw water in Acts 8, he asked what _____ him from being baptized. He didn't wait! Paul baptized the Philippian jailer at _____! He and his family didn't wait! Ananias urged Saul of Tarsus in Acts 22:16 not to delay but to rise and be baptized and wash away his sins.

Why did they all do this? They didn't want to spend even _____ day without the grace of God. They acted with _____, because getting right with God is an urgent matter! Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and confess Him as the Son of God; repent of your sins and decide you're going to _____ Jesus; and be baptized into Christ, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. When you do God's will, God will cleanse you with the _____ of Jesus and add you to His family. You won't regret doing the right thing!