

July 16, 2017

**Because of Jesus  
Colossians 1:13-18**

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

Where would we be? Where would we be \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus? Today, let's look at the important \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus has in our lives! The Scriptures are how God \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to us today; and for this reason, we take time to examine them closely. We want to know everything that we can about the God who created us, sustains us, loves us, and desires to \_\_\_\_\_ us eternally. Our life, our identity, and our future are wholly \_\_\_\_\_ upon God. Every breath that we take, every drop of water you drink, and every bite of food that we eat comes from what He \_\_\_\_\_. Every \_\_\_\_\_ of life comes from God. Of course, we want to know all that we can about Him.

One can only imagine how \_\_\_\_\_ life would be without Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, the Lord, the Messiah, the Christ, the light of the world, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Alpha and Omega, the Holy One, the Son of Man, the Word, the Savior, the Advocate, the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God, the Great High Priest, the I AM, the Shepherd and Guardian of your Souls, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. No person who ever lived is like Jesus; no blood but His blood can \_\_\_\_\_ us from sin; no words but His Words will \_\_\_\_\_ us on the last day; no power but His power can \_\_\_\_\_ us up on the last day; and no way but His way can \_\_\_\_\_ us to the Father in heaven. You may meet some impressive people, but no one \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is love; He is wisdom; He is kindness; and He is truth!

**Our scripture reading today comes from Paul's Letter to the Colossians 1:13-18.**

Does it \_\_\_\_\_ to you whether Jesus came into the world? Should it matter? My answer is yes; it must matter for many \_\_\_\_\_. First, because of Jesus, I know something about \_\_\_\_\_. **Read about the birth of Jesus in Matthew 1:18-23.**

Jesus is indeed "God with us." We can know what God is like by looking at Jesus, His Son. John 1:14-15 says about Jesus, "And the Word became \_\_\_\_\_, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." Someone once asked a preacher \_\_\_\_\_ John called Jesus Christ "the Word." It seemed a \_\_\_\_\_ description to him. The preacher answered, "Words are the means that permit us to communicate with others; John used it to show that Jesus Christ is the only \_\_\_\_\_ whereby God chose to communicate with man." Jesus Christ, then, is God's \_\_\_\_\_ or God's discourse to man. John wrote, "No one has ever \_\_\_\_\_ God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." The New American Standard says,

“He has explained Him” (John 1:18). Jesus explains to us the character and the nature of God.

The Lord Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him” (John 14:6-7). Because God sent Jesus into this world, we can know the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father; we have life in His name, and we can know the \_\_\_\_\_ about God. Jesus is how the Father \_\_\_\_\_ to us today. Hebrews 1:1-3 says, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has \_\_\_\_\_ to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the power of His word.”

Second, because of Jesus, I know what \_\_\_\_\_ truly is all about. First John 4:7-10 says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been \_\_\_\_\_ of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not \_\_\_\_\_ God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God \_\_\_\_\_ his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” The Father’s willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ His Son, Jesus, and the Lord Jesus’ willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ the cross for our sins reveals the love of God in clear and touching ways. No one has ever loved you like Jesus loves you or died for your sins as Jesus did. No one else could!

The love of Jesus is far \_\_\_\_\_ than just being our atoning sacrifice. Jesus understands us and allows us to approach Him with confidence, even in times of \_\_\_\_\_. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been \_\_\_\_\_ as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the \_\_\_\_\_ of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Not only can we approach the Lord Jesus, our high priest, we can find grace to \_\_\_\_\_ you and me in dealing with our temptations. Jesus is doing everything He can to \_\_\_\_\_ us. He wants us in \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.

Jesus predicted that Peter would \_\_\_\_\_ Him three times before the rooster crowed, and Peter did indeed deny the Lord. But, I want you to see what the Lord said to Peter, even \_\_\_\_\_ that Peter would deny him. Luke 22:31-32 says, “Simon, Simon, (that’s, Peter) behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I (Jesus) have \_\_\_\_\_ for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Have you considered that even when you \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord Jesus is praying for you? He loves you.

Third, because of Jesus, I can have my \_\_\_\_\_ erased. I can be clean and justified by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist “saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who \_\_\_\_\_ the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29). Jesus sacrificed His body on the cross so that we might be \_\_\_\_\_ from our sins. The

passage we read, Colossians 1:13-14, says God “has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus’ blood, not silver or gold and not some kind of precious metal, is what redeemed us from sin. Because Jesus suffered, and shed His blood, we don’t have to \_\_\_\_\_ the consequences of our sin.

The Lord Jesus gave you and me a second chance; He erased all the \_\_\_\_\_ of our past; and He allowed us to start over as a new person, born again. All this took place when we were \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ; when we were buried with Him, raised with Him, and received the \_\_\_\_\_ of life. What a blessing! When I was baptized into Christ, I \_\_\_\_\_ Christ according to Galatians 3:26-27. From that time forward the Lord regarded me as a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Jesus cares about everybody, even people that are \_\_\_\_\_ to love. He went to the house of the tax collector Zacchaeus, who may have been the most \_\_\_\_\_ man in Jericho. He talked to the woman at the well who had been married five times and was living with a man. He saved Saul of Tarsus, who was the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners. He did this to show His perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to those who have sinned against Him. Saul of Tarsus \_\_\_\_\_ the apostle Paul. He said, “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received \_\_\_\_\_ for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an \_\_\_\_\_ to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life” (1 Timothy 1:15-16). Jesus is the champion of grace and He’s also the champion of opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_.

Once we become Christians, the Lord Jesus doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ us. He is with us every \_\_\_\_\_ of our Christian lives. First John 1:7 says, “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” The blood of Jesus is continually cleansing the Christian who \_\_\_\_\_ in the light. Nobody can be perfectly sinless, but walking in the light means that we \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, and we’re forsaking our sins. First John 1:9 says, “If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Jesus doesn’t save us and then \_\_\_\_\_ us. Hebrews 7:25 says, “Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who \_\_\_\_\_ to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” Jesus does indeed intercede for you and me as we draw near to God in \_\_\_\_\_ and in love.

Fourth, because of Jesus, we can \_\_\_\_\_ forever as an heir of God. Some people sadly imagine that there is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ this life on earth. Some even say that there is no resurrection. Paul told the elders of the church at Ephesus, “And now I commend you to God and to the \_\_\_\_\_ of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). Those who are cleansed by the blood of Christ do indeed have an inheritance in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Read how Peter explains our inheritance in 1 Peter 1:3-5.** According to God's great \_\_\_\_\_, our inheritance is kept in heaven for us, reserved for us. God is getting us ready for heaven and getting a \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven ready for us. We have a salvation ready to be \_\_\_\_\_ at the last time.

Paul speaks of this \_\_\_\_\_ from perishable to imperishable when Jesus returns to the earth at the second coming. **Read what he said in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54.** Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ His people from the dead, change their perishable bodies into imperishable ones, and take them home to heaven. Christ conquered \_\_\_\_\_, and we can also through His power. To live in heaven our bodies must be \_\_\_\_\_, and Christ prepares us for eternal life!

At the end of his life, Paul could say with confidence, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good \_\_\_\_\_, I have finished the \_\_\_\_\_, I have kept the \_\_\_\_\_. Henceforth there is laid up for me the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Christ will not merely give us a home with Him, but will \_\_\_\_\_ to us a crown of righteousness and a crown of life. I look to the day God says, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; \_\_\_\_\_ into the joy of your master." My friend, what will He say to you? Will He say well done? When this life is over, the faithful will spend \_\_\_\_\_ with God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven will be a \_\_\_\_\_ of joy and peace. Second Corinthians 5:1 says, "For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavens." That speaks of the new, glorified \_\_\_\_\_ that we'll enjoy in a place that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Because of Jesus, we can live forever in heaven. Philippians 3:20-21 says, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will \_\_\_\_\_ our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."

Sadly, some will \_\_\_\_\_ heaven because they reject or ignore the Lord Jesus. Because they didn't \_\_\_\_\_ Him or His Words, they won't enjoy His promises. When you ignore or reject the Lord, the Lord responds to your decision; and you will \_\_\_\_\_ eternal consequences. You cannot ignore or reject Him in this life and \_\_\_\_\_ His grace and blessing in the life to come. Hebrews 10:26-27 says, "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a \_\_\_\_\_ for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."

Why not rather place your faith in the Lord Jesus and obey Him by repenting of your sins, by confessing Him as the Son of God, and by being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? Because of Jesus, you have hope and promise. Don't miss out on all the blessings and joy that the Lord Jesus has prepared for you in heaven.