

God's Enduring Word 2 Timothy 3:12-17

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

The Bible is an ancient book, but its _____ is relevant and authoritative today. Today, we're going to look at the _____ of God's Word. We want to know what God desires for us and _____ of us. We don't want to be deceived by popular opinions or follow the broad _____ to destruction. We want to know the Lord Jesus and to enjoy the promises that He makes to those who follow Him. God is good, and we want to _____ Him. The Bible _____ us how to be like Him and the things that we must avoid.

Though the Bible is an ancient book, it contains God's _____ message for us. We cannot afford to _____ it. The New Testament _____ what God has done for us and contains the commands that God requires of us. The grace of God is a wondrous blessing, but God's grace challenges us to _____ to righteousness. Titus 2:11-12 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age." Grace doesn't excuse us from responsibility; it obligates us to change our hearts and be God's people!

The more that we know about God's goodness and love, the more we _____ we were like Him. The more we count our blessings, the more we want to _____ Him for what He has done. This appreciation of God's goodness _____ us to repent, to change our lives. We can't stand in the shadow of the _____ and still love sin and error. The cross leads us to _____ the Lord and the truth that He teaches. We can know the Lord by _____ His teaching, His Word, the Bible. That's the _____ to loving Him.

Our scripture reading today comes from 2 Timothy 3:12-17.

Let's have a heart to heart talk today and think about how we _____ the Bible. The Word of God is your key to understanding the _____ of God. Because it is the inspired Word of God, you can _____ it to tell you the truth. Sometimes the truth hurts; but I'd rather hear the truth that stings for a moment than listen to a lie that causes me suffering for _____. I'd rather _____ my thinking in this life than to find I was deceived in the life to come.

What I think of the Bible reveals what I _____ of the God of the Bible, who created me and to Whom I am accountable. When people _____ the Bible as an irrelevant book, they're dismissing the Lord Jesus also. I hear some say they want Jesus but they do not want the Bible. The Lord Jesus said, "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my _____, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

Perhaps one reason that people don't want to look into the Scriptures is that they see

themselves as they are morally and spiritually. They may not _____ what they see. **Read what James urged in James 1:21-25.**

When people both hear and do the will of God, they find the _____ that God intended. The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed ... are those who _____ the word of God and _____ it!” (Luke 11:28). They are the _____ ones who build their houses on the rock and stand in times of testing according to Matthew 7:24-25. The Lord Jesus _____ of them. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, “Although He was a son, (speaking of Jesus) He learned _____ through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who _____ Him.” When you obey His Words, you’re obeying Him!

Occasionally I hear _____ against the Bible that are unfounded. First, speaking of the New Testament, some say, “God didn’t give us a book of _____.” Really? I realize the New Testament is not primarily a book of commandments, but it _____ does have laws and commands! **Read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.**

Paul always considered himself _____ the law of Christ. He said, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so _____ the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Paul is not alone. James 1:25 says, “But the one who looks into the _____ law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who _____, he will be blessed in his doing.” Yes, the New Testament is a law; but it’s a perfect law of liberty. Jesus said, “If you _____ in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you _____” (John 8:31-32). God’s Word sets us free from sin, free from the consequences of sin, and free to _____ righteous lives. That is a blessing! It is a law of liberty.

We call Jesus “Lord.” How can He be Lord and yet have _____ commandments? How can He _____ if there are no rules? Some say the Bible is just merely a _____, but it is much, much more. Let’s consider the imperatives in the New Testament; one student found more than _____ imperatives. An imperative is a _____. Some commands are _____, telling us to behave in a certain way; while others are _____, instructing us to avoid or to stop a certain practice. These imperatives _____ as laws or commands. They aren’t _____; they are God’s requirements. Obviously, we must consider the _____ and the ones to whom the command was given; but this doesn’t mean that God spoke them needlessly. They matter to God and should matter to us!

The New Testament distinguishes the way people live _____ of Christ and the way they should live _____ of Christ. People who know and practice the way of Christ enjoy the _____ of Christ. **Read Ephesians 4:17-24.** This passage in Ephesians is still true today. Truth is still in Jesus! If we want true righteousness and true holiness, if we want to rise above darkness, and if we want the words of eternal life, we must _____ to Jesus.

Second, some say the New Testament instructions went out of _____ with the passage of time. They were once binding, but times have _____ and they aren’t binding now. I call this the “_____ argument.” Christ once spoke against a moral or religious practice in the

minds in an ancient culture; but since we live in a different culture, His teaching no longer _____ to us today. That's the "cultural argument" that people hear. This argument simply isn't _____. What God called immoral in the first century is _____ immoral today. The practices God demanded or forbade in the _____ century, He still does. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly _____ in the heavens." God's Word doesn't change with the passing of time. The Lord Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my _____ will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

First Peter 1:23-25 says, "you have been born again, not of perishable _____ but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains _____.' And this word is the _____ _____ that was preached to you." God's Word cannot perish and it cannot change!

The Lord Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to _____ all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus commissioned His followers to _____ the one true gospel to every person in every culture, in every nation, and in every age.

God calls everyone to _____. No one can ignore this call. "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). Peter assures us, "The Lord is not _____ to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

No generation can exempt itself from accountability to the Lord. No generation can tell _____ to just hush and to leave us alone. When generations in the past abandoned God's way to follow their own ways, they found that course led to their _____. The history of Israel reveals that _____ opinions cannot turn sin into righteousness. When Israel despised God's statutes, and they embraced idolatry to be _____ nations that surrounded them, they found out that they couldn't dismiss God so easily. God judged them (2 Kings 17:14-18).

We must realize that Jesus Christ is Lord of _____. God gave Him _____ authority over every nation and every culture in every age. The Father has given all things into the hands of the Son (John 3:35). Hebrews 4:13 says, "And no creature is _____ from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

At the end of time, all nations will gather before the judgment seat of Christ. "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will _____ people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:31-32). Those who _____

Him will enjoy eternal life, and those who ignore Him will face eternal punishment (verse 46).

Revelation 20:12-13 explains even more about the Judgment, “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.” Jesus will judge us by the things written in the books, not by _____. What was _____ in the first century will judge us! The universal character of the cross, the gospel, repentance, the church, and the judgment permeate Scripture. Jesus is the Lord of _____ flesh (John 17:3); He reigns over every person in every culture in every age; and there is no _____. You can now see that the passage of time does not _____ God’s Words. What was true in the first century is still true _____. What God required of the church in the first century, He requires of us today.

Someone said that facts are stubborn things; they are true whether people _____ them or not. Whether a culture accepts or rejects Jesus as Lord doesn’t change the _____ that He is our creator and will judge all people in every age and everywhere. Belief or disbelief doesn’t establish a fact and it doesn’t _____ the truth. Fact is fact regardless of cultural perception.

Since Jesus is your Creator and the One who will _____ you by His Words on the last day, shouldn’t you give serious thought to what He says? If He has the words of _____ life, shouldn’t you give serious thought to what He says? If Jesus sacrificed His _____ on the cross to bring you forgiveness of sins, shouldn’t you give serious thought to what He says?

I hear people say, “I don’t like _____.” Doctrine is merely _____; it’s God telling us what’s right and true. We all _____ teaching to know what is true and how to live. Others say, “Phil, don’t you know that doctrine is _____?” Is it really? You know it’s not God’s teaching that divides; it’s the spirit of wanting something _____ than God’s teaching that causes confusion and conflict. Division comes from people wanting to _____ to God’s teaching or to _____ from God’s teaching. Division comes when people _____ more to worldly cultures than to God Himself. They listen to _____ traditions rather than to God’s Word. When people follow their desires or some human idea rather than listen to God’s instructions, they follow that _____ path that leads to destruction. You cannot draw _____ to God if you count other voices as more important than His voice. This is why we urge you to listen to the _____ of God in every matter.

This is why we go to the New Testament itself for what we _____. We know faith, love, repentance, confessing Christ, and baptism are essential to _____. We know baptism is an immersion in water for the _____ of sins. So, we cannot follow the changes the religious world allows; so, we don’t sprinkle infants who neither believe nor are in sin. The grace of God leads us to follow the Scriptures without adding or subtracting anything. My friend, do you follow the Lord?