



IN
SEARCH
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*Program
Study Guides*

**For
August 2015**

Life in Christ Colossians 3:1-4

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

What does it mean to be _____? Today we're going to _____ what it means to be alive in Christ, to truly live. God's Word is _____ in wisdom and truth. It provides the guidance and promises that we need to have _____ life. God's Word _____ us to faith, hope, and love. That is why we turn to this great resource; it has no _____.

John Lennon in his song, "Imagine," asked us to imagine there's _____ heaven or hell, and he painted a picture of people living only for _____ and not having any accountability to a higher power. That was Lennon's fantasy, but it's _____ a fantasy. Our physical lives in this world are not all that there is to life; we're _____ than flesh and blood. We have a _____ that will live long after our bodies are buried in the grave. Real life also has to take the soul, the spirit, into account.

In a time of _____, the Lord Jesus knew that He was more than just a body that has physical needs. The tempter challenged Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of _____." But the Lord Jesus answered the tempter, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). We are God's creatures: body, soul, and spirit. We are made in His _____. "And in Him we _____ and _____ and have our very being" (Acts 17:28). Let's not fool ourselves. We cannot live without responsibility or accountability to the God who _____ us life. We must listen to _____ word that comes from the mouth of God. Only in Jesus Christ can we have _____ life.

Our reading today comes from Paul's Epistle to the Colossians 3:1-4.

We only have one life, so we must not _____ it with the things that do not matter and will not last. Many people invest their lives in the here and now, never giving a thought to the _____. Moses wrote, "So teach us to _____ our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). We must be _____. Wisdom to God means taking God's teaching into our hearts and lives so that we never _____ from His Word.

A man once came to Jesus and said, "'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' Jesus warned the man, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not _____ in the abundance of his possessions'" (Luke 12:15). Life is not about possessing; it's about _____ and _____ others. When our hearts grow selfish and our desires take _____, we may be cutting ourselves off from the true life. When we

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take our eyes off of God and turn to fleshly pleasure, we _____ ourselves from God. God said, “but she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is _____ even while she lives” (1 Timothy 5:6). She may be physically alive, but she is spiritually dead. She has no _____ with God. The difference between being _____ in sin and being _____ in Christ is astounding! So let’s explore today what it _____ to have a life in Christ.

First, in Christ we have a _____ life. Have you ever had the _____ to start over again fresh? Sin _____ our hearts and defiles our consciences. Past _____ haunt us and shame us. How we wish that we could start over! **Read the conversation of Jesus with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, in John 3:1-8.** Why would we _____ to be born again? We need a new birth because _____ has caused us to die spiritually. First Peter 2:24 says that the Lord Jesus “bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” We needed saving and we needed healing. The only way this can happen is if we die to the _____ man and we’re born again to a _____ and different kind of life.

Conversion to Christ is a transforming experience that _____ us away from the sin that destroys us to a life that is _____ from sin. When by faith and in repentance we _____ ourselves with Christ in baptism, God transforms our lives. **Read Romans 6:3-7.**

The Lord set us _____ from sin and its enslavement so that we could live a life filled with _____ things. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** God doesn’t _____ us where He _____ us but transforms us into people who love to do what is good and what blesses everyone. That is the new life!

Second, in Christ we have an _____ life. Jesus said, “I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). The word “abundant” refers to that which is plentiful, to the point of _____ every need and more. **Read what Jesus promised in Luke 6:38.** When we give ourselves to live for Christ, we get _____ in return than we can imagine.

In Christ we have _____. To trust in One who loves you and has been a constant _____ in your life isn’t something to be taken lightly. Nobody _____ you like Jesus. No one has died upon the _____ to give you a new life but Jesus. For this reason you can _____ Him as no other. Paul said “I have been crucified with Christ. And it’s no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). When Christ lives within you by faith, you’ll _____ by faith and not by sight,; you’ll think and act as the Lord wills. This will _____ everyone.

The hope that we _____ because of our life in Christ is more than abundant. To know that we have a _____ in heaven, to know that He has _____ for us daily, and to know that we have our heavenly Father to _____ us, gives us an assurance that cannot be measured. To know that His ears are always open to our _____ and that He wants to hear us gives us strength when we're weary, comfort in our sorrow, and a reminder that He truly _____ us.

In Christ, we have _____ of our past sins. We all live with the _____ of our past. Though some don't want to admit that there is such a thing as sin, our consciences bear _____ to it. No matter who we are or what we've been taught, the _____ of guilt touches every life. The only true answer to that guilt is found in the _____ of Jesus Christ; and His blood can _____ away that painful sin and _____ the conscience. God's forgiveness opens the _____ for us to see ourselves in a new light. We can see the old man of sin _____, while that new man can _____ in righteousness. We don't have to be trapped in sin. The Lord Jesus promised, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). When we are free from sin, we're also able to be free from the _____ and the _____ that go with it. God forgives us so that we can _____ our old lives of sin.

We can never see God's love displayed more strongly than on the cross, and yet we shouldn't think that God's love _____ at the cross. Romans 8:32 says, "He who did not _____ His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely _____ us all things?" God's love _____ us in every aspect of our lives, and He does it every _____. He is our Father, concerned about _____ detail of our lives. When we _____, we can turn to Him. When we are _____, we can turn to Him for strength. When life is filled with _____, we can take our worries to the Lord. First Peter 5:7 says, "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He _____ for you." He truly cares about every aspect of our lives. God's love is _____.

Because we can cast our anxieties on Him, we have _____ peace of heart and mind. It's this kind of relationship that causes us to have confidence in God's _____ that He's with us and near us every single minute of our lives. **Read Philippians 4:4-7.** We can truly have the peace that passes all understanding because our God is _____ us when we most need Him.

All of these spiritual blessings in Christ bring us an incredible _____. There is joy in forgiveness; there is joy in peace; there is joy in love, joy in hope, and joy in God's abiding care. Being a Christian provides us with the greatest _____. Nothing else _____. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 13:44-46.** Being in God's family, the church, being a child of God, is just such _____, just such a pearl of great price. This treasure outshines them all because it has no _____ and no _____. It's the complete treasure of a relationship with God who loves us beyond all that we can _____.

Third, in Christ, we have _____ life. The word “eternal” means that it has no _____. The Lord Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they _____ you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3). Eternal life is not merely endless; it’s a life _____ with the love and the fellowship of God. Psalm 16:11 promises, “You will make known to me the path of life; And in Your presence is the fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” It is God Himself that makes _____ so sweet and so beautiful! **When** someone says imagine there’s no heaven, I ask why? Because we have a life in Christ, heaven is our _____; heaven is our _____, and heaven is our _____! I don’t want one minute of my life here on earth to be _____ the love of God. Why would I _____ my life in Christ and the hope of heaven for anything? I can’t imagine doing that.

Because of Christ, I can have _____ in my eternal salvation. **Read 1 John 5:11-13.** We have God’s written _____ in Scripture to give us assurance. So why does this matter? It matters because you matter; it matters because your _____ matters. You are deciding in this life _____ you will spend eternity. Spend it with God, that’s the only right _____ to make.

Take a look at the life that you’re _____ living, the words you speak, the choices you make, and your behavior. Some of you are living _____ the Lord and _____ Him with all your heart. Some are living with a _____-_____ devotion with one hand grabbing at the world and the other hand holding to the Lord. Millions haven’t been to _____ in years except for weddings and funerals. Some who used to call themselves Christians are now saying they have no _____, and many have never even known a life in Christ. Are you _____ spiritually, while you _____ physically? If you have no life in Christ, you’re _____ on new life, abundant life, and eternal life, and the only life that can get you to heaven. You’re _____ yourself out of a wonderful, loving relationship with the God who made you and gave you life and breath and all things. Why?

How are you _____ God? If having a close loving relationship with God is eternal life, how are you getting along with God? **Read Hebrews 6:7-8** that was written to some Christians whose hearts had grown _____. How we treat God today is like that land, and it’s going to lead to how we will end up in _____. Please, please, don’t lose your soul! God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

To become a Christian, place your _____ in the Lord Jesus and in the gospel, turn from sin in _____, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be _____ into Christ. When you’re baptized in water, you’re baptized into His death; and His blood will cleanse you from sin and will give you that newness of life (as we noted in Romans 6:3-4). If you’ve fallen away from the cross, come home to the Lord and come home to His church.

God the Father

Titus 3:3-7

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

When someone _____ of God, is He a mystery to you? Today we're going to see how God has _____ Himself to man. Second Peter 1:20-21 says, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's _____ interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of _____ will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." The men who penned the words of the Bible didn't make up what they wrote, but they spoke from _____. Because the Holy Spirit moved them to write, their words are utterly _____. The Bible is holy because _____ is holy.

Though most people in America _____ in God, many have serious _____ about Him and many misunderstand Him. Americans view God in four ways. Some believe in an "authoritative God" who _____ people and is engaged in their lives. A second group believes in a "benevolent God," who is thoroughly involved in their lives, but is _____, not stern. A third group thought that God was a "critical God" who is _____ from daily events, but will render judgment in the afterlife. The fourth group said that He's a "distant God" who _____ the universe in motion, but then disengaged."

Surveying people only tells us what people _____. Surveys only show disagreements, and a majority opinion isn't a guarantee of the _____. We believe it's better to survey the _____ of God to discover what God says about Himself. Romans 3:4 says, "Let God be _____ though every one were a _____." Humans are often misinformed and easily deceived, but what God says _____ true. If you want to find the truth about God, _____ to God Himself! He will _____ lie or deceive you.

Our scripture reading comes from Psalm 103:1-5, a Psalm of David.

How does God _____ about Himself? First, God, the Father is a _____, not a force or some disengaged power. The gods of the ancient times were _____ by human hands of wood or stone. These idols were formed the way people _____. They couldn't _____, _____, _____, or answer prayers. In contrast, the Thessalonians "turned to God from idols to serve a _____ and _____ God" (1 Thessalonians 1:9). Paul said, "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature (that is, the Godhead), is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of _____" (Acts 17:29).

Instead, the God of the Bible who _____ us sees everything good and bad. He _____ our prayers; He provides for our _____; He protects us in times of trouble, and forgives our _____. Jesus invites us to _____ to our heavenly Father. **Read Matthew 7:9-11.** God the Father is a person who rejoices when we _____ and grieves when we _____.

Second, the God of the Bible is utterly unique, and there is no one and nothing else _____ Him in all the universe (Exodus 15:11). The many _____ of the Greeks and Romans were petty, uncaring, harsh, selfish, sinful, vengeful, and limited in power. They were also _____ by men. In contrast, the God of _____ is merciful, compassionate, comforting, loving, and perfect. He calls us to _____ holy and righteous lives, to be _____ and good to others, and to _____ Him as He loves us. The Lord Jesus reminds us that He is ever attentive to our _____ (Matthew 10:29-30).

Third, God is _____. A Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar asked Jesus about where she should _____. **Read what the Lord Jesus told the woman in John 4:23-24.** In Luke 24:39 Jesus said, “A spirit does not have _____ and _____.” Spirits aren’t physical or material; they don’t have the _____ that you and I have. God is supernatural; that is, He is above _____.

Fourth, God is _____. God isn’t limited by _____ or _____ but is omnipresent, everywhere present. **Read what David asked in Psalm 139:7-10.** Sometimes children ask, “Well, if God created us, _____ made God?” God wasn’t made; He wasn’t created; He’s _____ existed. God introduced Himself to _____ at the burning bush as, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). God was explaining that He is self-existent, that He has _____ been. God is _____; we are temporal. Moses wrote, “Before the mountains were born, Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are _____” (Psalm 90:2). John heard God say, “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who _____ and who _____ and who is to _____, the Almighty’” (Revelation 1:8). Though you and I measure _____, to God “one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8).

We need to know that God isn’t _____ in knowledge or wisdom, but is omniscient; He knows _____. **Read Psalm 147:5; Proverbs 15:3; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 139:4; and Psalm 139:23-24.** God isn’t limited in _____ like you and I (Jeremiah 32:17; Mark 1:27).

Fifth, God is _____! (1John 1:5). God has _____ purity and holiness; in Him is no sin at all. God’s holiness means that He cannot and will not _____ of sin.

Sixth, God is _____ (1 John 4:8-10). We love because He _____ loved us (1 John 4:19). The faithful Christian understands that nothing can _____ us from the love of God

which is in Christ (Romans 8:37-39). He realizes that God demonstrated His love for us when we were weak, ungodly, and sinners; He did this by sacrificing His Son, Jesus, on the _____.

Some say if God condemns sin He _____ be loving; for if God is truly loving, He will not _____ sinners. But these traits, light, Holiness, and love are not contradictory but are complementary in describing the _____ of God. God isn't all _____ or all _____. One can be loving and yet _____ disapprove of sin. In fact, one cannot be loving _____ disapproving of sin. Good parents discipline their children because it's what's _____ for the child, and it's best for them in the long run. Unloving parents don't _____ what their children do. Since God cares what we do, He disciplines us in _____ life so He won't have to punish us in the _____ life.

Ultimately God loves everyone, but He judges people according to their _____, blessing those who repent and obey and showing wrath on those who will not obey. **Read Romans 2:5-11 where Paul addresses some Christians who were stubborn and rebellious.** How we _____ to God will determine our _____ with or without God. God is consistent in how He treats His people and in how He treats those who will not _____ the truth. God said, "Therefore, I indeed will deal in _____. My eye will have no _____ nor will I spare; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, yet I will not _____ to them" (Ezekiel 8:18).

Seventh, God doesn't _____ and He cannot be changed. God said, "For I, the LORD, do not change" (Malachi 3:6). James said, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from _____, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17). Because God doesn't change we can know His words hold _____ for all time. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O LORD, Your _____ is settled in heaven." Psalm 33:11 says, "The counsel of the LORD stands _____, The plans of His heart from generation to generation."

Because God doesn't change, we can _____ on God. God keeps His _____. Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor the son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" From the beginning we have seen how God _____ His promises. God told Noah, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). Our days and months and seasons still _____ with precision just as they did in the beginning. God _____ His promises. After taking the land of Israel from the people of Canaan in fulfillment of God's commands, Joshua said, "Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel _____; all came to pass" (Joshua 21:45).

God is _____! Deuteronomy 7:9 says, “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who _____ His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and _____ His commandments.” First Thessalonians 5:24 says, “Faithful is He who calls you, and He will bring it to _____.” Because God is faithful, we can depend on Him to _____ His promises and to _____ us in our lives. For instance, God helps His people when they’re _____ to sin. First Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be _____ beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also provide the way of _____, so that you may be able to endure it.” God is also faithful when we _____ forgiveness. First John 1:9 says, “If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and righteous to _____ us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Even when the world was crashing down on Jeremiah in the destruction of Jerusalem, he could say, “‘The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him’” (Lamentations 3:22-24). You too can have full confidence in God.

If God the Father created you, if He gives you life and daily provides for you, if He sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins, shouldn’t you _____ your trust, your love, and your obedience? Each one of us is accountable to the one true and living God found in the _____. He is God and there is no _____. He watched His beloved Son _____ crucifixion; and no one will ever love you as He has loved you. No one else can save your soul. No one else can give you eternal life.

Each day we choose whether we’ll _____ Him or _____ Him. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it’s impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God _____ believe that He is and that He’s a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Without faith in God and in Christ we can never be _____ to God. The Lord Jesus said to His apostles, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be _____; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).

God loves you deeply and wants you to be _____ from sin and _____ eternally in heaven with Him. Everything He’s done since the beginning was to bring you _____ and to save you. Every law of God is for your _____. Will you not put your _____ in Him, _____ of your sins, be _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? Today is your best day to get right with God. Nothing is as important as making your calling and election sure, of knowing that you have obeyed the gospel. Will you obey today?

Jesus the Son Colossians 1:15-20

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

Spiritually and morally Jesus was the most _____ man who ever lived. Was He just a man? Today we will explore the _____ of Jesus. I'm thankful for the Scriptures because they tell me what I _____ to know about the Lord Jesus Christ; they teach the undeniable truth. It's a great blessing and privilege to know Him and to _____ Him. The Scriptures open the door for us to have a _____ relationship with the One who created us, saves us, and loves us.

What shall we _____ with Jesus Christ? How do we _____ Him? Some say He was a perfect man and nothing more; some say He was a great moral _____; and others question whether he really lived or was an invention. The Scriptures present a different _____ of Jesus. They describe Him as divine and allow Him to be called _____ and _____. They reveal His _____ in creation, in the sustaining of life, and in our salvation. They present Him as the only _____ of the church, the only authority over all flesh, and as our _____ on the last day.

In all history, Jesus _____ as the champion of love, of truth, of hope, of peace, and of righteousness. Utterly selfless, Jesus gave Himself completely to _____ all people. Utterly sinless, He practiced what He preached, gave _____ to the oppressed, and _____ the guilty. His constant _____ to weak and sinful people was to _____ and turn to God. He comforted the grieving, raised the dead, healed the sick, delivered the demon-possessed, and fed the hungry. He told people what they needed to know to have _____ life. No _____ could perform miracles or live without sin as Jesus did. Jesus wasn't merely human; He was _____!

Our reading today comes from Colossians 1:15-20. Was Jesus _____ than a man? Some say He was a great moral teacher and some a prophet like Moses or Elijah, but to us He is the _____ of God. Calling Jesus the Son of God means that we _____ Him as divine. Many passages of Scripture clearly _____ Jesus as deity or divine. **Read The Gospel of John 1:1-4.** In this passage the _____ was God and yet was with God in the beginning. Everything that exists came into being through Him; He _____ it.

The Gospel of John is also clear that Jesus has always _____. In John 8:58 the Lord Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was _____, I am." Abraham lived nearly two thousand years before Jesus was born, but Jesus said that He existed _____ before

Abraham. **Read what the Lord Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:4-5.** Though Jesus didn't have a fleshly existence until two thousand years ago, He has existed _____.

John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten (or the only unique) from the Father, full of grace and truth." It was always God's plan that Jesus would come into the world. First Peter 1:20 says, "He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you."

Read what the prophet spoke of the birth and work of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6-7. Jesus was _____ a descendant of David since both Mary and her husband Joseph were descendants of David. He established His _____, the church; and it exists to this day. Jesus is indeed our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.

Read what an angel of the Lord told Joseph in Matthew 1:21-23. Jesus is indeed God _____ us, God manifested in the flesh so that He could _____ His people from their sins. When we look at Jesus, we understand God much _____. John 1:18 says, "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has _____ Him." Jesus _____ God to us.

The Lord Jesus explained Himself in John 14:6-7. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." We know what God is, and what He is like because Jesus came to earth to _____ Him to us. The writer to the Hebrews said that Jesus is "the radiance of His glory and the _____ representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus reveals God's undeniable _____, God's great _____, God's steadfast _____, and God's utter holiness. We can see the _____ of God in His Son, in the life of Jesus Christ.

If we wish to come to the Father, we must recognize that Jesus our Lord is the _____ way (Acts 4:12). You can't find God the Father any other _____ today than through a knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ His Son. The Lord Jesus in prayer said, "This is eternal life, that they may _____ You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). Knowing the Father and the Son brings _____ life and forgiveness; and we can't get these things any other way than through Jesus. Salvation is in no one else.

John also reveals an amazing _____ of a doubter who had to be convinced of Jesus. When Jesus first _____ after His resurrection to His disciples in the upper room "on the evening of that day, the first day of the week (when He was resurrected)," the apostle Thomas

wasn't present. When Thomas heard Jesus had arisen he said, "Unless I _____ in his hands the mark of the nails, and _____ my finger into the mark that's in His side, I will never _____." **Read the rest of the story in John 20:26-28.** Thomas' confession of Jesus as Lord and God is _____ and _____. The word "Lord" is a reference to Deity and has its roots back in Exodus 3:14 when God told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." From this phrase comes the Hebrew word "Yahweh," the name of God, which is translated in the Greek Old Testament with the word "kurios." This is the very word that Thomas used when he said to Jesus, "My Lord ("kurios") and my God!" To say Jesus is Lord is to _____ that He is divine. When Peter concluded His inspired sermon at Pentecost he declared, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for _____ that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36). Jesus indeed is Lord!

John is not the only _____ to the deity of Jesus. Paul also helps us understand how He was in the _____ of God but fashioned as a man. **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** When Jesus came to this earth, He _____ Himself and took the form of a bondservant. He humbled Himself and _____ the Father to the point of death on a cross.

Read what the apostle Paul by inspiration said of Jesus in Colossians 1:15-18. When the Scripture says Jesus is the "firstborn of all creation," that scripture isn't saying that Jesus was _____, but that Jesus has authority over all creation; that's the meaning of the term. Indeed, Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). As firstborn, Jesus has _____ authority over us, you and me, today! Paul also said that Jesus is our _____ and _____ (Titus 2:13).

For any study of Jesus to be _____, we must examine His heart and recognize His love. As the Son of God, Jesus healed the sick, touched the leper, reached out to sinners, offered His forgiveness to the prodigal, and He showed patience to Peter when he denied Him three times. Jesus wept with Mary and Martha at the _____ of Lazarus and wept over spiritually fallen Jerusalem. Jesus taught us to love our _____ and to pray for those who persecute us. He fought the temptations of the devil and _____ us to watch and pray that we might not enter into temptation. Jesus fought the legalism of the Pharisees and the greed and robbery of the moneychangers in the _____. Jesus prayed for the Father's _____ to be done on earth as it is in heaven. He didn't give in to His own _____ at Gethsemane. He _____ the poor in spirit, the pure in heart, the meek, the one who mourned, the peacemaker, the one who hungered for righteousness, and the one who was persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Because He was divine, He knew the _____ of all people. John 2:25 says, "He didn't need anyone to _____ concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man." He knew all the good, all the bad, all the fears, all the pride, all the hurts, and all the desires. He knew

when people _____ about God and when they didn't. He gave the worried reason to _____; He gave the downtrodden _____, gave the sinner forgiveness, gave the doubter _____, gave those who were despised _____, and gave those who were proud a dose of humility. Jesus gave us what we _____ and He gave it to us when we most needed it. Because He had divine wisdom, He knew _____ to say, _____ to say it, and _____ to say it. He spoke simply but profoundly, directly but lovingly, and truthfully but kindly.

We see His heart most _____ at Gethsemane and on the cross. Jesus didn't revile those who reviled Him and didn't threaten those who caused Him to _____. Jesus _____ for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him because they didn't know what they were doing. Jesus never called for the twelve legions of angels to _____ Him from the cross, but He remained there in agony until He died.

Why did He suffer? He suffered because He loved _____ more than He loved _____. He suffered because that was the _____ of His Father in heaven. He suffered because He knew that His death would bring _____ and would open the door for a lost world to see His love and repent. He suffered because He wanted _____ with you and me in this life and in the life to come. Jesus wasn't _____ a man; He was the Son of God! Because He is, you must _____ what you will do with Jesus.

Read Matthew 27:22-25. Pilate _____ his hands in front of the people saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." What are you doing with Jesus? Are you washing your hands of Him? Are you rejecting Him?

Many wouldn't call for Jesus to die on a cross the way that the people did in those days; what they do today is simply _____ Him. Others wish that He'd quietly disappear because they don't want to _____ His teaching on morals or on truth. They'd rather continue living in sin than follow Christ. When you ignore Christ, you're ignoring your only _____ for forgiveness and eternal life. When you reject Christ, you're refusing His _____ and His _____ for you on the cross. You're saying His agony and His cruel death don't _____, that He died for no reason at all, and His love isn't important. Won't you love Him and recognize His love for you?

To demonstrate your love, place your _____ in Jesus Christ, _____ and give up your sins, _____ Him as the Son of God and your Lord, and be _____ into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This baptism is in water and it's for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 22:16 says, "Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." When you're baptized, the Lord will add you to His _____; you'll be born again and free from sin, and God will call you His child.

The Holy Spirit 1 Peter 1:22-25

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

Some call Him the Holy _____, others the Holy _____. Who is He? Today we're exploring what the _____ says about the Holy Spirit. I'm so thankful God gave us the _____ through the Holy Spirit. Whatever was _____ there could easily be called God's Word and could just as easily be called the Words of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 3:7-11 introduce a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11, "just as the Holy Spirit _____." The Spirit gave us this tremendous _____.

From the earliest days of the church, people have had _____ ideas about the Holy Spirit. In the third century, a heretic named Sabellius taught that the Holy Spirit was just one of the _____ of God, but was not a separate person from God the Father or Jesus His Son. In the fourth century, a heretic named Arius taught that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit were not _____, but had a beginning. Others taught that the Holy Spirit was just a _____ or a presence and not a _____ person. It's easy to see that there's a lot of _____ about the Holy Spirit.

Some older versions used the word "_____" to refer to the Holy Spirit. To be _____, the word "Spirit" in the original Greek language is a neuter word *pneuma*. But the Holy Spirit is not a _____. The Lord Jesus said, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come" (John 16:13). The word for "He" in this verse is not neuter but masculine. Yes, the Spirit is a _____!

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter 1:22-25.

The Scriptures _____ the Holy Spirit as a person. The Holy Spirit has a _____. **Read Romans 8:26-27.** Only a person can have a mind, can _____, or speak, or intercede. The Holy Spirit searches our _____ so that He may communicate to the Father what we are _____. Only a person could do this.

Read what Jesus promised the apostles in John 14:16-17. Jesus here calls the Spirit "another _____" like Himself. The Spirit is described here as "another of the _____ _____" as Jesus. Just as Jesus was a helper or one called to the side of the apostles, so the Spirit will be a helper to _____ and _____ them. Only a person could do this.

The Holy Spirit, as a person, has emotions and _____. Paul spoke of the “_____ of the Spirit” in Romans 15:30, and the “_____ of the Spirit” in Philippians 2:1. He warned the Ephesians in Ephesians 4:30, “Do not _____ the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Indeed, when we _____, we grieve the Holy Spirit of God. A person grieves, but not some force or influence. The Holy Spirit is a person!

The scriptures not only describe the Holy Spirit but attribute to Him a _____ personality. More than one hundred times, He is called the “Holy Spirit,” which is a clear reference to His _____. In Hebrews 9:14 He is called the _____ Spirit. The apostle Paul taught that the Holy Spirit is omniscient; that is, He _____ all things. **Read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11.**

Since the Spirit is Divine, he is omnipotent or able to do _____ things. **Read Genesis 1:1-2.** The word “hovering” in Hebrew is used of an _____ hovering in the sky, poised, alert, and watchful, ready for instant action to catch its fledglings. In Deuteronomy 32:11, it’s a metaphor for _____ watching over His people.

David said that the Spirit was _____ everywhere; this is another sign of being Divine. **Read Psalm 139:7-10.**

When the Lord Jesus was conceived, the Holy Spirit was involved. The angel told Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that _____ the holy Child shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). Later an angel of the Lord told Joseph, “Joseph, son of David, do not _____ to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:20).

When Jesus and the apostles began working miracles, they acted in the _____ of the Holy Spirit. Peter recalled, “how God _____ Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. And He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was _____ him” (Acts 10:38). In every miracle of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit were very much _____. Likewise, God was confirming His _____ through the miracles that the apostles and others performed by the Holy Spirit. **Read Hebrews 2:3-4.** The Holy Spirit was behind and involved in every single _____.

When God _____ Jesus from the dead, the Holy Spirit was very much involved (Romans 8:11). When Jesus comes again, the Holy Spirit will raise _____ from the dead. Only a _____ being can do this. Likewise, a prophet named Agabus made a prediction, “And one of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius” (Acts 11:28). Only God can know the _____. The Holy Spirit is divine!

The Holy Spirit is indeed involved in inspiring those who _____ the words of the Bible as we've mentioned. Jesus promised the apostles that the Spirit would guide them into all the _____ (John 14:26). **Read the promise Jesus made to the apostles in John 16:12-13. For this reason the apostle Paul could say what we can read in 1 Corinthians 2:12-13.** Every word written in Scripture is there by the _____ of the Holy Spirit. **Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.** The human authors did not write whatever they _____ to write in Scripture; the Holy Spirit _____ them to write the things that they did.

In Acts chapter five, the Scripture _____ lying to the Spirit with lying to God. When Ananias and Sapphira agreed to give the purchase price of a piece of land, but secretly held back some of that price, Peter _____ them. **Read the story in Acts 5:3-4.** To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to _____. The Spirit is divine!

The Scriptures also _____ the Spirit as authoritative and sovereign. For instance, the Holy Spirit _____ who would receive the various miraculous gifts; people couldn't _____ which gifts they wanted for themselves (1 Corinthians 12:11). The Holy Spirit determined who received what _____. The Holy Spirit is divine!

When the Lord Jesus spoke to the seven churches of Asia in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, He ended each segment with the warning, "He who has an _____, let him _____ what the Spirit says to the churches." The Spirit of God _____ with authority in Scripture today, and the Lord Jesus plainly commands us to hear what the Spirit is saying.

When we are born again as Christians, the Holy Spirit plays a _____ in our regeneration. The Lord Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is _____ of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). This new birth is a reference to _____; it's a birth of both water and the Spirit. Titus 3:5 explains that God "saved us, not because of _____ done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the _____ of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." You and I cannot _____ our salvation, but God saves us through the washing that regenerates (that's baptism) and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that causes us to have this _____ at the time of 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." God raises us up in baptism to walk in newness of life. You might ask, "How is the Holy Spirit _____ in our new birth?"

Read the explanation in 1 Peter 1:22-23. The Spirit of God inspired the Word of God and gave us that _____ which is in the Word of God, that word that He guided the apostles and prophets to write, and that's the truth. We can know the truth _____ because the Spirit

led these men to write down God's Word. When people _____ and _____ this inspired truth from the Holy Spirit, this imperishable seed that comes from the Holy Spirit, it causes them to be born again; we're born of an imperishable seed, that's the Word of God. The Holy Spirit works through the _____ planted in our hearts to cause our new birth. The seed is not some miraculous, direct operation of the Holy Spirit. No! But it's the inspired word that was _____ by the apostles and is found today in Scripture.

Some folks think we're saved when the Holy Spirit directly and miraculously _____ us from a totally depraved sinner into a saint. They believe the Spirit does this irresistibly and that we have no _____. But the Scriptures teach that we have _____ and choose whether or not to serve God. **Read Romans 6:17-18.** Here were slaves of sin who _____ the truth and then they became slaves of righteousness. That's how they were born again, when they obeyed it from their _____. You can do the same thing! Won't you _____ the Lord from your heart, and be born again? Does your life _____ or _____ the Holy Spirit? Do the _____ you speak and how you speak them honor or grieve God? Does the way you _____ other people cause the Holy Spirit to grieve over your soul? God wants to _____ you; the Lord Jesus _____ for you; and the Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures which _____ the truth and have that message of eternal life. When you listen carefully and obey, you _____ God. But when you _____ God by failing to hear and obey what He says, you will surely cause Him grief. You will also cause _____ grief.

When people fail to love and serve God, but live with selfish ambition for their own _____, surely they can't imagine that God is pleased. Many live as if there were _____ God, never giving Him a second thought. They don't realize how God _____ for a relationship with them. Do you have a close, loving, peaceful relationship with _____? If you do, God is smiling; but if you don't have one, why not come to the Lord today?

You can be right with God and live with Him eternally by _____ the gospel, by _____ in Jesus Christ, by _____ of your sins, and by _____ aloud Jesus as the Son of God, and by being _____ into Christ. It's when you are baptized that God _____ away your sin and gives you newness of life. That's when you are born again and when the Lord _____ you to His church. God also wants your _____ and your _____. He wants you to love Him with all your _____, all your _____, all your _____, and all your _____. That means _____ Him fully every single day. That means getting involved with His family, the _____. It means avoiding anything sinful and realizing that you were saved to love and to serve others and help spread the gospel. My friend, will you honor the Lord by giving yourself to Him?

One God, Three Persons

John 16:12-15

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

How can there be _____ God but _____ persons? We've studied the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today we're going to look at the Godhead. We want to be right with God, and we know that the Lord teaches the _____ in the Word of God. When we believe and obey the truth, we know that we're in a _____ relationship with the Lord; but when we stray from the truth, we put our _____ in jeopardy. Truth matters! James 5:19-20 says, "My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." If truth matters this much to _____, it ought to matter as much to _____. We turn to the Scriptures because we _____ the Lord and we want to remain right with Him.

For the last few weeks, we've been _____ at God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We've seen how _____ of these three possess the nature and characteristics of God. The Bible _____ that there is but one God, yet three Persons. We don't believe in three Gods but in One God. Nor do we believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all the _____ person. Instead we believe in one God whose essence and substance is _____ in three distinct persons. This teaching provides a mystery for us, and we confess it's _____ to understand. But we don't believe this because of the church _____ but because the Scriptures clearly teach it. We want no other _____ than the Word of God. If we can't _____ it in the Bible, we can't hold it to be truth that God wants us to believe and obey.

Our reading today comes from The Gospel According to John 16:12-15.

The Scriptures boldly and clearly teach that there is _____ one God. Some statements from the Old Testament _____ this. Moses wrote, "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is _____!" (Deuteronomy 6:4). In a prayer of thanksgiving David said, "For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is _____ like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears" (2 Samuel 7:22). Another time David sang, "For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You _____ are God" (Psalm 86:10). Nehemiah declared, "You alone are the LORD. You have _____ the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give _____ to all of them, And the heavenly host bows down before You" (Nehemiah 9:6). The prophet Isaiah quoted the Lord, "I am the LORD, and there is no _____; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may _____ from the

rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does _____ these” (2 Kings 19:15). “Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, ‘O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You _____, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have _____ heaven and earth”” (Isaiah 45:5-7). It is _____ that the Old Testament teaches one, and only one God.

In the same way, the New Testament _____ clearly emphasizes there is one God. Jesus _____ a scribe who asked Him what the foremost commandment of all was. “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall _____ the Lord your God with all your _____, and with all your _____, and with all your _____, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:29-30). Jesus certainly _____ there is one Lord and no other. The apostle Paul by inspiration taught, “we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but _____” (1 Corinthians 8:4). James said, “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder” (James 2:19). There are more than forty-five passages in the Old and New Testaments which express the _____ that there is “one God,” and that there is “only one God,” and there is no other God.

Someone now asks, “Well Phil, how can this be? Didn’t you teach that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are _____?” Can there be one God if all _____ persons are considered God? The New Testament writers help us to understand this _____ by their reference to the Godhead or to Deity. This designation “Godhead” anticipates the concept of Deity _____ in God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Although it doesn’t appear in the Old Testament, “Godhead” appears _____ times in the King James translation of the New Testament. Newer versions translate the words for Godhead as Deity or the Divine _____.

This word first appears in Paul’s _____ at Mars Hill in Athens. Paul said, in the King James Version, “Forasmuch then as we are the _____ of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device” (Acts 17:29). The word “Godhead” in this passage is an adjective meaning “that which _____ to the nature or status of deity, or something that’s divine.” Paul made it clear that the _____ and _____ God was not like the idols of the pagan world. Since He created all things, He didn’t live in temples made with _____.

The word “Godhead” appears a second time in the King James Version in Romans 1:20. Paul said, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without _____.” We’ve seen how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all involved in the _____ of the world. When we look at how great and how magnificent our world is, it’s easy to see how only a supernatural, divine Being _____ have created it.

The word “Godhead” appears the _____ time in the King James Version in Colossians 2:9. Paul wrote, “For in him (that is, in Jesus) dwelleth all the _____ of the Godhead bodily.” This word “Godhead,” found in the last two passages is an abstract noun describing “the state of being God, that is divine in character or nature, that is deity.” So again, we see the divine _____ of God dwelling in Jesus in bodily form. This passage _____ us to understand that the one God is a Godhead and distinguishes the Son as having a body.

The New Testament, in two passages, _____ the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These passages _____ these three with the word “and.” The word “and” here means these three all _____ in the same category. The first passage is Matthew 28:19-20. People are to be _____ in the name (and that is a singular word) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To be baptized into Christ means we’re baptized into the name of all _____. When we become a Christian by being baptized into Christ, we have God as our Father, Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit as the earnest or guarantee of our inheritance, according to Ephesians 1:13-14.

The second passage that lists all three comes in Paul’s final greeting to the _____ at Corinth, in 2 Corinthians 13:14. Paul said, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” Each of these three persons of the Godhead _____ us. They act together in unison with one _____ – to bless us with their grace, love, and fellowship. If Paul didn’t think of all three as divine, he would not have listed them together.

But you ask, “How can three be one?” Consider the _____ of Jesus to the Father. **Read John 17:20-23.** Jesus wanted His _____ to be one, and to be united, “just as We are one.” Just as the church can have _____ members and yet be _____ body, so the Father, Son, and Spirit can be united as one.

We noted last week that God the Father was not _____ in the beginning. **Read John 1:1-3.** While the Father is God, the _____ or the Word was God and was with God. Genesis 1:2 speaks of the _____ “hovering” over the face of the waters, so we know that all three were _____ in the beginning and were involved in creation. While the Old Testament doesn’t use a word describing the Godhead, some passages do recognize the fact of a _____ of persons as one God. For instance, Genesis 1:26 says, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” These passages necessarily show God the Father was not alone at the time of _____.

In the same way, the writer of the book of Hebrews quoted from Psalm 45:6-7. The Hebrew writer said God was _____ about His Son Jesus. God said, “Your _____, O God, is forever and ever” (Hebrews 1:8). Then again, in verse nine it says, speaking of the son, “You

have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has _____ you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” Here you have one person in the Godhead speaking to another and calling Him _____.

The New Testament also _____ how each person in the Godhead interacted with the others and how the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all distinct. **Read about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in Matthew 3:16-17.** Wouldn't it be absurd to _____ the Father who was speaking from heaven, and the Son who just came from the water after being baptized, and the Holy Spirit who was a dove, were all the _____ person?

Read what the Lord Jesus said to the apostles in John 14:16-17. All three are distinctly seen in this one passage. The Lord Jesus would _____ the Father to give the disciples another Helper or Comforter to be with them, and that would be the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are _____ mentioned.

Again, in John 14:26, we have _____ persons! The Father will _____ the Holy Spirit to _____ and to bring to the remembrance of the apostles the things that the Lord Jesus Himself taught. Each was involved in the _____ of the church.

Again, we have Jesus speaking in John 15:26. Here Jesus is sending the Spirit from the Father to _____ about the Lord Jesus. If the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all the _____ person, it would be illogical and meaningless to speak of them interacting with one another as these passages do. It is right to believe in One God, but it is also right to _____ that there are three Persons. The concept of one God and three persons is _____ for many people. When we hear the word “apple,” we may think of a fruit, a tree, or a seed. These are _____ things yet the same in essence. When we think of H₂O, we could speak of ice, water, or steam; they are distinct and yet one in _____. The Lord Jesus said, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). He prayed to His Father in John 17:22 that His followers in the church may be one, “even as We are one.” Now unity comes only when people are united in heart and mind with the same _____.

Read Philippians 2:5-8. Jesus could be one with the Father because He took the form of a _____. Though He existed in the form of God, He humbled Himself and was _____ to die on the cross for our sins.

To be one with the Father and Son, we too must _____ ourselves and be obedient. **Read Hebrews 5:8-9.** When we _____ the gospel, when we _____ of our sins, _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and when we are _____ into Christ, we too are obedient and come to have the hope of eternal life. Only God can _____, and that's why we must do things God's way. If we wish to be God's people, let's do things God's way.