



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

*Program
Study Guides*

**For
October 2017**

What Happens At Death? James 4:13-17

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

Since no one lives forever on this earth, what will _____ to us when we die? We'll explore the Bible for what happens when we _____. The Bible says, "The _____ things belong to the LORD our God, but the things _____ belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). God doesn't answer every question that we can ask, but God does give us everything that we _____ to know, everything that pertains to life and godliness. If you wish to live with God eternally, the most important thing you can do is to _____ God's Word.

No one likes to _____ about death or even _____ about it, and yet death is a topic we can't _____. Hebrews 9:27 says, "it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." From our earliest days, we have heard about judgment, heaven, and hell. We know something exists _____ this life, but we don't always know everything we want to know. Movies and television stimulate our imagination, but they only provide somebody's _____ about what lies beyond. We want to _____ what God says will happen when we die. That's why we go to God's inspired Word for _____.

Life is _____, and death is _____. Even if you're young and healthy, you can't _____ reality. Your death will either open the _____ to the most wonderful experience you've ever enjoyed or the worst experience anyone could have. God wants to _____ you, and the Bible gives us the information that we need to find that blessing.

Our reading today comes from the letter of James 4:13-17.

The word "death" occurs over _____ times in the Old Testament and _____ times in the New Testament. Death signifies _____. Physical death separates the _____ from the _____. Spiritual death separates people from _____ and His blessing. We grieve when we lose our _____ ones, because we know that we can't be with them ever again in this life. The good news is that while death is a separation, it's not the _____ of our existence.

When David and Bathsheba's first child died, David said, "I will _____ to him, but he will not _____ to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). We all will one day die. The angels will come for us, and they'll take our spirits to another place.

This Bible describes death, "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also _____ apart from _____ is dead" (James 2:26). Notice that it says the body is dead, but we're _____ than a body. We're body and spirit. The body dies but the spirit _____ exists. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, "the dust returns to the _____ as it was, and the spirit returns to _____ who gave it." When we die, our spirits return to God who made us. God is the Father of spirits

according to Hebrews 12:9. Your spirit is not physical or material, and it's not subject to death.

On the cross, Jesus told the thief, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in _____" (Luke 23:43). The Lord clearly says that we'll _____ and be conscious beyond this life. The Lord expected to see the thief in Paradise. There's an _____ spirit that survives death and is conscious. Life here and now is not _____ there is.

It is appointed for us once to die, then comes _____. Death holds _____ for us, no doubt about it. The unknown, especially judgment, is frightening. We worry whether our afterlife will be _____. The Lord Jesus said, "Enter by the _____ gate. For the gate is wide and the way is _____ that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is _____ that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7:13-14). Whenever you read a passage like Matthew 7, it _____ many who think nearly everybody is going to be saved and only a few of the worst will be lost. But that's not what Jesus says.

We must consider the afterlife. How we _____ here will determine where we will _____ eternity. What are we saved by? We're saved by the shed _____ of Jesus Christ. What are we saved from? We're saved from the _____ of sin. Jesus warned us, "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it's better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell" (Matthew 5:29-30).

Read the glimpse of what happens after death the Lord Jesus gives in Luke 16:19-31.

Many think that this story is a _____ and for that reason shouldn't be taken seriously; but Jesus is never trivial. When Jesus uses a _____ of speech like a parable, He does so to emphasize a point, not to trivialize it.

However one takes this story, there are _____ very different destinies awaiting after death. One destiny is filled with _____ and the other with _____. Lazarus and the rich man both _____ where they were. Both could have conversations and could reason. Both could _____ the lives that they lived back on earth.

Sometimes the Bible speaks of death as "_____." This is likely because the body after death _____ to be sleeping. However, this does not mean that our spirits are unconscious or in some _____. Moses and Elijah, though they had been _____ for many centuries, had a conversation with the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-5). Death happens to the body, but death does not make our spirits unconscious.

The lives that we live here, and whether we are right with the Lord, will determine our _____ destiny. This illustration story of Lazarus and the rich man opens our _____ to what happens when our spirits leave this world. After we die, the angels will come for us and they'll take us to a place that God has assigned for us. This may be a place of comfort or it may be a place of torment.

Scripture uses the word “Hades” to describe that _____ where disembodied spirits of dead people go. Some scholars say that “Hades” means “unseen”; while others say it means “all-receiving.” Hades, whether it’s one or the other, shouldn’t be _____ with the idea of Hell. Hades is a _____ place, and our spirits will reside there until the Judgment Day; it’s temporary; but hell comes after the Judgment and it’s _____. No one will enter heaven or hell _____ after the resurrection and after the Judgment. Hades is the place where our spirits, where the spirits of dead people _____. In the resurrection, those spirits will _____ to earth and be joined to new, imperishable bodies. Death is the separation of the body and spirit. Resurrection takes place when our spirits are _____ with a changed, imperishable body. I’ll have more to say about this in a few weeks.

While Hades usually refers to that place of torment, the word can also be applied to the _____ realm, which has both a place of torment and a place of comfort. In Acts 2:27 the apostle Peter quotes David’s _____ in Psalm 16:10 about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He noted that while Jesus’ soul was not abandoned to Hades, that his _____ did not suffer decay. When Jesus died, his soul went to Paradise, according to His statement to the thief on the cross in Luke 23:43; He said “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

The word Paradise is used three times in Scripture and each time refers to the heavenly _____ where the righteous go after death. Second Corinthians 12:2-4 equates Paradise to the third heaven; that is, the place where God _____. Jesus went to that unseen place of righteous spirits and where God dwells. In Revelation 2:7, the Paradise of God is where the _____ of life is. If Jesus’ soul was not abandoned to Hades but He went to Paradise, then Hades must contain a place where righteous _____ are comforted.

The apostle Paul _____ us to understand that we will have an existence in spirit form after we die and until the resurrection. He says the righteous will go to be _____ the Lord Jesus. “Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be _____ to Him” (2 Corinthians 5:6-9). When the righteous die, they go to be with the Lord.

Read what Paul said in Philippians 1:21-23. Paul said he would go and be “with Christ” when he died and that would be very much _____. This is the Christian _____ that we have, to live with our Lord Jesus forever and ever.

Through the years whenever I’ve preached funerals, I’ve often cited Romans 14:7-9. The Bible says, “For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this _____ Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the _____ and of the _____.” We may die physically, but not even death can separate us from the _____ of our Lord Jesus. When Christians die, they go to be with Him that very

day. But when evil people die, the angels take them to a place of torment.

This is why we must be _____ spiritually. No one else can do that for you. The Bible says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:10). The saved person goes to judgment with the blood of Jesus and has his name recorded in the book of life. He can _____ the afterlife with confidence that he has an eternal home with the Lord. The unbeliever and the impenitent person have _____ such hope. He must face God on his own.

God does not want any person to be _____, no not a single one—He wants everyone to be _____. God would not have sent His son, Jesus, to die on a cross, if He were looking to _____ people. But God will not _____ people to do what is right or to repent.

God has prepared the _____ for your salvation in the gift of His beloved Son, Jesus. By His _____ you are saved. But grace as a _____ must be received by faith and obedience. We don’t _____ our salvation, but God has determined that those who receive His gift are those who _____ his conditions.

The Bible says, “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who _____ Him the source of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:8-9). Your gift of eternal life is _____ for you if you believe, repent, and are baptized. My friend, have you prepared? Death is something that all of us will face one day, and it may come _____ than we think. So I ask you, are you prepared? Are you prepared?

I bought life insurance to _____ my wife and to _____ for my family after I’m gone. Many people buy a plot, choose the casket, and arrange the service _____ before the time. How foolish it is to be so well prepared for death _____, but fail to prepare spiritually for the _____. I don’t want to be like the five foolish virgins who _____ to buy the oil needed for their lamps. They ran to the dealers to buy oil; and while they were gone, the bridegroom came. The door was _____, and they were not allowed in (Matthew 25:1-14). They weren’t prepared, and we must prepare!

Don’t waste your opportunity in this life to get right with God; once life is over, there’s no _____ chance. Why not start a _____ and different direction for your soul’s sake? Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and _____. If anyone _____ my voice and _____ the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

You can _____ your car, your house, your health, or your life and still go to heaven; but if you lose your _____, you’ve lost everything. Make the most important commitment that you’ll ever make, that of giving yourself to the Lord by _____ the gospel. Believe in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Repent of every _____. Confess publicly the name of Jesus, and be _____ in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you’re baptized, the Bible says in Acts 22:16 that your sins will be _____ away. The Lord will add you to His _____, and you’ll be a son of God with eternal life.

The Second Coming 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

The Lord Jesus _____ to come back for His own someday. Predictions abound, but no one knows _____. Today, we'll study about the second coming. God's Word tells us everything that we _____ to know about life and godliness. While there are some things that God doesn't tell us, He always gives us the _____ that we need. God is a wise and a loving Father who wishes for _____ men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the _____ according to 1 Timothy 2:4. He gives us that needed truth in His Word, His _____ of truth for all people in all places for all time. The Word of God is all-sufficient to teach us His will.

People are fascinated by the end times, but can easily be _____. Perhaps you remember some years ago when everybody focused on Y2K and believed a _____ disaster would happen. Dire predictions that frightened everyone _____ took place. Then people were focused on 2012 with predictions of calamities and total destruction. They _____ an ancient Mayan calendar; astrologers, psychics, and even some people think the Bible says 2012 is the year. There was a famous radio preacher who said he was _____ that the rapture would take place on May 21, 2011 and the end of the world on October 21st. Neither happened, and he proved to be a _____ prophet. False teaching ends up causing doubt in the truth and it hurts the cause of Christ.

What can we _____ about the second coming of Jesus Christ? While most Christians believe it will happen, there's a lot of _____ about signs and times that confuse and needlessly frighten people. We're not interested in religious hoopla. We want to take the _____ to look into the Scripture for the truth.

Our reading today comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.

Some people _____ to be prophets today, but are they? The Bible gives us the _____ of a prophet in Deuteronomy 18:21-22, "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not _____?' When a prophet speaks in the _____ of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be _____ of him."

Jeremiah spoke of prophets in his day that were always _____ to speak in the name of the Lord. Jeremiah 23:16 says, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Do not _____ to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their _____ imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD.'" Verse 32 says, "'Behold I am against those who have prophesied false _____,' declares the Lord, 'and related them, and led My people _____ by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit,' declares the Lord."

So-called prophets, who falsely _____ when Christ will come and the end of the world, cause doubt in the Truth. They make people _____ God's Word is not true because their

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633

This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – www.searchtv.org; jerry@searchtv.org

prophecy turned out to be false. One religious group predicted 1975 as the end of the world. I have a book in my library entitled, “88 Reasons Why the Lord Will Come in 1988.” The Lord didn’t come then either. Twenty percent, of Americans believe the Lord will come in our _____.

While we cannot believe false predictions, we can be _____ the Lord Jesus is coming again because the Lord _____ us that He would. The Lord always _____ His promises. He said, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1-3). Jesus never lies. He will come again to take us _____ with Him in heaven.

The Lord Jesus is coming a second time to _____ those who love Him. The Bible says, “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will _____ a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Hebrews 9:27-28). Each Lord’s Day, Christians partake of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross and in anticipation of His _____. The Bible says, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you _____ the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). Some wonder _____ the Lord will come. The Lord Jesus himself discussed this. **Read Matthew 24:35-39.**

In 2011 a man _____ predicted the rapture on May 21 and the end of the world on October 21. But when those events didn’t happen, there was a devoted follower who said the Bible is _____. God’s Word actually proved _____, while the human prediction of that false prophet proved _____ both times. The Bible said _____ knows when the Lord will come a second time or when the world will end. “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” (Mark 13:32). God has not revealed something to man _____ that the Father did not even reveal to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus told the apostles in answer to a similar question, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has _____ by His own authority” (Acts 1:7).

We do know that God hasn’t revealed _____ the Lord Jesus will return. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5.** Just as we don’t know when a _____ will break into our homes, we don’t know when the Lord Jesus will return. To say we do know shows that the Word of God is not in us.

So... “What will _____ when Jesus comes again?” The first evidence of His coming will be a _____ and a _____. The Bible says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16). A shout and a trumpet will call people’s attention to the _____ of the Lord Jesus. No one will _____ what is about to happen.

How will Jesus appear to us? He’ll come in the clouds in great glory. The Bible tells us of the Lord’s ascension into heaven. **Read Acts 1:9-11.** Jesus will one day appear in _____ with his mighty angels in the clouds.

The Bible says, “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and _____ eye will see Him, even

those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen” (Revelation 1:7). Every person will see the Lord Jesus on that day. Every person will know He is _____; He is in _____; and He is the _____. On that day, every knee will _____ and every tongue will _____ that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.

When the Lord Jesus comes again, He will bring back with Him the spirits of those who have _____. The Bible says, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:14-16). The departed spirits of the righteous dead will come back to earth with Jesus, and they will be resurrected. Then their bodies will be _____. The raising up of the righteous spirits means they will have _____ bodies. I’ll speak more about this next week.

We should not think, however, that _____ the righteous will be raised on the last day. In fact, _____ the dead will be raised. The Lord Jesus himself said, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the _____ deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the _____ deeds to a resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29). The apostle Paul said, “there shall certainly be a resurrection of _____ the righteous and the wicked” (Acts 24:15).

Those of us who are alive, if we are alive when the Lord returns, will be _____. Our bodies will be _____ like the bodies of the resurrected. They will have imperishable, immortal bodies. At that point the Lord will cause them to be caught up into the _____. The Bible says, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (that is, the resurrected) in the _____ to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The Bible says, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly _____ for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state (the body we have right now) into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the _____ that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20-21). Our new, glorified bodies will _____ us for life in heaven.

You might hear the word “rapture” now and then, to speak of this _____ _____ of those in Christ who were resurrected and those who are alive. The word “rapture” comes from the Latin term “rapio” used to translate the concept of being “caught up” to meet the Lord. Some say the rapture happens much _____ than the general resurrection. They say this because 1 Thessalonians does not really _____ the resurrection of the wicked; but as we have seen, the Lord Jesus said that the resurrection of the good and the evil will happen on the _____ day (John 5:28-29).

When Jesus comes again, the earth and its works will be _____ up. “But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for _____, kept for the day of judgment and

destruction of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7). “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be _____ with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in _____ conduct and godliness” 2 Peter 3:10-11). Second Thessalonians 1:7 says, “the Lord Jesus shall be _____ from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.”

Words such as “fire,” “intense heat,” and “destroyed” clearly show the present heavens and earth will _____ be our dwelling place throughout eternity. This phrase “elements” refers to those elementary things of which this _____ world is made. These elements will be _____ by burning itself; intense heat. Second Peter 3:12-13 remind us to look for “the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will _____ with intense heat. But according to His _____ we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

First John 2:17 simply says this world is passing away. It’s foolish to get so wrapped up in this world and to _____ there is more beyond. The Lord Jesus is coming back one day for His people. Those whose robes are washed white in the _____ of Jesus and whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life will live with Him forever. Nothing is more important! I have a wonderful wedding ring that my wife put on my finger when we married. It’s important to me, very important. But, when the Lord Jesus comes for me I can’t _____ this wedding ring with me. I have to _____ it here. The only thing that I can take to heaven with me is my _____ and the new body He will give me. Are you prepared to go to heaven? Nothing is more important.

If you saw Jesus coming in the clouds right now, what would you think and how would you react? Could you say, “Come, Lord Jesus,” and welcome Him; or would you _____ the Day of the Lord? How you _____ that question says a lot about where you are spiritually. Many people want the Lord to come someday, but they want to live as they _____ for the moment and not make the needed changes to _____ for the Lord’s coming. They presume they’ll have plenty of time; that it’ll come later; it’ll be okay; and they can get right with the Lord later on.

Because the Lord will return like a thief in the night and we don’t know when, we must be _____ for His coming at all times. We ought to live _____ day as if it were the _____ one before the Lord returns. If it’s the last day, what changes do you need to make in your life? Is your heart right with the Lord? Are you living as you ought to live? Maybe you have loved ones that need to get right with the Lord. Not knowing when the Lord will return doesn’t mean that we have _____ of time; it means that we must be prepared at all times.

If you’re not right with the Lord, today is the very best day to _____ to the grace of God in obedience to the gospel. Believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Repent and _____ from your sins, and let the Lord rule your life. Upon the public confession of your faith, be baptized in His name. Baptism into Christ means being baptized into His _____ according to Romans 6:3. Baptism brings us into contact with His blood, and unites us with Him in His burial and resurrection. It frees us from sin according to Romans 6:4-7. So don’t wait, obey the Lord today!

The Resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

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

Job asked, “If a man dies, will he _____ again?” You may be asking that question, too. Today, we’re going to explore the great _____ that we have in Christ. The Word of God is the only book that can give us the true _____ to the most pressing questions of life: Where did we come from? Why are we here? What will happen to us after we die? The Scriptures tell us that God _____ us after His own image so that we might seek and serve Him. The Scriptures are such a blessing.

Job asked an important question, “If a man dies, will he live again?” From our _____ senses, we can’t answer that question. We don’t have any _____ record of someone who’s died and has been buried coming back to life, so it’s only natural for us to ask if there is life after death.

We do, however, have a record of the resurrection of the _____ _____. The apostles and many others were certainly eyewitnesses of the resurrection. They believed so _____ in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that they were willing to give their lives and suffer _____ in order to tell the story throughout the world. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates God’s _____ to raise the dead.

The Scriptures reveal God’s eternal _____ to raise us up on the last day and take us home to heaven. That’s a message! One that fills us with hope. The Lord Jesus said, “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:39-40).

Our reading today comes from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:12-19.

When you ask people about what happens after death you’ll get _____ answers. Some think death is the _____, and a person just ceases to exist. Some say the righteous will live on while the unrighteous will _____ to exist. Others think that we’ll be reincarnated in different _____ forms on earth. Hebrews 9:27, however, teaches that we suffer death _____, and after this comes judgment. Even in the New Testament, the Sadducees and the Pharisees disagreed over whether there would be a resurrection. The Bible isn’t simply one voice among many; it speaks God’s _____ with authority. The Lord Jesus discussed the resurrection with the Sadducees. Let’s begin our study of the resurrection with that discussion.

Read what the Bible says in Matthew 22:23-32. This passage says that _____ does go on after death. The body dies but the spirit of a man continues to _____ in conscious form. The Bible presents the resurrection as _____ event, not two. Both the righteous and the

wicked will arise on _____ day. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in John 5:25-29.**

At the end time when Jesus comes again, He will call _____ who are in the tombs to come forth. That's everyone from every century in every place. Jesus won't leave out any body. He will raise _____ the saved and the lost all at the same time. All will come out of the _____ in answer to the call of Jesus Christ. He'll then _____ all men. The Scriptures teach us that there is but one _____ resurrection of all people. Paul said at Mars Hill, "there shall certainly be a resurrection of _____ the righteous and the wicked" (Acts 24:15).

For those who _____ God and _____ Him faithfully, belief in the resurrection is a great promise and comfort. As a minister, I've spent many hours at funeral homes and cemeteries. I've watched families _____ as they lowered the casket of a dearly loved one into the ground or placed it in a mausoleum. Nothing could bring back that loved one, but knowing that there is a resurrection helped to _____ them. We can be confident of the resurrection, because we know that the Lord never lies. We can trust every _____ from His mouth.

In John chapter 11, Jesus went to Bethany to _____ with the sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. They were grieving over the _____ of Lazarus. The Lord Jesus told Martha, "'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:23-26).

The Lord Jesus _____ with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and then He called Lazarus back to life. In spite of the fact that he had been in the tomb for _____ days and there would be a stench, Lazarus did miraculously come back to life. They moved that heavy stone, and they took the linen wrappings off of him, and they gave him back to his sisters _____. Everyone who was there saw the _____ and they believed it. Even the Jewish enemies of Jesus believed in His _____ to raise the dead. The enemies of Jesus said, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs (that is, miracles). If we let Him go on like this, all men will _____ in Him" (John 11:47-48). If He could raise Lazarus from the dead, my friend, He can raise you.

The Bible reveals that in the resurrection our bodies will _____. We die with flesh and blood, but we won't live throughout _____ in a body like we have now. Our bodies will be changed from this _____ body to a _____ body that is glorified and immortal. The Bible says, "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot _____ the kingdom of God (that is, heaven) ; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be _____, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'Death is

swallowed up in _____. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:50-57).

The fleshly body is subject to death, but the body that is changed, the one we’ll have in the resurrection, will be first of all imperishable and second it will be immortal. It cannot _____. First Corinthians 15:42-44 says, “So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in _____; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in _____; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.” The body that we put into the ground will not be _____ the body that we’ll have once God has raised us up and changed us. This body is weak and _____ to illness and death. But that body will not have the _____ that this body has.

First Corinthians 15:47-49 says, “The first man (Adam) is from the _____, earthy; the second man is from _____. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the _____ of the earthy, we will also bear the _____ of the heavenly.” In the resurrection, our bodies will be glorified like the body of the Lord Jesus. We won’t suffer there from a deteriorating body.

I love God’s promise, “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we _____ be. We know that when He appears, we will be _____ Him, because we will see Him just as He is” (1 John 3:2). Our bodies will be spiritual and immortal. We’ll _____ the greatness and grandeur of our God because we’ll be changed. This will enable us to see and hear things in the spiritual and heavenly realm that we’ll _____ be able to see and hear in this life with a fleshly body.

Let’s not get so caught up in this life that we _____ that we have our permanent home, as Christians, in heaven. In baptism, we _____ with Christ and are raised up with Him to walk in _____ of life as children of God. One day Christ is coming back for us so that we might _____ with Him forever. The Bible says, “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, (that is, you’ve been baptized and given this new life) keep _____ the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your _____ on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is _____ with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in _____” (Colossians 3:1-4).

When we’re baptized into Christ, God _____ us with Him in His burial and His resurrection. Through baptism, God makes us His children and gives us newness of life. When God unites us with Christ in baptism, our names are _____ in the book of life. This _____ us for the last day when Jesus comes again, and our bodies are raised imperishable, and we receive immortality. God grants us citizenship with Him in heaven in this life, but we’ll not enter into that heavenly home that He’s prepared for us until the resurrection of the body.

The apostle Paul helped the Philippians to understand about their _____ in heaven. Philippi was filled with retired Roman soldiers who were very _____ of their Roman citizenship. Our citizenship, as Christians, is in heaven; and the resurrection prepares our bodies to _____ in eternity. Paul said, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly _____ for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will _____ the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the _____ that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20-21).

The Lord Jesus described how we will live in heaven. “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered _____ to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; for they cannot even _____ anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection” (Luke 20:34-36). Many things will change in the resurrection. We’ll be like the angels, _____ and _____ God forever and ever.

We must so live that God may _____ us worthy to attain to the resurrection. We are saved by _____ through faith. The blood of Jesus _____ for us this opportunity. In Philippians 3, Paul longed to _____ Christ and the power of his resurrection. He wrote to the church in Thessalonica, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved (or saved) complete, without blame at the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). That’s what we hope for you, that you’ll be saved just like that.

Since you are going to _____ death and judgment someday, shouldn’t you think about your relationship with God? The Bible gives us the _____ of a resurrection. The Bible says, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give _____ to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:11).

Since the resurrection will lead either to life or to judgment, we should _____ life and blessing. The Lord will come again; He will raise us up from the _____, and give us new bodies. The Bible says, “We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this _____ fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2-3). Where is your hope? Are you pure and right with God? Are your sins forgiven? First Peter 1:22 tells us that we purify our souls through our _____ to the truth. Have you obeyed the gospel truth? Have you remained faithful to the Lord?

We obey the gospel through faith and repentance. Upon the confession of our faith we are baptized into Christ Jesus and His death. It’s at that time that His blood cleanses us from sin and causes us to be born again in newness of life according to Romans 6:3-7. So we ask, will you put on Christ and obey the gospel today?

The Judgment Revelation 20:11-15

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

When Jesus comes again we'll _____ gather before the judgment seat of Christ. What will happen there? Today, we will explore what the Bible says about the Judgment Day. Of all the books you might study, none is more crucial to your _____ than the Bible. It alone has the Lord's words of _____ life. It contains the _____ criteria that will one day judge your souls. You cannot afford to _____ what God's Word says.

I grew up watching Perry Mason on television. As a defense attorney, Mason nearly always demonstrated that there was a reasonable _____ about his client's guilt. Usually the judge dismissed the case because Perry Mason exposed someone else as _____. It was an exciting drama, all over, in one hour.

The Bible, however, describes the Judgment Day differently. The Lord _____ all things. He already knows those who _____ Him and have their names written in the book of life. He also knows those who have _____ Him and followed their own path. He'll _____ the saved on His right from the lost on His left.

The Judgment Day is not so much a day of _____ as it is a day of sentencing or rewarding. Some will enter their _____ in the heavenly city, while others are taken away from God forever. I'm talking about these matters today because we all _____ to know them. We don't want the Day of Judgment to find us unprepared.

Our reading today comes from the book of Revelation 20:11-15.

Pay very close attention to Revelation 20:11-15 because it _____ what will happen to you on Judgment Day. No matter who you are, where you've lived, when you lived, what language you spoke, or how important you thought you were, you'll be _____ before the great white throne. The Lord will _____ you on that day. The great and the small will all be accountable to God. Those who _____ and were resurrected at the second coming will be there, both the righteous and the unrighteous. The sea will deliver up its dead. Death and Hades will deliver up their dead. Those whose _____ are in the Lamb's book of life and those whose names are not found in the book of life, both of them, will be there at judgment.

Some present will try to escape out of _____, but there is no place for them to go. You cannot _____ your appointment with the Lord Jesus on Judgment Day. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his _____ in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." How you have _____ your life will determine how the Lord will recompense you for eternity.

On the last day, the Day of Judgment, the Lord Jesus will judge us by the things which

were written in the open books and He'll do it according to our _____. The Lord Jesus said, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the _____ I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (John 12:48). Those words are recorded in the New Testament. The Day of Judgment is also called the _____ day because there will be no other days after it. It's the _____ of this age and the beginning of the age to come.

We will not be judged by councils or creeds. Popular _____ will not decide right from wrong. The Lord Jesus will not take opinion _____ asking us what we think He should do. What Jesus said and what is recorded in the books, that is the New Testament, will be the _____ and _____ basis of authority to determine our eternal destiny.

The Lord Jesus will sit on that great white _____ as our judge on that day. Paul said, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should _____, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished _____ to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). Just as surely as Jesus _____ from the dead, so we can be sure there will be a second coming and a Day of Judgment.

I'm thankful the Lord Jesus will judge us. The Bible says that He is a _____ judge in 2 Timothy 4:8. He loved us enough to upon the cross _____ for our sins. He's been our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) and our advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). The Lord Jesus is full of mercy, and He will exercise mercy to the extent that it is consistent with His _____ justice and truth. Since He lived as a man on this earth, He has perfect sympathy and understanding of our _____. He will do what is right on that day.

On the Day of Judgment, the Lord will judge us individually. Romans 14:12 says, "each one of us will give an _____ of himself to God." My friend, no one can believe, repent, or obey the gospel in baptism for you. God will hold you _____ responsible for the sins that you committed and for the good things that you failed to do. The Scripture says that God will "repay each person _____ to what he has done" (Matthew 16:27).

We sometimes judge others for their sins but _____ our own. Some suppose God will condemn others for their sins but will _____ about their own. Paul said, "Therefore you have no _____, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things" (Romans 2:1-2). Sin is still sin, no matter who commits it.

On that day, the Lord Jesus will judge each one _____. He won't play favorites. **Read Romans 2:6-11.** God will judge us on the _____ of our faith, not out of prejudice; out of what He teaches, not out of presumption or prejudice.

The Lord will judge us honestly and righteously. There won't be anything _____ from His sight. The Bible says, "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and

able to _____ the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature _____ from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:12-13). When you stand before the Lord Jesus and His Word is _____, He will judge you fairly and openly. You might be able to _____ things in this life, but all will be laid bare to His eyes in the life to come.

First, the Lord will judge our _____ and motives. Our hearts can be so _____. The Lord said, “For out of the _____ come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders” (Matthew 15:19). What we think in our hearts prompts our _____. This is why willfully _____ about sin is as bad as acting on it. The Lord Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with _____ for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28).

God knows what is in our hearts. John 2:24-25 says, “But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.” Romans 2:16 reminds us on that day that “God will judge the _____ of men through Christ Jesus.” If you are contemplating evil in your heart, remember God knows your heart.

Proverbs 21:2 says, “Every man’s way is right in his own _____, But the LORD weighs the _____.” The Lord knows your _____ reasons. Each of us needs to be like David who said to God, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way” (Psalm 139:23-24). If God looked into your heart, what would He see there? Would He see good or evil in you?

Second, the Lord will judge us by how we _____. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 12:34-37.** A careless word is a worthless comment that’s made by an unthinking person. They don’t realize how _____ their words can be. Idle words may be gossip or lies; they may be endless grumbling or complaining. These careless words may be unfair criticism, or name-calling, or slander. They may show hatefulness and anger. They may be filthy talk. Ephesians 4:29 says, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the _____ of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” You will have to give an _____ to God one day for how you speak. Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the _____ of the tongue.”

Third, God will judge us by our works. Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.” God sees everything we _____, even if no one else sees it. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” The Lord Jesus said, “I am He who _____ the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your _____” (Revelation 2:23).

Our morals matter; right and wrong. Romans 8:12-13 says, “So then, brethren, we are

under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” If we allow sinful passions to _____ us, and act upon them, we’ll lose our souls. We must _____ from the sinful behavior and live godly lives. Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will 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.”

How we _____ others also matters. If we _____ to be forgiven, then we must learn to forgive. Jesus said, “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions” (Matthew 6:14-15). First John 4:20 says that you can’t claim to _____ God if you _____ your brother. Loving God means learning to love and to forgive others. Don’t let _____ come between you and your God. Being _____ to others matters. In Matthew 25:31-46 the Lord Jesus separated the sheep from the goats on the basis of their _____. The sheep fed and clothed the needy; they visited the sick and those in prison; but the goats ignored their needs. The Lord said in verse 46, “These (that is, the goats) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

When the Lord Jesus passes judgment on our souls, we too will either enter into eternal life or be taken away into eternal punishment. No event has _____ consequences than this one. Eternity has no _____. Once the Lord passes judgment on us, there’s no second chance and no _____. Whether we live in the grace of God in this life will determine our eternal destiny. If the Judgment Day came today, would you be _____ with God according to the Scriptures? The Lord Jesus died on the cross for you, but has His blood washed you _____ from sin?

Someone says, “Surely God is too _____ to punish anyone in the lake of fire.” If God let impenitent, sinful people go unpunished, He would certainly be an unholy and an unjust God. Habakkuk 1:13 says of God, “Your eyes are too _____ to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor.”

Read what the apostle Peter says in 2 Peter 2:4-9. Peter also says that God does not wish “any to _____ but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). It breaks God’s heart to see the wicked lost. God said, “‘Do I have any _____ in the death of the wicked,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘rather than that he should _____ from his ways and live?’” (Ezekiel 18:23). God doesn’t want to condemn you or anyone. But He wants you to _____. You must be prepared for the Judgment Day!

To become a Christian, _____ Jesus is the Son of God, _____ of your sins, _____ Jesus as Lord and Christ, and be _____ into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). When you’re baptized, your sins will be washed away, and the Lord will add you to His church (Acts 2:47; 22:16). Once you become a Christian, stay faithful! Love God and serve Him for the rest of your life.

Heaven

Hebrews 11:13-16

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

Heaven! The very word causes us to _____ joy and peace and love. God gives us real _____ in His Word, the Bible. He doesn't tease us with _____ promises or give us false hope. God tells us what we most _____ to know to live the best life on earth and to receive an inheritance in heaven. The life that we have in _____ here on earth is indeed an abundant life, and nothing could be sweeter than spending an eternity in heaven with God, our Father. We're in the business of helping people find the truth to be saved, and to go to heaven.

The Bible says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be _____ again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's _____ are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5). We are born again in this life to a _____ hope. Our hope is our inheritance in heaven, an inheritance that will never perish, never be defiled, and never fade away.

Our inheritance in heaven is _____ especially for us by the power of God. God will reveal that inheritance to us at the last day when the Lord Jesus _____ to take us home with Him. Heaven is eternal, blessed, pure, and filled with joy and love. God will welcome us to that home He _____ for us in the most lavish and wonderful way. Heaven! What a hope!

Our reading today comes from the book of Hebrews 11:13-16.

What a great promise we have in Christ Jesus. Jesus is eagerly waiting for the day that He brings us _____! God longs for His children to come home and _____ with Him forever. Glorious and marvelous describe the day when God's children come home to heaven. The Lord Jesus said shortly before His death, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Jesus is now preparing your _____. It's greater and grander than anything that you've _____ in this life. **Read what the Bible says in Ephesians 2:4-7.**

We really can't _____ how great, how glorious, how majestic, and how wonderful our home in heaven will be! The apostles got excited about miracles; Jesus said, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless do not _____ in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven" (Luke 10:19-20). No blessing, no

event can _____ with the joy that we'll have in heaven!

Heaven is a grand place, but the _____ of heaven isn't the physical part. It's God and His people! Heaven is where the _____ go. Heaven is precious because of _____ is there! All of God's people will be in heaven, all of the righteous, everyone whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

I want to go to heaven just to _____ God, my Father, who created me and blessed me every day of my life. Just to be in His _____ will be a great blessing. I get to meet the One who _____ the universe and the One who _____ my every prayer. I want to see Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I want to tell Him face to face, "Thank You for bearing the _____ to atone for my sins. Thank you for investing your _____ to redeem my soul." I want to see the Holy Spirit. My body has been the _____ of the Holy Spirit, and I want to know more about Him. I want to see the myriads of myriads of angels, and the cherubim and the seraphim.

I want to _____ with those I've studied about in the Bible: Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, Stephen, Paul, Timothy, Esther, Ruth, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Dorcas, and many others. I want to see my Christian loved ones, family, teachers, and friends. I want to meet the innocent who died as infants and small children. Heaven will be full of _____. The Bible says, "By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it" (Revelation 21:24).

We'll be surprised at who's there, for God's _____ is wondrous. We'll also be surprised at who is _____ there, for people have secret sins. Whoever is there, I want to love them. The Bible says the leaves on the tree of life are for the "_____ " of the nations (Revelation 22:2). We all need healing. Whatever pain or hurt or bitterness we've known in this life will be _____ in the next life. God will _____ all the things that cause us anguish or frustration.

The Bible says that God "will wipe away every _____ from their eyes; and there will no longer be any _____; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4-5). God is giving us a true _____, a place where every need is met and every sorrow erased. It will be a place _____ to utter joy and devotion to God. I want a home like that!

Since Jackie and I married we've lived in _____ houses. Each place was special and had lots of _____. Jackie and I speak of "_____, " and sometimes we mean one place and sometimes another. One day we expect to inherit a _____ home "with the Lord" in our Father's house. We expect to live there forever.

Peter said that we'll _____ an inheritance "that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:4). Houses may burn or be destroyed by a disaster here, but our home in heaven is indestructible. We must constantly clean and repair our houses here, but that dwelling place will _____ have a defect or flaw. It will never be unclean. Things fade and wither here on earth, but they will be forever _____ in heaven.

Heaven will be a _____ of refuge, a sanctuary. **Read Revelation 22:1-5.**

This life is _____ of trouble, but heaven will have _____ trouble. Here we have crime, war, disease, death, immorality, and lies. We'll be free from all that in heaven. Here we can expect pain and suffering. We are imperfect people living in an imperfect world, but heaven is _____.

People who are selfish, cruel, dishonest, or immoral won't _____ us in heaven. Revelation 21:8 says, "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their _____ will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." We'll remain _____ from crime, and sin and temptation.

Read Revelation 21:2-4. Heaven doesn't need a hospital or a funeral home. We won't need police or a fire department. We don't have to worry about tornadoes or earthquakes.

We'll _____ in heaven, singing and praising God eternally. Being able to sing with myriads of angels about the _____ of our God will be a great joy. Heaven will be a place of _____. Revelation 22:3 says, "The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him." I don't know what the Lord will have us do in heaven, but we'll serve Him like priests in the temple, doing multiple tasks that glorify God. This word "serve" is associated with worship, but it also reflects the _____ devotion of obedience and love that we show God.

While we'll serve God, we'll also find heaven is a place of _____. Serving God won't tire us in heaven; it will _____ us. Revelation 14:13 says, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"

The hope of heaven ought to _____ us. No matter what we are going through in this life, heaven will surely be _____ it all. Paul said, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the _____ that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). Our heartaches here make us _____ for heaven where there are no heartaches.

As Christians, we're foreigners here on earth. Peter said, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the _____, which wage war against your _____" (1 Peter 2:11). We sing the old hymn, "This world is not my home; I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore." Oh, this world is not our home; and our hearts long for what God has _____ for us.

God called Abraham to leave his home, and by faith Abraham _____. "He went out, not knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:10 says that Abraham "was _____ for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." You won't _____ a city here on earth like that. Hebrews 13:14 says, "For here we do not have a _____ city, but we are seeking the city which is to come." That city is in heaven.

The apostle Peter said, "But according to his _____ we are waiting for new heavens

and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Some think this new heavens and new earth is this earth after it has been _____ with fire. They say the righteous will live eternally on a reconstituted earth. But the Bible teaches that “the heavens will be _____ by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!” (2 Peter 3:12). This word “elements” refers to the basic components that make up this world: earth and air and fire and water. This world, as we know it, will be _____ destroyed. It will be no more.

Revelation 21:1 says, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth _____ away, and there is no longer any sea.” Speaking of heaven, Paul said, “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot _____ the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable” (1 Corinthians 15:50). The Lord began preparing a place for us, you and me, in the Father’s house when He ascended to heaven according to John 14:2. Heaven is not this earth. God has something _____ in store for us.

Heaven will be better than anything on earth. Revelation 21:23 says, “And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to _____ on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.” The earth needs a sun and moon, but the new heavens and new earth have God Himself. It will be a _____ and different kind of place to live, physically and spiritually. I don’t want to live even one hour without the hope of heaven or the promise of God. My friend, are you spiritually _____ with God? I ask you, will heaven be your home? I hope that you will put everything in your heart towards _____ God who’ll give you that home.

If I miss a ball game, I haven’t missed much. If I miss an important appointment, I’m disappointed and may suffer loss; but you know life will go on. If I miss heaven, however, I’ve lost _____. Nothing else matters.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Unfortunately, not everyone has a _____ for God or wants to be with God. Their hearts are somewhere _____, and they don’t long for heaven, the heaven that’s described in the Bible. Because they haven’t _____ themselves for heaven they won’t enjoy it. To enjoy heaven, the Bible presupposes that people _____ to be close to God and to love Him. The Lord said, “Blessed are the _____ in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

To be pure in heart means that God and His will are dominant in our thinking and in our behavior. People claim they want to go to heaven, but not everyone is willing to _____ their hearts and lives to prepare for heaven. If you love sin more than you love God, you’ll probably feel out of place in heaven. If you don’t know God or enjoy worship here, you’re probably not _____ in heart for heaven. Don’t miss heaven! Don’t lose your opportunity to live with God forever.

Become a Christian by placing your _____ in the Lord with all your heart. Believe and confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Repent of your sins and turn your heart and life toward the Lord. Live everyday for Him. Be baptized, that is immersed in water, and do it in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be _____ away. Get involved in church and stay faithful to the Lord. Are you ready for heaven? Are you right with God?