

# Program Transcripts

February 2023



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY<sup>®</sup>

# **SEARCH PROGRAMS**

**February 2023**

*Topics subject to change without notice*

## **FEBRUARY 5 – CHRIST LIVING IN YOU**

Can people see that you have been close to Christ? Can they see Christ living in you? Each of us must examine himself from time to time to see whether he is living in the faith and serving the Lord.

## **FEBRUARY 12 – LOVE AND RESPECT**

God commands husbands to love their wives even as Christ loved the church and commands wives that they respect their husbands. When husbands love and wives respect, their homes will blossom with love and unity.

## **FEBRUARY 19 – RESTORING CHRISTIANITY**

With so many churches and different kinds of Christians, it is no wonder people are confused about what God desires from us. Is there a way to restore the Christian faith found in the New Testament?

## **FEBRUARY 26 – WITHOUT GOD**

When people remove God from their lives, they encounter confusion, lawlessness, and chaos. The Scriptures reveal that people forgot or rejected God to their own destruction. We need God if we wish to find what is good and what lasts.

## Christ Living in You

Many people wear crosses around their necks, but does that make them Christians? Today we're exploring what it means to have Christ in you.

After Peter and John healed the man born lame at the Gate called Beautiful in the temple, the Council called them in and asked "By what power or by what name did you do this?" And they responded they had healed this lame man by the name of Jesus of Nazareth. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4 verse 12). Then verse 13 says, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

Can people see Jesus in you? Can they see Jesus in how you think, how you speak, how you treat others, and how you behave? Can people see that you have spent your life with Jesus Christ as your Lord? The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5 and verse 16, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Ephesians 5:8 to 10 tells us to "walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to John, chapter 17, verses 20 to 23. And these are verses where Jesus is praying to the Father, and on His heart are the people who follow Him.

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

Let's pray together. "Heavenly Father help us to always have Your love deep in our hearts, to love others, and to love the truth. And Father we pray that You will be us each day, that we may do Your will. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."

The Lord Jesus was totally given to fulfilling the will of His Father in heaven. More than once Jesus stated that He could do nothing on His own initiative. He didn't seek His own will but did seek the will of the Father who sent Him. Jesus said in John 5:19, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner." Christ did not act on His own authority but spoke only those things the Father told Him to speak. His likeness to the Father in heaven gave proof that He was indeed the Son of God.

The Lord Jesus was determined both at Gethsemane and on the cross to fulfill the will of the Father. When you consider Jesus passed through the heavens and created the world (Colossians 1:15 and Hebrews 4:14), it's both astonishing and heart-touching to consider what Jesus did out of love for the Father and love for us. His love and humility should lead us to show our love and humility too.

Philippians 2:5 to 8 says, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Jesus humbled Himself and obeyed what the Father sent Him to do. Christ lived for serving the Father, not Himself! Christ was not selfish, and Christians must not be selfish either.

If we wish to see what a Christian is, then we must investigate Scripture. Many passages describe the Lord Jesus and what it means to walk with Christ. If we belong to Jesus Christ, we must separate ourselves from the ways of the world. Paul contrasts unbelieving Gentiles with believers in Ephesians 4. He encouraged fellow Christians to see this difference. And he described the unbelievers in Ephesians 4:17 to 19, he said, "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that's in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness."

One can clearly see the worldly ways of these unbelievers. By inspiration Paul describes them as futile, darkened, excluded, ignorant, hard-hearted, callous, sensual, impure and greedy. Now these are evil people who do not know God and have no desire to know Him or follow Him. But according to Ephesians 2 and verse 12, they have no hope in Christ, none. Now this is quite different from people who have learned the truth and follow Jesus.

Paul explains the difference in Ephesians 4:20 to 24, he said "But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, that you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which is in the likeness of God, and it's been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." When they learned about Christ, they learned about the truth. They left their former lives, which was corrupted by the lusts of deceit. And they're renewed in the spirit of their minds, they became new people, who like God walk in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

When we belong to Christ and walk with the Lord, people ought to be able to see Jesus in our lives. Ephesians chapter four describe this lifestyle. First, Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another." Now it matters whether the world sees us as genuine and authentic. If our actions differ from our words, then the world will see us as hypocrites. If we tell half-truths and outright lies, God will see us as liars. Revelations 21:8 says clearly that liars will have no part in the heavenly city.

Second, Paul speaks of how we deal with anger. Ephesians 4:26 and 27 says, "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity." Now we all find life frustrating at times, but we must never let our feelings control our actions. James 1:19 to 20 says, "This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." Many people assume following our feelings is always the right thing to do, but it's never right to follow your feelings into sin. Anger leads people away from God rather than to fulfill the righteousness of God.

Romans 12, verses 17 to 21 says, "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. 'But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'" You see there's a better way than getting even and taking revenge on others. And so let's learn to leave room for the wrath of God.

Third, we must earn our living and share with others. Ephesians 4:28 says that, "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need." God wants His people to give a fair day's work for a

fair day's wage. The Lord's people should be generous people who share with others what God has provided for them. Galatians 6:9 and 10 says, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we don't grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

Fourth, we need to pay attention to how our speech goes. 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 need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." The Lord Jesus made it clear in Matthew 12:36 and 37, "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you'll be justified, and by your words you'll be condemned." We must learn not to complain, or to unfairly judge others, or to slander, or to gossip. We should be encouraging others, people whose language shows our love for God and respect for others is what we should be. Colossians 4 and verse 6 says, "Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."

Fifth, we need to remain free from sinful habits. Ephesians 4 and verse 30 urges us, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Yes, the Holy Spirit of God is a person and He grieves over sin. Romans 6:8 to 11 says, "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Let's remember Romans 8:12 to 13 says, "So then, brethren, we're under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you're living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you're putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." The Spirit grieves when the children of God give in to sin and fail to live for the Lord.

Sixth, the Lord's people should be known for their kindness and tender hearts. Ephesians 4:31 to 32 says, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Kindness and the willingness to forgive are important marks of being a Christian. How we treat others is vital to how people in the world see the Lord's church. The Lord Jesus said in John 13:34 to 35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

There's a difference between those who walk in the ways of sinful men and those who walk in the ways of the Lord. 1 John 2:9 to 11 says that, "The one who says he's in the Light and yet hates his brother is in darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there's no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he's going because the darkness has blinded his eyes." I fear many people are blinded by the darkness, giving into their feelings rather than walking in the ways of love and kindness. The Lord Jesus clearly says in Matthew 6:14 to 15, "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."

Seventh, let the love of Jesus Christ live in you. Ephesians 5:1 to 2 says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." The word "Christian," as it is used in the New Testament, is not an adjective but a noun and refers to a person who belongs to Christ. If we belong to Christ and we're crucified with Christ, then let's imitate the Lord Jesus. Let's walk in love and sacrifice

ourselves to God as a fragrant aroma. Let's be God's children who live in holiness and righteousness. Let's love the truth and righteousness more than the ways of the world.

1 John 4:19 simply says that, "We love, because He first loved us." Our love should be more than words spoken; it should be in our hearts and in our lives. 1 John 3:16 says, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." Verse 18 says, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." Yes, let's let God's love shine out in our lives. Let's let it be something that is so powerful and so meaningful that other people will say "I wished I could love like that. I wish I cared the way that he cares, or she cares." The love of God needs to be deep in our lives.

Let's pray together. "Father we're thankful that You showed us Your love through sending Jesus Christ on the cross. We praise You, we praise Your name. And Father help us to glorify You, by living like Your son, and letting Him and His ways live in us. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen."

2 Corinthians 13:5 says, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?" While we live in this world, we're not to live like the world lives. Romans 12 and verse 2 reminds us, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

You can hear the heart of the apostle Paul reach out to the church at Thessalonica in 2 Thessalonians 1:11 to 12, he wrote "To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

If you wish to glorify the Lord Jesus and follow Him, then you must come to Him for salvation from sin. Place your faith in Jesus Christ and in His word. Without faith, it's impossible to please God. Repent of your sins, flee from them, and pursue righteousness. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be baptized into Christ. According to Romans 6:3 to 7 baptism is a burial and resurrection with Christ, it unites us with Him, it gives us newness of life, and it sets us free from sin. Christianity is a commitment for life; and the Lord expects us to be faithful unto death (Revelation 2 verse 10). Never stop serving the Lord!

## Love and Respect

God's message to husbands was to love their wives, and His message to wives is that they respect their husbands. Let's look and we'll see why He spoke about love and respect.

As Christian husbands and wives, we should do what is right, even when doing what is right isn't easy. Jesus set the example. 1 Peter 2:21 to 23 says, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he didn't revile in return; when he suffered, he didn't threaten, but He continued entrusting himself to him who judges righteously." Jesus loved us even when we were unlovely and sinful. He died for us, even when we were helpless and ungodly.

All marriages go through rough spots and challenges. I know that Jackie and I have had our share of parenting responsibilities, financial challenges, and health problems. And I'm certainly not the perfect husband, and Jackie's had to put up with all my weaknesses. But through it all, we've never forgotten the commitment we made to each other in the presence of God and witnesses. Both of us vowed to love and respect each other. And when we turn to Scripture, love and respect are the key to happiness in Scripture.

Our scripture reading today comes from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, chapter 5 verses 22 to 27. And discusses the importance of love and respect in marriage.

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless."

That's a reading from God's holy word.

Let's pray together. "Heavenly Father we're grateful for Your love, and we're grateful Father for the teaching that You give for husbands and wives. Father help us as we look toward our mates, that each of us will be serving You as we serve them. And Father may our love for You, and our worship, and our obedience to you always be full and free. In Jesus name, Amen."

The Scriptures teach that the husband is the head of his wife, and she is to be subject to him. In our day, when equality seems to be so important, some think it's unfair that God gave authority to husbands over their wives. This authority, however, never gives men the right to abuse or dominate their wives. Any man who treats the woman he married unkindly is breaking God's law. He's not only disobeying God, he's also deceiving himself. Only a fool believes abusing his wife will benefit him. Wise husbands understand the better they treat their wives, the more their wives will respond with love and respect.

When husbands fail to love their wives, their wives react with disrespect. When husbands sense a lack of respect from their wives, they often act in ways that are unloving. So these feelings of being disrespected or unloved tear apart the marriage. But, when husbands show love and wives show respect, the marriage prospers and strengthens. You can make your marriage brighter and better, husbands, if you can learn to demonstrate Christian love to your wife.

If a disrespected husband will love his wife anyway, and if a wife who feels unloved will respect her husband anyway, they can start putting their damaged marriage back together. A wise husband pays attention to his wife. He's able to see what she needs to be happy. Every woman needs to feel her

husband is close to her and cares about her. Some husbands keep their distance from their wives, and then their wives feel unloved because of it. Wives need husbands who will open up enough to share their thoughts and feelings. She feels unwanted or unneeded when he closes up and shuts her out of his life. When he keeps his life secret from her, she feels he doesn't love her enough to trust her. Wives need to know their husbands are loyal to the marriage, that he's not looking elsewhere. She also needs to know that he sees her as the most important person in his life (except for God). She needs to know that he cherishes and honors her.

The most important thing a husband can do is love his wife. 1 Corinthians 13:4 to 8 says that, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it's not arrogant or rude. It doesn't insist on its own way; it's not irritable or resentful; it doesn't rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." Now love may start with a warm feeling, but we must learn how to love our wives; and wives must learn how to love their husbands.

Some folks are harder to love than others, and love will require a lot of patience and kindness. Love demands that we set "ourselves" aside. I can't love someone else if I'm only focused on myself and I'm self-centered. Love rules out envy, arrogance and rudeness. It learns to let small things slide and not be irritated all the time. Love bears what marriage demands, believes and hopes the best in our spouse, and it endures. Love determines to put the best interests of our spouses before our own, regardless of the cost. Jesus loved the church like that, and He asks husbands to love their wives that way too.

Loving your wife involves taking the time to be close to her and to listen. The happiest couples spend time with each other, talking and listening to each other. Husbands and wives should spend a good while each day in meaningful conversation. Turn the television off, get away from the computer, and talk face to face. A wise husband will take the time to share his life with the woman that he loves. He wants to know about her and is willing to invest his life in her by listening. To fail to pay attention to your wife is to say to her that you don't care what she has to say. Such behavior is abusive not loving.

James 1:19 to 20 says, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires." Much of the anger in our homes would go away if people would take the time to listen and to understand the people they love. Listen to your spouse, let her finish her sentences, don't act rashly or hastily. Try to understand her life from her point of view.

Treat her with kindness 1 Peter 3 and verse 7 says: "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." Some men have the awful attitude that because husbands are the head of the wife, that this position of authority gives them the right to dominate or abuse their wives with their power. Well any man who treats his wife like a doormat is violating the will of God. Abusive power is a marriage killer. Husbands, treat your wife kindly, tell your wife how important and valuable she is to you. Watch for the loving smile on her face when you do that! The Proverb writer said, "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain." (Proverbs 31, verses 10 to 11). Notice how the wise husband trusts his wife's judgments and realizes how fortunate he is to have her. It's utter foolishness for a man to expect his wife to love him and meet all his needs, while he treats her unkindly. Husbands, love your wives.

Jesus taught, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7 and verse 12). I'm amazed how kind and good people can be to those outside the family but treat their own families with disrespect. If we could see ourselves as



we really are and how we treat our families, we might be quite shocked. If we had a tape recording of our words or a video of our actions, we might see ourselves the way our families see us. Some folks never consider how difficult they make their family's lives. That's why, every now and then, it's good for all of us to step back, take a long look at how we have treated our families. Empathy is the ability to see things through the eyes of another and to feel what she is feeling, or he is feeling. Sometimes we look at ourselves through other's eyes. And when we do that, what are we going to see? And will we like what we see?

A wise husband will also be the spiritual leader in his home. It's spiritually important for couples to spend time together singing, praying, and reading the Bible. There's great value in a husband and wife privately praying together every day. Prayer allows husbands and wives to take their burdens together to God the Father. It allows them to express in each other's presence and in the presence of God their concerns and their needs. When two people pray with each other, they develop a spiritual intimacy and unity that builds their relationship. Christian marriages, where God is the center of the home, where love and where patience and forgiveness are present, and where God's laws are obeyed, almost never end in divorce. God's ways are not only right ways; they are the best ways. When people truly live out their faith, the way God intended, they find their marriages to be the happiest and most loving. Husbands, do your best to make your home what God would have it to be. Be the spiritual leader in your home. God's way is truly, truly, a way of blessing.

Peter said in 1 Peter 3:1 to 6: "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives—when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Don't let your adorning be external—that is the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening." Sarah is an ideal for Christian wives to follow. As an apostle Peter was inspired of God and as an elder, Peter himself was married. He knew the great blessing of having a good wife.

God says in 1 Corinthians 7 and verse 2, "But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband." Now making your home as God teaches is critical to a happy life. Proverbs 12 and verse 4 says, "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is as rotteness in his bones." In Proverbs 18:22 Solomon said, "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD"; but in chapter 19:13 he said, "a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping." Just like a dripping faucet, a quarrelsome wife is a constant irritation. Proverbs 19:14 says that, "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD." A man who has a godly and wise wife is doubly blessed. Proverbs 31 gives us a marvelous insight into a virtuous woman, who would be a prize to any man. It begins in Proverb 31:10 with the words, "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies." And he ends the chapter by saying, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (Proverbs 31 verse 30).

What kind of wife does God wish women to be? Paul says wives should show respect for their husbands. Many women find it hard to respect men. Some have stereotyped men as crude or juvenile, and unworthy of respect. Masculinity, as a whole, has been under attack in our culture. Some actually think we don't need men at all. But humanity couldn't function or reproduce itself without men. Many men work very hard and sacrifice a great deal to provide for their wives and families. Many men spend

hours caring for their wives and children every day. Many men are sensitive and understanding when they need to be and firm when they need to be. Men who love their wives and live the Christian life of honesty, integrity and purity will be men worthy of respect. Some men, sadly, live without integrity or purity. They treat their wives harshly. How tragic! Wives, however, should still respect their husbands.

Why is that true? How can a wife respect her husband when he doesn't deserve her respect? Well she gives him respect, both because of who he is, but more so because of who she is. She gives her husband respect, because she belongs to God and it's God's will. We must do what is right regardless of what others do. Just as I'd tell a husband to love a wife that's hard to love, I'd tell a wife to respect her husband even when he's hard to respect. Paul said in Ephesians 5:33, "Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."

Let's pray together. "Oh Father as husbands and wives help each of us to do Your will, to give love and to give respect that each of us deserve and need. And Father we pray that You'll bless the homes, bless them with Your love, and bless them as they live for You, and share Your will. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen."

If you want a better marriage, start looking at yourself. How are you treating your spouse? Now instead of constantly criticizing, start evaluating yourself. You can help your marriage by improving yourself, rather than putting down your mate. Let's clean up our own lives before we focus on the faults of our spouses. Women, do you show respect to your husband? Men, do you show love to your wife? Men are you meeting your wife's needs for love and attention, and women are you honoring your husband by meeting his needs?

We can't change our spouses by making unreasonable demands, but we can change ourselves. When we change for the better, our spouses will appreciate those changes and will want to change as well. Improving our marriages begins with improving our hearts. Nothing more makes a more loving heart, than entering into a loving relationship with God. When the love of God is in your heart, you'll become more loving and respectful to your family.

Does the love of God live in you? Are you committed to Christ? To become a Christian you must have love for and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his word. Loving God means turning away from the sinful and hurtful ways of the world and embracing the loving and righteous ways of Christ. We call this repentance, a change of heart that leads to a change of life. Upon your repentance and the confession of your faith, the Lord asks you to be baptized in His name, immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Now in baptism you'll be united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection according to Romans 6:3 to 7. The Lord will wash away your sins and add you to His church. And you'll be in God's family. I hope you'll come to Christ today. Please don't put off getting right with God.

## Restoring Christianity

When things are broken, we want to fix them. What happens when what is broken is what we believe and practice? And today we're going to be talking about restoring what's broken.

The Lord Jesus is in the saving and the restoring business. He purifies broken and sinful souls. He said in Luke 5:31 to 32, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I've not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Jesus walked the earth and (He) died on the cross, and His goal was the same. He told Zacchaeus in Luke 19 verse 10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." When people go astray, the Lord, like a shepherd, seeks them so He can save them from the dangers of sin.

He also corrects those that are headed in the wrong way and leads them to everlasting life. The Lord grants to all the gift of repentance and reconciliation, which restores a right relationship. The Lord warns and corrects by His word those who follow false beliefs or practices so that they can leave error and come to the truth. The concept of restoration is neither impossible nor misguided, for the Lord is in the restoring business.

Our reading today comes from the little letter of Jude verses 3 and 4. And here he encourages them to look very closely at the word of God and to hang on to the teachings that are there.

"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Let's pray. Heavenly Father we're thankful that you did hand down to us the things that we most needed to know. And Father help us to be devoted to what You've taught us. To obey You always and to love You always. In Jesus name, Amen.

The New Testament teaches that Christians are to hold to the traditions, forms and patterns that were delivered to them by the apostles. These traditions, unlike human traditions, come from God and reveal what He wills for Christians. Paul praised the Corinthians for following the traditions that he taught them in 1 Corinthians 11 verses 1 and 2. He said, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you." Paul encouraged the church at Thessalonica in 2 Thessalonians 2 and verse 15 to "stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us."

Now these inspired instructions, traditions, gave the early Christians forms or patterns to follow. Whether in the matter of salvation or in worship, they were encouraged to obey from their hearts. Romans 6:17 to 18 says, "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." When the Romans "became obedient from the heart to that form, or pattern, of teaching to which they were committed," God freed them from sin and made them His servants.

Again Paul spoke broadly to Timothy of many things 2 Tim. 1 and verse 13 says, "Follow the pattern of the sound (that is healthy) words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus," To suggest that there are no patterns to follow is to deny what the Lord commands and what

faithful Christians did. If the sun, the planets, and the moon in our universe follow a pattern, if every cell in our body has a DNA pattern, if every leaf on every tree follows a pattern, why would we suppose that the Lord's church has no pattern?

The restoration movement of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in America believed in the need to unite those who follow Christ. They saw the fighting and discord among Christians in the early days of this country and they wanted unity. They wanted to follow the prayer of Jesus in John 17:20 to 23 where Jesus prayed: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

There can be no doubt that weak and fallible men have often allowed misguided zeal and wrongheaded attitudes to get in the way of true obedience; but this doesn't mean that we ought to stop following the Lord's teaching. The apostle Peter frequently blundered, but he was serious about his devotion to the Lord and repented of any evil. He put away his blunders and continued serving faithfully. Peter knew false teaching would come along, that untaught and unstable men would distort the truth. He said in 2 Peter 3:17 to 18, "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Now unity comes from the things that unify. Before Jesus prayed for unity, he prayed his disciples would be "sanctified in the truth" (John 17 verse 17). The idea that people should discard the Lord's teaching about salvation and the church in order to be united with others who believe differently will never bring the kind of unity for which Jesus prayed. Instead, it settles for a union with error. Instead of teaching one faith and one gospel, compromise corrupts the church and it corrupts the truth by blending it with the culture. To hold to the truth, we can't compromise but we must separate from those who are in error.

Someone has correctly said, "It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It's better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. It's not love and it's not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It's better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie." Though we live in a time that demands political correctness, God expects us to be obedient to His word. You see God's word says in Romans 12 and verse 2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Now restoring is not the same as reforming. Reforming suggests a makeover that improves the existing system. Restoring, however, suggests the idea of bringing something back to an earlier and better condition. Much of what passes for Christianity today has little likeness to the ideals found in the New Testament. Nor what Jesus expected the church to be in all ages. Some churches have become social organization; and others have become enterprises, while still others have become an entertainment venue. Many churches have forgotten the way of the Lord. And they've pursued whatever culture dictates. Some have so divorced themselves from the truth found in Scripture that they believe almost anything. I can understand why many find religion distasteful these days.

When we suggest a need for restoring the church, we're saying something is wrong and needs to be corrected. The restoration principle points to the inspired and desired will of God for all congregations found in the teaching of the New Testament. Even when the New Testament honestly criticizes a congregation, one can learn from the criticism what God does not approve. God speaks to real life and

real problems in the New Testament in order that Christians and congregations in later days may not repeat the same mistake and the same error.

Jesus walks among His churches and He'll judge them on the last day by His teaching, His word, a, will te, do that, that judging (John 12 and verse 48). Now since the word of the Lord is authoritative to the last day. The same standard will be applied to everybody from the beginning to the end. He doesn't have one Bible for one group and a different Bible for other groups. God expects those who follow Him in every age to do His will, not to invent their own churches. When a group strays from the Scriptures and establishes their own religious group after their own desires, they aren't following the will of God. Religious people can easily assume their practices are biblical, when they're not. Jack Lewis noted in his book *Basic Beliefs*, that "Every generation will either be driven by cultural pressures or directed by God's word. It does no good to be admired by our culture only to be rejected by God."

What should a church do if it strays from the will of God? The answer is simple: repent! That's what Jesus said to the seven churches of Asia. Repentance is a turning away from the worldly and human and turning toward the way of the Lord. Some sins are moral matters; but others are doctrinal, that is, what men teach. To be restored, people should turn away from doctrinal error to the will of God. Restoration takes place when people repent, and this is necessary to please God. To argue against restoration is to argue against repentance.

Now no one can remain in error and still please God. In the early church, false teachers said Jesus did not come in the flesh. John said in 2 John 9 to 11, "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son." Now God expects us to give up false teaching and to abide in the teaching of Christ in order to "have God." These false teachers were lying about Jesus and they were guilty of evil deeds. What do you do when you find out that you have been deceived? You correct the situation. You abandon the false doctrine or the false practice and you come back to God's will and God's way of doing things. And this is what one does to restore his relationship with God—he repents.

Jack Lewis, remarked, "Almost every religious revival that has taken place in the history of the church (and in Israel's history too) has been sparked by a return to the basic fundamentals of God's word. We must never lose sight of the fact that the power behind significant religious change is the living, active word of God (Hebrews 4 verse 12). Not dynamic preachers, not charismatic leaders, not cleverly written books, not new evangelistic gimmicks, not community-changing service projects. The power in the word of God resets wandering priorities, and it puts to death consumer-driven passions, and recalibrates out values to God's eternal standards."

King Hezekiah led Judah to repent of evil. Hezekiah followed an evil king who led Judah into idolatry. And he wanted to bring Israel back to the way of God. 2 Kings 18:3 to 7 says, that "He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. He removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan. He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him. For he clung to the LORD; and he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; wherever he went he prospered."

Likewise, King Josiah led Judah to repent at a later time. 2 Kings 22 verses 10 and 11 says, Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king. When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes."

Josiah said, "great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

Well, Josiah called all Judah together and "read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant" (2 Kings 23 verses 2 and 3). Josiah destroyed everything idolatrous and evil. Josiah's example of repentance restored Judah to God's teaching. And if we find that we're in error, let's do the same thing!

The Bible is the complete and final authority. And just as a seed will produce only after its kind, so the seed of God's word will produce the same Christianity today that it did in the first century (Luke 8 and verse 11). The Word of God works today the same way it did when the Lord gave it. The work of restoration, then, is actually soul-winning, since it leads a lost soul out of sinful error and into God's saving grace.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us to look deeply into Your word and to follow the things that are there. Help us to pay much closer attention to what there was written so that we may not stray from it. And help us to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Imagine you're driving and come upon an automobile accident. And you find a man there who is injured; his leg is grievously broken. Now he's in great agony and crying for help. You immediately call 9-1-1, and an Emergency Medical Team arrives soon. Well, the man tells the technician, "Oh, give me something to deaden the pain! Just knock me out!" Well, surely he'll give him something to ease the pain; but you know what, he won't stop there. He'll also find ways to set that leg. Maybe it will require emergency surgery later on. But if the leg is not set back into place, the man's leg will not heal. The problem must be corrected, if the man is to be whole and healthy.

As the great physician, Jesus brings healing to our lives by correcting the morally broken places in our lives and in our churches. He eases the pain through forgiveness but corrects the life through repentance. Repentance means getting our hearts and our lives right. God's gracious forgiveness is abundant, but it works with repentance not apart from it. It takes both grace and repentance for people to transform and to be like Christ.

Now becoming a Christian includes both our salvation and our commitment to follow Christ and to be united with Him. Now being united with Christ takes place when we follow that form of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When we have repented and confessed our faith in Christ Jesus, we need to be baptized. Romans 6:4 to 7 says, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Now when we're baptized into Christ, we're united with Him in His death and resurrection. At that time God washes away our sins and makes us His child. My friend, don't wait to be united with Christ!

## Without God

If you remove God from the picture, it'd change everything; and those changes won't be good. Let us talk about living without God.

In the nineteenth century Friedrich Nietzsche, the German philosopher and cultural critic, said, "God is dead. Well, to him, God remains dead. And he says and we have killed him. Yet his shadow still looms. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives; who will wipe this blood off of us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves?"

Well, Nietzsche was not so much saying God doesn't exist as he was saying that society had treated Him as if He were dead. Nietzsche lost his faith. But, God isn't dead; Nietzsche merely banished him from his heart; and so have many today. When society thinks it can live without God, it ends up replacing His truth, His beauty, His morality, and His order with substitutes that cause confusion, disorder, emptiness, and immorality. There's good reason to know, and to love, and to serve God.

1 John 2:15 to 17 says, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians chapter 2 verses 11 to 13. And in this he talks to them and reminds them of what life was like before they became Christians. He says;

"Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Isn't it wonderful that we have the hope that comes through Jesus Christ. Let's pray together. Father, we're thankful for what Jesus has done for us so that we could come to know You and to love You and to see the promises that You have prepared for us. Help us Heavenly Father always to be obedient to Your will because we love You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Without God people have nothing lasting, nothing pure, nothing holy, and nothing true. Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine; (and) you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." That was true in the first century, and it's true today!

We have good in life, because of God. If there were no God, we couldn't live. James 1:17 says that, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Every good thing we possess finds its source in God, who created this world with the design to meet our needs, air, plants, animals, water, sunlight, and the soil. Romans 1 and verse 20 says, "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made."

Some reject God, because God is absolute and teaches absolute truth with concepts and morals that cannot change. God's absolute nature provides order in our world. God's word says in 1 Peter 1:14 to 16, "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who

called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." Without absolute truth, we're left with relative truth; and this causes confusion, uncertainty, and chaos.

The Scriptures point to an absolute God with absolute truth. Romans 11:33 to 36 says, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

Many arrogantly think that they are wiser than God, but our society is filled with falsehoods and confusion. The Oxford Dictionary's 2016 Word of the Year was "post-truth." They explain that, "objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief." For many, emotions and assumptions manufacture what they believe rather than reality. Some no longer believe God revealed moral truth in Scripture, so they manufacture their own moral logic and justifications. Have you noticed how morally confused our society has become? Our society doesn't know when life begins, what marriage is, or what makes people male and female.

When people stop fearing God, they feel free to lie. We've been inundated with lies, fake news, false charges, misrepresentations, and exaggerations to the point that we're confused and questioning everything from the news and the things that come from politicians. Thankfully, we have a source of spiritual truth in God and in Christ that cannot be changed or stopped. The Lord Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Titus 1 and verse 2 says the Father is the "God, who never lies." Hebrews 6:18 says it's impossible for God to lie. God's honesty and integrity gives us a reason to place our trust in all that He says is true.

Without God, society is left in moral confusion. When we no longer think God matters, we can't decide, of course, when life begins, or what marriage is, or whether a person is male or female. And the theory of evolution, these days, is actually beginning to fail. Much of what Darwin supposed in his theory has been shown false by the fossil record and by DNA. We know far more today than Darwin knew in 1859. Evolutionists assumed but never have proved that non-living things gave rise to living matter in spontaneous generation. They assumed but never proved one-celled animals evolved into a multi-celled animal. They assumed but never proved that invertebrates, that is animals without a spine, gave rise to vertebrates that is animals with a spine. They assumed but never proved fish gave rise to amphibians, and amphibians gave rise to reptiles, and reptiles gave rise to birds and mammals. They assumed time allowed these things to happen, but there's no proof among the fossils of one linking to another.

You see, without God people assume that they are the result of unplanned and unintended events that have no reason or purpose for existing. The difference between a person who sees God's design in this universe and believes God created him for a purpose and a person who sees no design and has no reason for his existence is huge! One has a direction in life, while the other just exists.

When you disregard God, you must disregard His moral teaching. Without the moral teachings God provides, we would live in a tragic and disorderly world. According to the Pew Research Center, "virtually no atheists turn to religion for guidance on questions of right and wrong." In fact, atheists have great difficulty establishing a basis for their moral lives. The Russian novelist, Fyodor Dostoevsky, has one of his characters say, "If there is no God, everything is permitted." Well, we pay attention to, to morals and our behavior, because we know that we are accountable to God if we're Christians. Hebrews 4:13 says, "And no creature is hidden from his (that is God's) sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account." You know when there is no accountability, there is no reason to remain moral. We must remember 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10, which 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.”

God's morality is wise and good, because God is wise and good. He sees and knows everything about humanity, and He gave every commandment for our good. So we can't thumb our nose at God's ways and not, and not pay an awful price for it. Moses saw the superiority of God's commandments in Deuteronomy 4 verses 6 to 8, “Keep them and do them, (he says) for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?”

Sadly, many nations have abandoned God's ways, thinking they have outgrown Him or know more than He does. They don't. Paul knew the condition of the pagan world when he was preaching the gospel in Ephesus. He wrote in Ephesians 4:17 to 24, “Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They're darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that's not the way (that) you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” Without God, there's no path to holiness and righteousness; there's only selfishness and impurity.

When people rid themselves of God, they also rid themselves of hope. 1 Peter 1:3 to 5 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, (reserved or) kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” God wants to bless us for all eternity; and He gives us living hope through Christ's resurrection.

Now the resurrection of Jesus, is no small matter. 1 Corinthians 15:16 to 19 says, “For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you're still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” But, of course, God did raise the dead, He raised Christ; and in fact He gives us hope! We have assurance because of what God has done for us. Romans 8:11 says, “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 life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

More than that, God's word gives us hope that God will bless us with His people. Romans 15 and verse 4 says, “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” God's help k, was given to Noah and his family and he survived the flood; Moses had God's help when he brought Israel out of Egypt and crossed the Red Sea; Joshua conquered Palestine; David slew Goliath; Elijah raised the dead; Josiah restored the temple; Daniel revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream; the three Hebrews survived the fiery furnace; Daniel came out of the lion's den; Ezra led the people back to Jerusalem; Nehemiah built the wall; and Jesus rose from the dead. I tell you, you cannot deny God's power and what He condemned!

In Christ we not only can live forever; we have the best life now. Paul said in Philippians 1 verse 21, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Paul realized that Jesus came to give us an abundant life!

And it's a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit: that's "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, [and] self-control" Paul noted in Galatians 5:22 and 23 that, "against such things there is no law." The love and teaching of God leads us to our, our best life, our wisest, and our strongest. You know whenever you are a Christian you have minds and hearts set on something better than selfishness, greed, and lust. Christians love because Christ loves. They serve, because Christ served. They bless others, because Christ blessed them. And in Christ, whatever is good and excellent multiplies!

We should give thanks that we have a God who loves and cares for His people! The ancient pagan gods had little concern for the people. Their followers never thought they could grow close to their gods; they offered sacrifices to keep the pagan gods from getting angry and sending evil upon them.

We often quote John 3:16 and 17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." God loved a world that could not save itself, an ungodly world that never gave Him a second thought, and a world that sinned against Him and was His enemy. And yet, God, because of His great love and mercy, was willing to sacrifice His Son Jesus in spite of it all. No one, no one, no one will ever love you to the same extent that the Father and the Son love you!

Let's pray together. Oh, Father we pray that You will open our hearts and our eyes to see the great love that You have for us. A love that is beyond all comprehension. And that we may come to love You and to be obedient and to serve You. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

On May 23, 1939, the submarine Squalus sunk. Its crew sat helpless at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean off the shore of New Hampshire. The Squalus was two hundred and forty feet below the surface. No one had ever attempted to rescue a submarine if it were more than 20 feet below the surface. And so the crew sent up smoke flares, hoping to be found.

Rescuers lowered a ten-ton diving bell several times and brought the thirty-three surviving members of the crew to safety. Not one of the thirty-three men said to their rescuers, "Well, I'll think it over," or "I'll wait for a more convenient time," or "I'm in good condition as I am," or "Well, there is too much to give up." No each one instantly and gratefully accepted his opport, opportunity to escape this sunken submarine.

Sin puts your soul into just as much a helpless condition; you can't save yourself by your own doing. Without the Lord to rescue you from condemnation, you have no hope. This is why it doesn't make sense to ignore or put off coming to the Lord Jesus for salvation. It also makes no sense to forsake the Lord Jesus and His teaching to live a sinful life.

To be saved you must believe and confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, you must repent of your sins and turn to the Lord Jesus, and you must be baptized or immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Now being saved means the Lord will remove the sins and make you His servant. The Lord will add you to His church, and God will make you His child. God wants to save you, but you must let Him by obeying His instructions. What's preventing you from becoming a Christian or remaining faithful to Christ? Whatever it is, it's not worth it!