



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY ®

*Program
Study Guides*

For

December 2014

“In Spirit and Truth” John 4:19-24

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

Each Lord’s Day the church _____ to praise God in worship. Today we’re going to _____ the great privilege and responsibility of worshipping God. Every day we seek to _____ God by worshipping and serving Him. When we worship God, we enter into an _____ that honors, adores, thanks, and reveres God. Our worship should _____ that He is worthy of our praise, gratitude, and devotion. In worship, we _____ ourselves and _____ the Lord for His glory, His purity, His holiness, and His goodness. In worship, we _____ God as our creator and sustainer; He is indeed the _____ of every good and perfect gift. In worship, we _____ the things above, where Christ is. We set our _____ “on the things above, not on the things that are on _____.” Worship renews our minds and transforms our spirits so that we may focus on living out the _____ of God, “that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

When we worship God, we seek to magnify Him, not ourselves; to declare His majesty; and to be in awe of His love and His power. **Read Psalm 34:1-3.** We exalt God not only with our voices but also with our _____ and our _____. **Read Hebrews 13:15-16.**

Our reading today comes from The Gospel According to John, chapter 4:19-24.

When the Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar asked Jesus about worship, Jesus explained what God _____ from those who worship Him. The Lord Jesus said, “God is spirit, and those who worship Him _____ worship in spirit and truth.” God Himself is spirit; and true worship always comes from the spirit, the _____ person. Our _____ should cry out love, honor, and thanksgiving to God. Our worship should be heartfelt. **Read what David cried out in Psalm 63:1-3.** True worship arises from a heart that is _____ of love and gratitude for all the _____ that God has given.

Colossians 3:16 says, “Let the _____ of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Our worship must _____ become a meaningless ritual without heart or thought. We must be careful not to let our worship become _____ and _____. Our worship _____ be intentional and directed with love and gratitude toward God. When we give at church we should give lovingly and cheerfully. Second Corinthians 9:7 says, “Each one must give as he has decided in his _____, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a

cheerful giver.” Worshiping the Lord must never become a _____ drudgery, but what we do out of genuine love and a desire to honor and please.

The Lord also tells us that we must worship in _____. God wants us to worship Him honestly and genuinely; and to worship this way means that our hearts must be _____ and that we must be devoted to worshiping the Lord biblically. Genuine worship seeks to _____ the One that we worship. We can’t please the Lord if we haven’t asked what the Lord _____ from us. True disciples _____ to the Lord and abide in His Word. They aren’t focused on pleasing themselves but on pleasing the _____. Real worship in truth comes from a genuine heart that honestly _____ the Lord. Only the Bible can tell us what _____ genuinely wants in our worship. When we _____ from the Word of God, we ignore the will of God. You can’t genuinely worship God if you _____ Him.

God never _____ our worship to be self-focused or people-focused, but rather to be focused on Him. Many have _____ the worship of the Lord into something that God never intended. They have focused more on pleasing _____ than on pleasing God.

First, God never intended worship to be a form of _____ entertainment where the performance of people outshines the reverence that we should give to God. The Lord Jesus cautioned the Jews, “Beware of practicing your righteousness _____ other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 6:1). Jesus illustrated what He meant by giving three examples of showy religion. He spoke of the hypocrites who when they gave to the needy, sounded a trumpet that they may be _____ by others. Jesus said they already have their reward in the _____ of men, but they cannot expect a reward from the Father in heaven. The Lord instructed them, “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in _____. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (verse two). Jesus next spoke of the hypocrites who “love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be _____ by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.” Jesus instructed, “But when you pray, you go into your room and shut the door and _____ to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (verse five). Jesus last spoke of the hypocrites who look gloomy and “disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.” The Lord instructed, “But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (verse sixteen).

There are still many who make a show out of their _____. Much of what is called musical worship today is actually a performance for an _____. For many, the Christian music

industry has turned worship into an enterprise with recording artists and stars who are praised and lauded for their _____. This isn't what the Lord _____ for worship. That focuses not on God but on the fame and the skills of the _____. Anything that takes the focus _____ of God in worship isn't worship in spirit and in truth.

Second, God never intended for people to worship Him in _____. How can worship be vain? The Lord Jesus reveals the answer. The Pharisees, in the time of Jesus, followed _____ traditions. These human concepts and practices had _____ so entrenched in their religion that they considered them as authoritative as God's own written Word. They actually thought that breaking one of their traditions was _____. So they deceived themselves, thinking that what they had _____ done was from God; but God never commanded them. When people initiate their own doctrines, their own ways of worship, and their own traditions, they cease to _____ God. They may think that they are following God because they're doing things that are religious; but they're _____ themselves and making their worship vain.

Read what the Lord Jesus told the Pharisees and scribes in Matthew 15:6-9. The Lord distinguished Scripture from _____ traditions handed down from men. Man-made religion causes our worship to be _____ and it accomplishes nothing. God wants worship that pleases Him by following His _____ instructions. When people follow human traditions for a long time as the Pharisees did, they _____ that it pleases God. The Pharisees deceived themselves. **Read what the Lord Jesus explained in Matthew 15:13-14.** Men may establish human traditions, but God will _____ them. Men may seek their own ways to worship, but God will not _____ them. If we follow blind guides who think their human traditions are God's will, we won't worship God in spirit and truth but will worship God in _____.

Third, God never intended for people to worship Him in _____. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, "You worship what you do not _____" (John 4:22). **Read what Paul told the pagan and idolatrous Athenians in Acts 17:22-23.** Sadly, many today still don't know much about the God who _____ them. Some have _____ how glorious, how majestic, how loving, and how powerful is the God who made us. **Read how the prophet Isaiah speaks of the grandeur of God in Isaiah 6:1-4.** Today people often lose _____ of the holiness and the exalted nature of God. They gather to worship Him but with _____ reverence in their hearts. They come _____ they were coming to a concert, or a ball game, or a social function. **Read Hebrews 12:28-29.** Each Christian should _____ seriously about what he's doing in worship. God is holy, and our worship must reflect our _____ for His holiness. We must never lose our _____ of the sacred. We must never treat God as if He were _____. Before you worship, pause a moment and _____

about what you're about to do. Consider carefully God's majesty and glory. Isaiah knew he was a _____ man coming into the presence of a sinless, holy God (Isaiah 6:5). He recognized the difference between God and man.

Some people think _____ ought to be grateful that we came to worship Him, when it's _____ who ought to be thankful to God for the opportunity to worship. Some think God ought to be _____ with whatever we have to offer Him, but God expects us to offer acceptable worship. To offer whatever we like rather than what He desires isn't treating Him as _____.

Do you remember the _____ of the two brothers, Cain and Abel? **Read Genesis 4:3-5.** Why did God reject Cain's offering and accept Abel's? **Read Hebrews 11:4.** God didn't accept Cain or his gifts because Cain didn't have _____. If we come into God's presence and ignore His instructions or treat Him as one who is common, do we have faith?

The Lord asks His church to gather together _____ Lord's Day (the first day of the week or Sunday). They sing from their hearts; they pray fervently; they commune in the Lord's Supper; they listen to God's Holy Word; and they give cheerfully. By faith they offer up their hearts in a _____ of praise and adoration to the Lord. If you're able, worship with the Lord's church this Lord's Day. Pray and sing with them, give, and listen to God's holy Word.

Remember that the Lord Jesus told the woman at the well that God _____ worshipers who will worship in spirit and truth. He wants people to worship _____, not pretend or put on a show. He seeks people who truly worship and serve Him, as He _____ it. Are you focused on serving God, or are you focused on yourself?

Christianity isn't a "me-focused" faith whose sole purpose is to make me _____ about myself. When worship is all about me, it actually _____ Christianity. We hunger for righteousness with God, not merely religion: and God hungers for those who _____ worship in spirit and in truth. Do you hunger for righteousness? Joy and peace come as a byproduct of righteousness. Do you want to be right with God?

Righteousness comes by the grace of God when people _____ with love and faith to the good news of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness. We die to sin when we _____ and are _____ into Christ. Repentance is a change of _____ that leads to a change in behavior. We leave sin and follow Christ. Romans 6:3-4 says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Get right with God today and worship the Lord every day.

Why Am I Here?

John 1:1-4

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

At one time or another everyone _____, “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” Today we’re going to explore who we are and what our _____ is on this earth. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. We can _____ Him to teach us what we need to know. Only He can give us the wisdom and the grace that leads to _____ life. Only He can help us _____ purpose and meaning. Man is _____ than flesh and blood; we also have a soul and spirit. Only God can fill our _____ needs and help us to know who we are and why we are on this earth.

Many people _____ from what is commonly called an “identity crisis.” They don’t _____ who they are or why they’re in this world. They can’t seem to “find themselves,” and, in part, that is because they _____ purpose in life. Many people are _____ for something that gives them meaning and purpose. They’re _____ for something, but they aren’t sure what. So they go from thing to thing, _____ for some satisfaction, only to find life frustrating again and again. Why? They’re looking in the _____ place. They’re looking for satisfaction from what is temporal rather than from what is _____. They’re looking _____ to their desires rather than _____ to God.

We must all _____ that there is One greater than we are, to whom we owe our very existence. Paul explained to the philosophers at Athens that God desired that “they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:27-28). He is the _____ we exist, and without Him we have no reason to exist.

Our reading today comes from The Gospel According to John 1:1-4.

The Old Testament tells of a man who had everything, I mean everything. He was the _____ named Solomon, the son of David. He had wealth, power, wisdom, possessions, wives, servants, and everything a man could _____ about. Yet the wisest, richest, most admired man in the world said, “‘Vanity of vanities,’ says the Preacher, ‘Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What advantage does a man have in all his _____ which he does under the sun?’” (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3). He found that all his advantages in this life under the sun didn’t bring him the satisfaction that he _____ for.

Read Ecclesiastes 1:8-9. Life “under the sun” for Solomon had _____ boring and wearisome. He had seen and heard it all, and there was nothing _____. If all we know is life “under the sun,” we too might _____ bored and weary of life. Life here can feed the _____, but “life under the sun” cannot always feed the _____. When the soul remains unfed by God, life _____ empty and meaningless.

Solomon tried _____. **Read Ecclesiastes 1:13-15.** The wisest man in the world found wisdom “under the sun” an unanswerable riddle, beyond his _____ to solve.

Solomon next _____ pleasure and possessions. **Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-3.** Laughter and wine didn’t take away the _____ of the soul. Solomon needed _____ than what he could find under the sun.

Read Ecclesiastes 2:5-8. What did he find?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:9-11. Life “under the sun” is not like life with an understanding of God. As wise as he was, Solomon was _____ God in his life. He foolishly let his many wives turn his _____ from God.

The book of Ecclesiastes takes a number of twists and turns; but in the end, Solomon admits, “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: _____ God and _____ His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to _____, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Many people, like Solomon, don’t get that _____ until they have tried everything else first, and they’ve left God out of their lives. Life _____ God in our souls is empty; it’s vain; and futile. Solomon was right: “Vanity of vanities; all is vanity... a chasing after the wind.”

Sadly, our lives may not fare any _____ than Solomon’s while he lived “under the sun.” It’s not until we exalt God in our lives that we can _____ life under the sun at all. Only then can we begin to _____ that most important question, “Why am I here?” Even with _____ physical and material advantage, life without God is boring and empty. Faith in Jesus Christ gives our lives _____ and _____. Because of Him, we can figure out _____ we are and _____ we’re here. Nothing can take His place. Nothing can give us the fulfillment that a _____ relationship with Christ can give.

The Bible teaches that we were _____, but men began saying less than two hundred years ago that we came about by _____. Whether we were created with purpose or whether we evolved by chance _____. It determines how we _____ ourselves, what we _____ about morality, and how we _____ our lives. Some who believe that we evolved from apes and deny there is a God, _____ answer the question, “Why are we

here?" We're simply a product of _____ in their minds, with no accountability to a higher power. Such people have little _____ to live a life above the level of "eat, drink, and be merry." This life is all there is.

But with God in our lives, in our understanding we have a completely _____ perspective. We have meaning and purpose in life, a _____ compass, and a future hope. God said, "Let Us make man in Our _____, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26-27). God made us to be _____ Himself with a soul and spirit. Hebrews 12:9 tells us that God is the "father of spirits."

In Revelation 4:11, the twenty-four elders sang around the throne of God this very song, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive _____ and _____ and _____, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." We were created by God for His _____. We're here to be His _____ and to live close to Him in this life and in the life to come. **Read what Paul said in Titus 2:11-14.** God gives you all His love and grace to _____ you to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. He wants to _____ you from a world that doesn't know Him or live for Him. He wants to _____ in you and do good to others through you. I can't imagine anything more meaningful and satisfying than truly living for Christ.

The Lord has a _____ for our lives. **Read what Paul told the Ephesians, who once did not know God, in Ephesians 4:17-24.** God wants us to live a life that is _____ those who don't know Him. He wants to help us _____ the joy, peace, love, and purpose that only He can give. He has a life of joy, service, and fulfillment that is truly abundant! It can be ours in Christ Jesus!

Jesus said, "I came that they might have _____, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). That life that Jesus wants for us is not merely life on this earth but also the life that He's _____ for us for all eternity. We're not here on this earth _____ to live here. Jesus is preparing a place for us to _____ with Him through all eternity. The sad thing is that many people _____ think of life beyond this life and their accountability before God. Jesus spoke of two different "ways," two different "roads," each going in a very different _____. Our choices and purpose in life will indeed affect our _____.

Read Matthew 7:13-14. This passage _____ many people. Most folks think that nearly _____ is going to heaven. A recent poll said that 88% percent of Americans “feel accepted” by God, yet Jesus said that _____ people choose the easy way that leads to destruction. Could it be that we’ve lost sight of true faith and have become believers instead in _____ religion, rather than what God teaches?

The grace of God is _____ for those who will love Him, believe in Christ, and will serve Him. That’s the purpose of our lives, _____ the Lord created us. **Read Ephesians 2:4-7.**

Until our lives come into _____ with God’s purpose for us, we will never find the fulfillment and the reason why we’re here. God makes _____ the difference in the world. Without Him, there’s a hole in your _____ and a hole in your _____. Only God, the God of the Bible, can _____ that empty place. Will you let Him?

God knows you personally. He knows _____ about you, because He created you. God loves us. We’re _____ to Him. First Timothy 2:3-4 says, “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires _____ people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” He wants you to be His _____. If we love and obey Him, He promises to _____ us a dwelling place in heaven so we can live with Him forever. Jesus cares so much for you, He was personally _____ to bear the agony of the cross for you.

God extends His saving _____ to you, just like He did to Paul (1 Corinthians 15:10). What will you do with it? Will you become God’s child? We’re here on this earth to be _____ to the world, to be the _____ of the earth, and to _____ the message of Jesus to everyone, and to be zealous for good works. Don’t let the grace of God prove _____ for you and miss out on His love and His blessing.

To become a Christian you must _____ with all your heart Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. You must _____ of every sin and turn your heart to the Lord. You must _____ Jesus as the Son of God, and be _____ (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of your sins. When you’re baptized, God _____ away your sins and unites you with Christ. From that day forward you’re a child of God and an heir with Christ. Why not become a Christian today? Find your true identity, the one God intended for you. Come to the Lord today and follow Him forever.

God's Gift of Love 1 John 4:7-11

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

When God sent His Son Jesus into the world, He was sending His very heart filled with _____. Today we're going to remember God's _____ of love. We seek to _____ the Lord and to follow Him. When we follow the Lord, we know we'll _____ a joyous, abundant life filled with peace and purpose. God's ways are _____ righteous and kind. They _____ rather than tear down. They give _____ rather than discourage. They _____ to wisdom rather than to foolishness. The more you know about God, the more you'll love and praise Him.

God is love. Everything about Him _____ His love. **Read John 3:16-17.** Jesus didn't come to this world to condemn us, but to _____ us. He knew sin was our real _____, and He suffered on the cross so we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness. God _____ to send Jesus. **Read what an angel of the Lord told Joseph in Matthew 1:20-23.** Jesus is indeed God _____ us, and we're so thankful He came into the world.

Our reading today comes from The First Epistle of John 4:7-11.

Many people think of the _____ Jesus when they think of God's gift of love. God gave us Jesus to be _____ of us. He was _____ us physically and endured all the challenges of growing up in this world. Because He became one of us, He _____ all our strengths and weaknesses. John said that Jesus "did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself _____ what was in man" (John 2:25). Though Jesus was the Son of God, He _____ flesh and dwelled among us. **Read what the Hebrew writer observed in Hebrews 4:14-16.** Because Jesus understands us and was _____ like we are, He can _____ us in our greatest times of need.

God knew that we _____ Him! No one else would do. The Lord Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever _____ in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). There are _____ prophets in the Old Testament, but only _____ Son of God. Moses gave us the _____, but Jesus gave us _____ and _____. The prophets _____ people, but Jesus _____ Himself for people. Angels could _____ us God's message, but Jesus Himself _____ God's message, the Word. No one else could do what Jesus did for us. Revelation 5:12 reminds us that because Jesus was slain as a Lamb for our sins, He is _____ "to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

The Lord Jesus gave three _____ why He came into the world. First, He came to _____ us from our sins. He said, “For the Son of Man came to _____ and to _____ the lost” (Luke 19:10). Jesus came looking for the _____, that He might save them from sin. Because of sin, we’re all lost; and we’re lost in sin and needing a Savior to _____ us. So many of the heartaches of life come from _____ behavior. When people _____ God, they fill their lives with every kind of evil. Jesus wanted to bring salvation to our lives so that we could have _____ and true life and _____ all that evil. Jesus isn’t trying to manipulate us but to _____ us. The Lord Jesus said, “the Son of Man came not to be served but to _____, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Sin separates us from God and it also enslaves us to evil; but Jesus redeemed us with the _____ of His blood. He redeemed us by _____ Himself, His very own body and His very own blood. There could be no greater _____, and no greater _____. Jesus not only died for us as individuals, He also wanted to _____ us from this sinful world. **Read Paul’s greeting to the churches of Galatia in Galatians 1:3-5.**

One can truly describe the world into which Jesus was born as “_____.” The predominant _____ of His day was a mixture of superstition with paganism. Because it was a world with a warped understanding of God, people lived with warped _____ and _____. **Read Romans 1:28-32.** Our world today is much _____ the world of the first century; and each day it seems to _____ more and more evil. More and more people participate in that evil with the _____ of others. How tragic that people _____ a sinful world is more enjoyable or better than a world where God is honored.

Second, Jesus said He came to bless our lives with a _____ way, an abundant way of life. The Lord Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). In Christ our lives overflow with His _____. Titus 2:14 says Jesus “gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to _____ for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.” Jesus not only saves; He _____ people. He transforms them from _____ to _____. His love, His truth, and His life show us a better way to _____ and a better way to _____ our fellow man. The Lord _____ us kindness, respect, integrity, honesty, and justice. He’s the Prince of peace, the hope of mankind, and the balm of Gilead.

Ephesians 2:8-10 says, “For by grace you have been saved through _____. And this is not your own doing; it’s the _____ of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good _____, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” When people live in sin they _____ misery and heartache everywhere; but when they serve the Lord they become a _____ to everyone. They encourage; they give hope; they show love; they bring peace; and they spread joy and

good news. Christians do not speak out against sin because of _____, but because they know the agony and hurt sin brings. The Lord offers something _____ than sin. He was indeed God's gift of _____. What God gave to us was not things, but a _____.

Third, Jesus said He came to bear witness to the _____. John 1:14 says of Jesus, "And the Word _____ flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (that is, the only begotten Son), full of grace and truth." Jesus proclaimed, "I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the Father _____ through me" (John 14:6). Because of Jesus, we can know what God is like; because of Jesus we can know what righteousness truly is; and because of Jesus, we have the ability to distinguish _____ from _____.

When Jesus appeared before Pilate, Pilate wanted to know if the _____ he had heard were true. So John 18:37 reads, "Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a _____?' And Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was _____ and for this purpose I have _____ into the world—to bear witness to the truth. And everyone who is of the truth _____ to my voice.'" Jesus and the truth are inseparably _____ to each other. If we wish to know the truth, we must _____ to his voice.

Our world is _____ with contradictory lies, myths, and false hopes. Jesus came to give us an undeniable and unvarying _____ to the truth. How wonderful to have an unchanging moral and spiritual _____ that provides a basis for our values. Since God has raised Jesus from the dead, we can have confidence that the Lord's _____ is true. We can _____ His promises, His morals, and we can believe that heaven is waiting for us. First John 5:20 says, "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us _____, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the _____ God and eternal life." It is a great gift to know what and Who is _____.

The Lord Jesus wants to _____ us with His love. He wanted His _____ on the cross to make a difference in our lives. If we take seriously the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, we will come to _____ Him. The Lord Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will _____ all people to myself" (John 12:32). Let His sacrifice on the cross for you _____! The Lord Jesus was _____ to pay the ultimate price to get your attention and to demonstrate His utter love for you. He wanted to _____ you to Himself. He wanted you to love Him the _____ that He loves you.

Romans 5:6-8 says, "For while we were still _____, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us." We were once weak and needed saving; we were once

ungodly and didn't take the ways of God seriously; and we were once sinners who violated God's teaching and were offensive to Him. In spite of these things, the Lord Jesus willingly _____ for us to show His love.

When we _____ to His love and become Christians, we _____ that the cross matters to us. Surely the God who created us and gave us His Son has many more blessings in store. Romans 8:32 says, "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us _____?" In Christ, God's love never _____! **Read Romans 8:35-39.** Nothing can _____ you from the love of God; but don't take His love for granted. Never turn _____ from God as some do.

When Jesus redeemed us with His _____, He gave us His utmost. We all need to be reminded of how God _____ us as Christians, and as His children. **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.** Don't let anybody or anything _____ you of a close, loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Love Him and _____ Him.

Jesus came into the world to _____ us from sin, to _____ us a better way, and to _____ the truth to us. Does this make any difference to you? Does it matter whether you are lost or saved? Does it matter whether you live with wisdom or with foolishness? Does it matter whether you know the truth or whether you have been deceived with falsehoods? There is one thing you must understand: while some people ignore Jesus the Lord, Jesus is the most relevant and important Person in your life. No one else can bless you, love you, forgive you, give you hope, and save your soul but Jesus Christ. You need Him in your life.

The love of Jesus is indeed a _____. The Lord loved us even when we didn't _____ it, even when we were lost in our sins. He took the initiative and _____ His body and blood on the cross because He didn't want to _____ us where He _____ us. He came to _____ us out of darkness and out of hopelessness. Don't take this marvelous gift of love and salvation for granted; it's priceless. Nothing else compares.

If you wish to _____ the love of God, you must _____ His gift of love. Believe in the Lord Jesus, _____ from the sin that only destroys, _____ Jesus Christ as God's Son, and be _____ into Christ. When you're baptized into Christ, you're "crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be _____ to sin" (Romans 6:6). This baptism is an immersion in _____, just as Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and just as Philip baptized the eunuch. When you are united with Christ, the Lord sets you _____ from sin and He makes you God's child, a fellow-heir of heaven. Will you accept His gift of love? Will you love and obey Him?

A Doer James 1:22-25

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

It's not enough simply to believe in Christ; we must _____ our faith. Today we're going to look at the need to be a _____ and not merely a _____. God's Word is beyond doubt a marvelous _____ of wisdom and spiritual truth. God graciously provided His will for us to _____ our lives on earth and to lead us to eternal life. Psalm 19:10-11 says of God's teachings, "More to be _____ are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant _____; and in keeping them there is great reward." I hope you _____ your Bible daily and treasure its words in your heart. The Bible is _____ because it's the Word of God. If you know it and _____ it, it will indeed reward you.

God's teaching is indeed a gift to be treasured, but its value isn't in simply _____ to it. Its value comes from putting the Word into _____. God wants His people to do _____ than talk about their faith; He wants them to _____ it. **Read James 2:17-19.** Our actions tell the _____ whether we really believe. The demons believe so strongly that they shudder at the _____ of God, but they still live in rebellion. Can people see your faith by the _____ you live and how you _____ people? Can they _____ your faith by your love, your generosity, and your joy?

Our reading today comes from the letter of James 1:22-25.

Christianity not only gives us a _____ to be believed, a _____ to be embraced, and a _____ to be enjoyed; it also gives us a _____ to be lived. God doesn't measure our spiritual health by our _____ to be religious; God measures us by our faith, our love, and our obedience. Some think how we live makes no difference to God, that God only looks on the _____ and never judges our behavior. Such thinking fails to take into consideration the _____ teaching of Scripture; it overlooks _____ passages. Whether we practice our faith certainly _____ to God.

For many the concept of works and salvation in the same sentence causes many _____. The Scriptures are also clear: we cannot _____ our salvation by good works; we are saved by _____. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** Salvation is a gift, and that gift is the greatest _____ for us to live godly lives. Romans 3:24 says we "are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

No matter how much we've done, we cannot _____ what the Lord has done for us. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 17:7-10.** Even with all of our efforts we stand in need of the _____ of God. The salvation and daily blessing that God gives to us _____ our ability to repay. We should be _____ for the privilege to serve our God.

Nor are we saved by _____ the Law of Moses. We are saved by grace, not the _____ of the Law; that is, the Old Testament Law. **Read what Paul said in Galatians 2:19-21.** Paul _____ to the Law of Moses so he could be justified by the grace of God in Christ. Why did Paul say this? Paul understood the _____ between the old covenant and the new. Paul told the Jews in the synagogue of Antioch of Pisidia, "Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man (speaking of Jesus) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39).

Ephesians 2:8 says we are "saved by grace through faith," but some have assumed it says _____. Some say we are saved by faith _____. The word "alone," however, isn't _____ in this passage. Words like "grace" and "faith" are much _____ and _____ in meaning than some think. The grace of God does far _____ than merely save us from sin. Every blessing, every talent, and every opportunity we enjoy _____ by the grace of God. The apostle Paul recognized that God's grace affected _____ aspect of his life. **Read what Paul spoke of God in 2 Timothy 1:9-11.** God's grace and purpose touch _____ of our lives as Christians as well.

In the same way, faith is more than merely believing. It's more than mentally agreeing that something is _____. Faith is a package word that encompasses _____ aspect of our commitment to Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ is a _____ mindset of devotion to Him, His teaching, and His ways. John 12:42-43 says, "Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God." These rulers believed, but wouldn't make their faith _____. They didn't want to _____ their status in the synagogue, so they sold out their faith for the love of _____. God reveals that He doesn't _____ mere faith that won't make a life commitment. Faith alone cannot _____ or _____ God. The Bible teaches of the _____ for faith, but it never teaches the doctrine of faith alone.

Read James 2:20-24. Faith must demonstrate itself in order to _____ God.

To believe means you are _____ to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow the Lord. The Lord Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me;

and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37-38). The Lord expects us to give ourselves _____ to Him; it takes more than mere faith. Our faith must demonstrate itself in a _____ of commitment. Jesus told the saints in Smyrna, “Be faithful until _____, and I will give you the _____ of life” (Revelation 2:10). Believing means remaining _____ to the very end, through every challenge.

The Lord knows our _____ by how we live. God said, “I the LORD search the heart and I test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds” (Jeremiah 17:10). If we serve the Lord, He will _____ us; but if we fail to put our faith into practice, we’ll face His _____. John 3:36 says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not _____ the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” We _____ to God and to the world what is in our hearts by our behavior.

We must never imagine that our behavior doesn’t _____. We should never _____ ourselves by thinking we can _____ in rebellion to the will of God and still _____ peace and be saved. Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one _____, that will he also _____. 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.” The reason it says “Do not be deceived” is because people tend to delude themselves that they can live as they _____ and won’t face judgment. It is an undeniable _____: we reap what we’ve sown. You cannot _____ God by thinking a life of sin will bring you eternal life. Planting wheat will not produce corn, and living in sin will not produce righteousness.

One day we will all _____ a day of judgment. “For we must all _____ before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has _____ in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:10). If we are right with God and have lived for Him, we will be _____; and if we have lived in sin and rejected Jesus, we will be recompensed for that, too. Our behavior matters. **Read Revelation 20:11-12 about this scene.**

Everyone from every age and every continent will be _____ on that day. Some will wish they could _____ judgment, but they have no place to go. They will be judged, every one of them, by the things _____ in the books. What books? The Lord Jesus said, “The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day” (John 12:48). The words of Jesus found in books will _____ us at the last day. Jesus promised in Matthew 23:34 to send forth prophets, wise men, and scribes to spread His _____ to the whole world. We have those words in the New Testament, and that is why we _____ the New Testament so diligently.

We must learn to receive His Words and to be _____ to His ways. The Lord Jesus once asked His disciples, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46). Jesus obeyed His _____ in heaven, and He expects us to be obedient to Him today. Hebrews 5:8-9 says about Jesus: “Although he was a son, he learned _____ through what he suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who _____ him.” The way to heaven _____ us to obey the Lord Jesus.

Putting our faith to work is not only a demonstration of faith; it also demonstrates our _____ for the Lord. **Read 1 John 2:3-6.** Are you walking in the _____ of Jesus? What is your _____ saying about your faith in Christ and about your love for God? Would those who know you best say that you _____ believe in Jesus and that you love God? Would those who know you best really be able to look into your heart and into your life and see the _____ of person you are? Do you really believe, and do you demonstrate your faith?

Our faith is not merely something to be believed; we must practice it. Acts 6:7 says this about the early church: “And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.” True faith _____! If you do not obey the Lord, how can you _____ to believe in Him? Romans 6:17-18 says, “But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become _____ from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.” What standard or pattern is that? Romans 6:4-7 tells us: “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into _____, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might _____ in newness of life. For if we become united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our _____ self was crucified with Him (that is, in baptism) in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For the one who’s died has been set _____ from sin.”

Put your faith into _____. Repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be _____ into Christ. When you are baptized, the Lord will _____ away your sins, and He will add you to His _____. The Lord Jesus loved you enough to sacrifice His life upon the _____. He did more than _____ He loved you; He demonstrated it! Will you demonstrate your love for Him by _____ Him. Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”