



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

*Program
Study Guides*

**For
June 2018**

June 3, 2018

God Has Spoken
2 Peter 1:16-21

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

When Jesus spoke in the first century, scribes took down His words, and these words are in the New Testament. We search the Scriptures because they _____ from God. No other book contains the wisdom, the prophecies, and the righteous commandments found in the Holy Bible. The Bible is the only book in the _____ that offers objective evidence to be the Word of God. Only the Bible gives real _____ of its divine inspiration through its fulfillment of prophecy. No other book can give us the _____ about the beginning or the end of time. The Scriptures _____ us to Jesus Christ, providing testimony from witnesses of His death, burial, and resurrection. The more you _____ the Bible, the clearer your knowledge of God will become.

Read how Hugo McCord explained the concept of inspiration.

Our reading today comes from 2 Peter 1:16-21. Peter is describing how prophetic utterances, the Scriptures, came about through inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Have you considered the _____ of God's Words? God speaks and things _____. "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). God spoke _____ into existence. Psalm 33:6 says, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were _____, And by the breath of His mouth all their host." Verse 9 says, "For He spoke, and it was _____; He commanded, and it stood _____." If God could speak creation into existence, then He has far greater _____ than we can imagine or understand.

The Words of Jesus are likewise powerful and authoritative. Colossians 1:16-17 reminds us, "For by him _____ things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." When Jesus spoke, _____ happened.

Jesus taught with _____ in the synagogue in Capernaum. **Read Mark 1:23-27.**

Jesus not only had authority over unclean spirits, He also had authority over _____. This power is shown frequently in the New Testament. **Read Matthew 8:23-27.**

God speaks with great power and authority, and all of nature and the universe _____. Man is the only creature that can _____ what God says and ignore or disobey Him. When people _____ the Word of the Lord they face great consequences. Some people don't take God seriously, but God has shown through time that He _____ what He says. Some think God will not _____ anyone no matter what that person does.

When you hear the words of the Lord Jesus, remember that He _____ you and sustains your existence. Without His power over creation, you couldn't _____. He deserves to be

heard! One day the words that He has spoken will be the standard for your _____. The Lord Jesus said, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the _____ I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (John 12:48), Since the words of Jesus will judge you, you should _____ what He said and take it seriously. The words of Jesus will not disappear, and Jesus will not _____ what He said. What Jesus said is just as _____ today as it was in the first century. Changes in time and culture do not _____ what the Lord said. No one can _____ the words of Jesus on the Day of Judgment. The Lord said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

The Lord Jesus said, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He _____ in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26). Many people regard Jesus as a great moral teacher, but then they feel _____ to disagree with Him or ignore Him. What Jesus says about moral issues _____ some Christians. They imagine that Jesus doesn't _____ whether they live righteously or not. They listen to what He says about salvation, but _____ what He says about repentance. They want Jesus as their Savior, but not as their _____ and Master. They want all of His _____, but they dismiss His commandments.

How we _____ to the Lord matters, and what we teach and practice will affect how the Lord judges us. Second Peter 2:3 speaks about some disobedient _____ teachers. The apostle Peter said, "and in their greed they will exploit you with _____ words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep." The Lord is not asleep or idle; He sees and knows what the righteous and the wicked are doing. He will _____ us all.

Peter explains, "For if God did not _____ angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to _____ the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment" (2 Peter 2:4-9). Since the Lord has a record of how He _____ with sin, we should take Him seriously.

When we become Christians, we _____ Jesus as Lord. Jesus built the _____ and purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). When we were forgiven, He redeemed us with His precious blood and _____ us to the church. The word Lord describes Jesus as _____, as the One who created us. Philippians 2:9-11 says, "God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is _____ every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every

tongue will _____ that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Because He is Lord, everyone will be _____ to His authority. He is our Lord and Master, and there is no other. As Lord, He has _____ authority over our lives on earth and in the hereafter. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all _____ 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.”

Because Jesus is Lord, His Words will judge our souls and determine our _____ in the hereafter. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to _____ the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature _____ from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” God knows all about you and me; He knows the good and the bad. He knows our thought and our intentions. We cannot _____ anything from the Lord; He already knows all our _____. We ought to listen to the Lord!

I’m thankful the Lord Jesus spoke because He not only _____ right and wrong but also gives us the words of eternal life. He gives us great and precious _____. Paul said, “For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shown in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Without the Scriptures, without the Bible, we would not _____ many things. We wouldn’t know about where we came from, why we’re here, or what will happen to us after this life is over. The Scriptures give us _____ of eternal life with our Creator, who loves us and wants to bless us eternally.

The Scriptures _____ us about God’s grace and forgiveness. When we realize the extent to which God has gone to _____ our sins, we love Him more and more. We are all sinners saved by the grace of God through the gospel message by the blood of Jesus Christ when we _____ Him. The message of that salvation is found in Scripture and it’s crucial. Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the _____ of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). God powerfully uses His Word to reach into our _____ with the gospel. First Corinthians 1:21 says, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to _____ those who believe.” God saves people today through that message preached.

Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be _____ of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me” (John 6:44-45). God works in and through the preaching and teaching of the word to _____ men of sin and to bring about faith. Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” When we _____ God’s Word, we come to believe in Jesus Christ and in His

teaching. This is why James says, “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in _____ receive the word implanted, which is able to _____ your souls” (James 1:21).

The Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, causes us to be _____ again. First Peter 1:23-25 says, “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring _____ of God. For, ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures _____.’ And this is the word which was _____ to you.” When a person _____ the preaching of the gospel and _____ it, God causes him to be born again. The gospel story is filled with God’s love for mankind and His willingness to send Jesus to atone for our sins and grant us forgiveness. This true story comes from God and has all of His qualities. His goodness and kindness lead us to _____. His love causes us to love Him!

Because the gospel is good news, it brings about a _____ unspeakable! Sin is bad news, but forgiveness from sin that condemns us, is good news! Hope for eternal life is good news! The Lord Jesus preparing a _____ for us in heaven is good news! God has spoken through His Son Jesus and in the gospel message. What a blessing!

Peter, James, and John were on the holy mountain with Jesus when He was transfigured. Moses and Elijah were there as well. Matthew 17:4-5 says Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is _____ that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; _____ to him.” God, the Father, was well pleased with Jesus His Son, so He distinguished Him from Moses, the great lawgiver, and Elijah, the prophet. God said, “listen to Him.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has _____ to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” God is now speaking to us through Jesus Christ. If we want to know God’s _____, we must go to the words of Jesus and His apostles and prophets that He commissioned to speak for Him. That’s found in the New Testament. Jesus is Lord, and there is no other!

If you wish to _____ the Lord, then listen to Him. Hear what He says and _____ Him. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it is impossible to _____ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Repent of your sins and turn to righteousness. Confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Be baptized into Christ, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. God has spoken; let’s _____ what He says and _____ Him. Nothing is so important!

June 10, 2018

All Sufficient Galatians 1:6-9

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

God gave us every spiritual truth in the Scriptures that we _____ to live godly lives and to get to heaven. Today, we'll study the all-sufficiency of the Bible. Because God is holy, we can regard _____ word that comes from God as sacred. Because our holy God knows everything and is all-wise, we can consider the Word of God as _____ than anything that comes from man. Because God is holy, wise, and loving, we know that every word that comes from God is for our _____ interest. Because God has the words of eternal life, and because we love Him, we must listen to and _____ His words carefully.

Many people in the world do not like what the Bible _____. Some in the religious world imagine that they can _____ on Biblical faith and provide a Christianity that's more pleasing to the world. So they _____ the Scriptures to make them say what they want rather than listen to what God actually says. Others in the world believe that Christians ought to _____ their moral standards so the world can, without shame, feel free to practice things the Bible calls sin. But the idea of changing God's eternal teaching in any way must _____ God and it ought to disturb anyone who loves Him.

The Lord Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by _____ word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). We need to pay much closer _____ to the Word of God because we need every word that comes from God. God hasn't forgotten anything or neglected to tell us anything that we need to know to live _____ lives, to function as the church, or how to get to heaven. We aren't lacking anything; our Bible can _____ us into all the truth! Are you reading the Bible?

Our reading comes from Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:6-9. This letter deals with some Jewish Christians who were trying to bind laws that were in the old covenant, or the new testament, Christians. By doing that, they were perverting the gospel.

The Bible clearly _____ that God wanted His wisdom, His instructions, and His promises to be written down and preserved for later generations. Exodus 24:4 says, "Moses then wrote down _____ the words of the Lord," and this book was preserved in the Ark of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 31:26). God commanded Moses that every seven years "you shall _____ this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to _____ the Lord your God, and be careful to _____ all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 31:11-13).

This law was vitally important to the Lord. God commanded, "You shall not _____ to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may _____ the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). Again, Moses wrote, "You shall be _____

therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left” (Deuteronomy 5:32). A third time God said, “Everything that I _____ you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it” (Deuteronomy 12:32). God wanted His instructions to be _____ just as He gave them without any change at all. So settled was the Word God gave that Solomon said, “Do not _____ to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:6).

We know Joshua “made a _____ with the people... And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God” (Joshua 24:25-26). We know “Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and _____ them in the book and placed it before the LORD” (1 Samuel 10:25). God told Isaiah to “go, write it on a tablet before them and inscribe it on a scroll, that it may serve in the time to come as a witness forever” (Isaiah 30:8). We know Ezra “set his heart to _____ the Law of the Lord, and to _____ it and to _____ his statutes and rules in Israel” (Ezra 7:20).

The New Testament uses the phrase “It is written” over _____ times. These uses stress the _____ of the written word of God. In Matthew 22:29 Jesus rebuked the Sadducees because they did not know “the Scriptures nor the _____ of God.” God undoubtedly intended from the beginning that His words and deeds would be _____ in Scripture. What God writes is not just written on paper with ink but stands written for all people in all places for all time.

God has never _____ men to tamper with or to edit His written words. Paul told the Corinthians that they “were not to go _____ what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6). Later Paul said that it’s disgraceful and underhanded “to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s _____” (2 Corinthians 4:2). When some Jewish leaders tried to pervert the _____, Paul said they were accursed (Galatians 1:8-9). When some false teachers tried to _____ the doctrine that Christ came in the flesh, John said, “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” (2 John 9). When people tamper with or edit the teaching of God, they can’t expect to _____ in the favor or grace of God.

At the end of the book of Revelation, John warned against anyone tampering with that particular book – **Read Revelation 22:18-19**. Of course, what is true of the book of Revelation specifically, as far as adding and taking away, is also true of _____ book of the New Testament. We must not add to or take away anything from what God has caused to be _____. The Bible just simply doesn’t need to be re-written and it doesn’t need to be edited; what it needs is to be reread!

So why would God _____ adding to or taking away from His scriptures? It’s because God’s message is complete and _____. It says everything that God intended to say; and to _____ Scripture in any way challenges God’s wisdom and His authority. Changing God’s words to suit our _____, or rewriting God’s laws to _____ ourselves, is an act of rebellion and it dishonors God. Changing God’s teaching or His moral laws says that men are smarter and wiser than God, or that they know better than He knows. That’s presumptuous.

The Lord Jesus promised the apostles, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will _____ you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said

to you” (John 14:26). They not only had the privilege of hearing the voice of Jesus, they also had the Holy Spirit to _____ them of the Lord’s teaching.

Again, Jesus said to the apostles, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will _____ you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come” (John 16:12-13). The Lord Jesus knew the apostles would face many _____ and would need guidance into all the truth. Jesus didn’t withhold any truth; the Spirit guided them into _____ the truth. If they received all the truth, then no _____ truth would come in other centuries. They received every truth needed by the church to live as God would have them live and to have eternal life.

The apostle Peter said, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the _____ of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” (2 Peter 1:3). Peter never imagined that they were somehow cheated out of some spiritual truth that they could only find _____ the Scriptures in some human tradition or some feeling they think might have come directly from the Holy Spirit. He never taught that. He never taught that our culture’s _____ would trump whatever God said long ago. He saw that everything we need can be found in the _____. Paul also understood the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. **Read what he wrote the young preacher Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** Paul didn’t point Timothy to later-day prophets, to church councils, or to cultural trends that would _____ the teaching of the Lord. He told Timothy to look to Scripture. We must do the same. The Scriptures can make us _____ to salvation; they’re God-breathed and profitable. We aren’t _____ anything when we possess the Scriptures. Acts 17:11 says, “Now these [the Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, _____ the Scriptures daily, *to see* whether these things were so.” They wanted to know what was true!

Paul said the Scriptures are profitable for _____. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a _____ to my path.” Christianity is _____ on teaching or doctrine. The Lord Jesus said, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you _____” (John 8:31-32). Only the truth can set us free and that’s why we _____ teaching. Acts 2:42 says the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” That teaching is _____ for us in the New Testament.

Paul urged Timothy, “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to _____ others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul was interested in perpetuating what had already been taught, not in looking to some later day church canon or supposed prophecy or some council.

Second, the Scriptures are profitable for _____. Scripture teaches us convincingly what is right and wrong and rebukes us for our _____. The psalmist cried out, “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin

against you” (Psalm 119:9-11). Reproof leads us to repentance. Repentance is a _____ of heart that leads to a change of ways.

Reproof gives us a need for the third thing profitable in Scripture, and that’s _____. The Scriptures move us to repent and to correct our wrongs and to _____ false teachings for the truth. Acts 18 introduces us to a Jew named Apollos who was an eloquent _____, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of John and did not know about baptism into Christ. Acts 18:26 says, “he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and _____ to him the way of God more accurately.” Apollos didn’t get _____ at Priscilla and Aquila for their correction. When we have the right attitude and we get corrected, we shouldn’t get angry but should _____ change and thank God for the truth. Repentance brings healing to our _____; that’s why repentance is so very important.

Fourth, Scripture is profitable for _____ in righteousness. The instructions of the New Testament and the examples found in Scripture _____ us how to love and care for others, how to serve and worship God, how to evangelize, how to restore the fallen, and how to be the church that Jesus built and the one He loves. It teaches us how to _____ godly lives and how to go to heaven. It teaches us to be _____ Jesus. We need the examples of the New Testament to _____ us in doing good to others. It’s in Scripture that we _____ how to forgive, how to be patient, how to endure hardship, and how to serve.

The gospel message is all-sufficient for all time. We must preach the gospel that the apostles preached in the first century. **Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.** Psalm 119:160 says, “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous _____ endures forever.” Everything we need, all truth, is found in this book. Let’s stay with the book, and let’s find the things that God has for us to _____. The same gospel that purified souls in the first century will purify souls _____. There’s only one imperishable _____ planted in the hearts of people that cause them to be born again into Christ. That seed existed in the first century and it will _____ until the end of time. If we corrupt or change that seed, it won’t produce a truly _____ again person. It’ll produce something else outside of the truth. Our souls are purified by _____ to the Lord’s gospel truth, not by obedience to a gospel reconfigured to suit some human tradition or our culture.

Read Hebrews 2:1-3. God has not called us to follow our _____ or to be like those who surround us; He has called us to obedience to His inspired and all-sufficient Word. Second Corinthians 10:18 says, “For it is not the one who commends himself who is _____, but the one whom the Lord commends.” Are you paying close attention to God’s Holy Word?

The New Testament teaches all we need to know to become a Christian and to live the Christian life. We can know the truth and be _____. To become a Christian, believe with all your _____ that Jesus Christ is God’s Son. Repent of every _____ and turn to what’s right. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Be baptized into Christ, immersed in water, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you’re baptized, God forgives your sins, adds you to His church, and you become a child of God. After you’ve become a Christian, stay close to God by living faithfully and abiding in the Words of Jesus.



Worship in Song
Ephesians 5:17-21

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

God desires our worship in song to _____ Him in spirit and in truth. Because the Bible is inspired of God we can _____ it to keep us on the right track. God's Word is a _____ to our paths and a lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105). We go to God's Word as the authority for _____ that we do.

Hymns and spiritual songs praise God, teach valuable lessons, and stir the heart. Singing involves the _____ person: the heart, the mind, the voice, and the lips. Songs send a _____ of love, thanksgiving, and adoration. By singing, we praise God and build up one another. The Lord _____ us greatly when He instructed us to sing from our hearts.

The music of the _____ provides a great blessing, but it also has challenges. Many focus on the music they _____ and lose sight of what the Lord desires or requires. Others go far beyond what the Lord _____. Since the Lord seeks those who worship Him to worship in spirit and in truth, we have to ask what the _____ of the Lord is. What is the Lord's _____ for us to worship Him in song?

Our reading today comes from the book of Ephesians chapter 5:17-21.

To learn the _____ about Christian worship in song we need to go to the New Testament. Let's review the relevant passages pertaining to musical worship among Christians. The first mention of singing a hymn in the New Testament is in Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26. The Lord instituted the Lord's Supper, "And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

In Acts 16:16-25, Paul and Silas had been beaten and thrown into _____ with their feet in the stocks for healing a servant girl. The Bible says, "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of _____ to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." These are simple statements about Christians singing.

In Romans 15:9, Paul speaks of the Gentiles glorifying God, "as it is written, 'Therefore I will give praise to thee among the gentiles, and I will sing to thy name.'" This quotation emphasizes how a congregation with one accord and with one _____ should glorify God (Romans 15:6).

In 1 Corinthians 14, there are two references to singing. Verse 15 says, "I shall sing with the _____ and I shall sing with the _____ also." Here the emphasis in singing is in the spirit and the mind. Verse 26 says, "What is the outcome then, brethren? When you _____, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." The early church edified each other by _____ songs.

Ephesians 5:18-19 says, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, _____ to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making _____ with your heart to the Lord." The idea of having concerts or of playing instruments in worship is _____. There were no choirs, because everyone was to sing.

Colossians 3:16 says, “Let the _____ of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” These activities _____ the heart, the mind, and the lips.

The writer of the book of Hebrews twice mentions praising God in song. In Hebrews 2:12 he quotes from Psalm 22:22, “I will _____ Thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Thy praise.” Again, the idea is _____, proclaiming, and singing. Hebrews 13:15 says, “Through Him (speaking of Jesus) then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of _____ that give thanks to His name.” The last mention of Christian worship in song is found in James 5:13, which says, “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him _____ praises.”

In each of these instances, the music described in Christian worship emphasizes _____ communication: singing, speaking, teaching, admonishing, making melody in your hearts, confessing, giving thanks, proclaiming, and the fruit of lips. The clear _____ of the New Testament is that we should sing from our hearts praise to God. Instruments of music cannot speak, cannot teach, cannot admonish, cannot give thanks, cannot praise, or proclaim, cannot confess, or make melody in the heart. Instruments of music really _____ to do any of God’s instructions. They are additions that go _____ the instructions of the New Testament.

The fact is there is _____ reference in the New Testament to the use of instrumental music in Christian worship. That’s startling! Neither Jesus nor the apostles _____ it. The New Testament gives no _____ of churches using it in worship. God desires singing from the heart, but He’s _____ about using instruments.

Someone says, “Phil, why do you bring up instruments in Christian worship?” Most people think churches have _____ used instruments of music in worship. They’re surprised that some churches don’t use instruments, and they think it’s peculiar. The _____ church didn’t use instruments; and some churches, like the Orthodox churches, have _____ used instruments. The word a cappella is a reference to singing unaccompanied and means “in the manner of the church.”

Early Christians actually _____ instrumental music in worship. For several centuries, they strongly _____ using instruments. Not until the thirteenth century did churches widely begin using an instrument of music. Both Jews and Greeks used instruments in their worship. But converts to Christianity knew this, but they still sang unaccompanied. They consciously said _____ because they had no God-given reason to use them.

Read the quotation from Dr. Everett Ferguson.

As late as 1250 AD, Thomas Aquinas, a philosopher and church leader, said, “Our church does not use instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize.” Thomas Aquinas understood that harps were for _____, not for Christians. Instruments of music came along as an innovation brought in because, frankly, people _____ them, not because the New Testament gave _____ for them.

God has revealed His will in His Word. The Lord promised the Holy Spirit would _____ the apostles into all the truth (John 16:13). “All the truth” means the New Testament teaches us

_____ that God wanted us to know to have eternal life and to live the Christian life. Nothing is _____. We shouldn't imagine that God has somehow forgotten something.

When God revealed all the truth, He did not need to say more. To think that we need more and we need to introduce some _____ practices denies that we have all truth from God in the first century. When we aren't content with God's teaching but go beyond God's teaching, we're actually showing _____ to God instead of honoring Him. Starting new practices, going beyond God's teaching, is presumptuous. It fails to _____ to God and it builds on sand.

The Lord said, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you _____" (John 8:31-32). Christ reveals the mark of a true disciple; a true disciple _____ in His word. He doesn't add to it, take away from it, reinvent it, or change it. He stays in the boundaries of the teaching and instructions of the word. When you leave the word, or you tamper with the truth, or you end up with something that's not from God, you end up with man-made religion.

Someone says, "Phil, don't you know that David played the _____?" Yes, I'm well aware of passages like Psalm 150 or 2 Chronicles 29:25. And I also know that David lived a thousand years _____ Jesus Christ. David was not a Christian; he was a Jew, and we're _____ how Christians worshiped, not how the Israelites worshiped. We don't offer _____ sacrifices as David did. David lived under the _____ covenant, while we live under the _____ covenant. According to 2 Chronicles 29:25, God approved of harps in the worship of the _____ under the old covenant; but the New Testament, the new covenant, never speaks of the use of instruments of music in Christian worship.

Some say that the word "psalm" and the Greek word psallo, used in Ephesians 5:19 for "making music in the heart," permits us to play instruments. While it's _____ that many years before the New Testament, the Greek word psallo meant to pluck on a string or play a harp, but the word _____ in meaning over time. How did this happen?

The Jews sang psalms with instruments in the Temple but when they were _____ of the Temple they sang without them; they didn't have the instruments. Musical worship in the temple was _____ to the Levites who had choirs with many instruments, but the worship outside had no musical instruments. Jews regularly _____ psalms for hundreds of years without any use of the harp. They chanted psalms and many of their daily prayers without any instrument at all.

So when the Jews used the word psallo or the word psalm, they normally thought of _____ the words of the song unaccompanied. It never occurred to early Christians, who knew Greek better than we do, that the words psallo or psalms meant we should or could use instruments in worship. If those words had pointed to instruments, why did the early church _____ to use them? Why did it take many centuries before someone started using them?

Others ask, "Phil, aren't people playing harps in _____?" Yes, John's visions found in the highly figurative book of Revelation speak of harps in heaven. Saints in heaven also wore _____ and cast them before the throne of God. Angels and people in heaven say many things in heaven that Christians are not allowed to say on earth according to 2 Corinthians 12:4. Heaven

and earth are very _____. Our task is not to imitate what's done in heaven, but to _____ Jesus and His teachings in the New Testament. If harps in heaven means the church ought to play harps, why didn't the apostles and the early church understand they were supposed to play them? Why did they refuse to play them for centuries?

Someone says, "Phil, that's just your tradition." The word tradition _____ of what has been passed down, with authority, from one generation to another. We have an authority in Scripture for singing. It's the use of instruments that is of human origin. That's the _____ tradition; singing is the _____ tradition.

Someone says, "The Bible doesn't _____ playing an organ!" That's true; it doesn't say that. But neither does the Bible specifically condemn burning incense, praying to saints, using roast lamb in the Lord's Supper, offering animal sacrifices, substituting sprinkling for immersion in baptism, or baptizing infants. Just because the Bible doesn't specifically condemn something doesn't mean that God _____ it. Using an instrument does not come from God but from men.

The right question is not "Where does the Bible condemn an instrument in worship?" but, "Where does the New Testament _____ us to use instruments of music in Christian worship?" To act without God's instruction is presumptuous. It's building on _____. If the Bible were to include everything that God condemned, it would surely be too large to _____. The Lord has chosen to instruct us in _____ terms what His will is for our lives and our worship. He has shown us the way, which rules _____ all other ways. There is "one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5), and that means that there cannot be other approved baptisms. The Bible says there is only "one gospel" (Galatians 1:6-9) so that condemns any other gospel. The Bible says there is "one body" (or church, Ephesians 4:4). That means there cannot be any other approved churches.

The specific instruction to sing means one should sing. There's no authority to add other forms of music. When God instructs us through His Word, He tells us what He expects. We shouldn't expect God to exclude all other possibilities with a series of "don't do this and don't do that."

Read the story the Lord told at the end of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-27. Wisdom is _____ God's Word and _____ it. Foolishness is hearing God's Word but doing something else that you _____ to do. I can read _____ in the New Testament the Lord's instructions about singing in worship. Not one word of the New Testament is said about using instruments of music in Christian worship or turning it into entertainment. They weren't used in any church for hundreds of years. Singing in worship and singing with instruments are _____. Which is _____ and follows the Lord's teaching, and which is _____ by failing to do what God says? Which does the Lord's will and which is an innovation of man?

In the same way, we should come to God in faith and obedience. If there's sin in your life and you're not a Christian, you're not yet a child of God. Why not become one today? You can do so by believing Jesus is the Christ, by repenting of your sins, by confessing Jesus as the Son of God, and by being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). That's how people became Christians according to the Scriptures, and how you can become one, too. Be wise and follow what the Lord teaches. You'll never regret doing the right thing.

July 12, 2015

Women in the Church 1 Corinthians 14:33-37

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

In the beginning God _____ us male and female. He made us in His _____ and in His likeness. But does God give the same _____ to women that He gives to men? Today we're going to explore the role of women in the _____. **Read what God said in Isaiah 55:8-9.** God's ways are not always our ways, but God's ways are always _____. We may not understand God's ways or even agree with them, but God's _____ far exceeds our own; and through time, God's wisdom proves right every time. So we follow the One who is utterly trustworthy. Psalm 19:9 says, "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether."

Where in the world would any of us be _____ the women in our lives? They are indeed precious in so many ways and a _____ to the church. I've been blessed with a godly mother who has passed and has gone to be with the Lord; I now have a faithful and loving wife for more than forty years, with four precious daughters who are all well-educated and very talented. I also have eleven delightful granddaughters. Do I care about all the females in my life? Of course I do! I want every good thing for them and want them to serve God and to go to heaven.

The best thing that you can do is to love and serve God faithfully and to _____ others to love and serve God. Obeying God is an _____ of love. The Lord Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will _____ My commandments" (John 14:15). If you want to _____ your family, lead them in loving the Lord. Lead them to _____ the Lord in every way. Don't pick which _____ you like and ignore the others. We are to "observe _____ things" that Jesus commands us. And this touches every aspect of our _____.

Our reading today comes from 1 Corinthians 14:33-37.

When God created Adam and Eve, He created the male _____ and the female _____. God created her to be a "_____ fit for him" (Genesis 2:18). First Corinthians 11:9 says, "for indeed man was not _____ for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake." The distinctive roles the Scriptures place on men and women are not _____ traditions of bygone eras but God's plan for humans made in His image.

When Adam and Eve _____ in the garden, God said to the woman, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, and in pain you will bring forth children; Yet your _____ will be for your husband, And he will _____ over you" (Genesis 3:16). This declaration from the beginning applies to God's order in the _____ and in the _____. This is God's declaration for _____ time. God's Word, thousands of years later, says, "But I want you to _____ that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (I Corinthians 11:3). Some have assumed that because man is the head of woman that this makes women _____ to

men. The relationship, however, between Christ and the Father is like the relationship of woman to man; consequently, being in subjection does not mean being less than _____. Paul said the Lord Jesus was _____ with the Father but took the form of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8). Just because a woman is to be in subjection to a man does not make her _____ than him. Any man who _____ women with disrespect is failing as a Christian.

When the Lord chose people to _____ and _____ the church, Christ chose men. The twelve _____ were all men, not six men and six women. The seven _____ chosen to feed the Grecian widows in Acts 6 were all men. When the Scripture lays down the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-14, they are required to be _____. The _____ of females in this matter is no accident.

Scripture gives women in the New Testament various, praiseworthy _____ of teaching and service. Women may evangelize _____ as Priscilla and Aquilla did with Apollos in Acts 18:26; and in Philippians 4:2-3 that describes Euodia and Syntyche as fellow-laborers with Paul in the _____. Paul instructed older women in Titus 2:3-4 to teach and to train the younger women to _____ their husbands and their children. Acts 9:36 describes Dorcas as a woman “_____ of good works and acts of charity (or kindness).” Some women had spiritual gifts; Acts 21:9 says that Philip the evangelist had _____ daughters who prophesied. Women were the _____ at the tomb of Jesus, and the Lord sent them to _____ the apostles of His resurrection. Women often traveled with Jesus and His disciples and _____ His ministry.

Faithful Christian men should _____ their wives with honor and respect. First Peter 3:7 says, “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her _____ as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your _____ will not be hindered.” Godly men _____ women; ungodly men _____ them.

The New Testament, however, _____ the roles women may play in the assembled church and in the leadership of the church. **Read what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:33-37.** It is clear women are not to speak to the whole church to impart _____.

Paul gives four _____ for this restriction on women. First, the _____ says this. This may refer to Genesis 3:16 as we noted, or it could be that the female’s subordination is due to the _____ in the garden. It possibly could come from man’s priority in the creation: the Bible says “Then the _____ which the LORD God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:22). Numbers 30:3-12 also notes that a woman’s vow must be _____ either by her father or by her husband, and if he opposes the vow, then her pledge will not stand.

Second, “it is shameful for women (not just wives) to _____ in church” (1 Corinthians 14:35). “Church” here refers to the assembled _____ as in I Corinthians 11:18. Paul calls the act of a woman speaking in church “shameful” or “disgraceful.” While some hold that _____ is the source of the shame, it likely means this shame instead arises from _____ and His Law. In fact, the _____ cults of both Corinth and Ephesus had women as their high priestesses and teachers. The

Lord's commandment was actually _____ to the pagan culture of Corinth! God's teaching came to change the world; and we must not let the world change the _____.

Third, "Let your women keep silent in the _____." Note the plural. This practice was not merely to be kept in Corinth, but in _____ of the churches of Christ across the way. They were to "keep silent." This phrase "keep silent" is from the Greek word *sigao*, which means to hold one's _____ and say nothing. The instruction to "keep silent" is given _____ times in this chapter. First, a tongue speaker (even if he was a male) is to "keep silent" when no interpreter is present (verse 28). Second, if one prophet is speaking and another receives a revelation, "the first one must keep silent" (verses 29-30). Third, he says "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak" (verse 34). "Speaking" here is a general term which would _____ to public talk: that is leading prayer, preaching, prophesying, and tongue-speaking or interpreting; they were not to do that.

Fourth, Paul says this is "the _____ of the Lord" (chapter 14:37). Some gifted Christians likely objected to Paul's instructions, so Paul boldly declares the _____ of this "commandment" is the Lord himself. There's nothing cultural or temporary about the Lord's _____ to the churches.

Some object, "Well, what about the women who were praying and prophesying in 1 Corinthians 11:4 - 5?" The primary subject of chapter 11 has to do with wearing _____ and not the speaking in church. The "custom" or practice of the day was for women to have long hair and wear a veil. Breaking this custom was, in that day, "disgraceful" and against _____. Some gifted women may have thought that their spiritual _____ gave them the right to speak in the assembled church. If the women were speaking in the assembled church in chapter 11, Paul eventually tells them to _____ in chapter 14. Women likely spoke in _____ settings than the assembled church, such as gatherings of women or in private. Whatever the case, the command of the Lord was to _____ the practice of women speaking in the assembled churches as a whole.

We have this teaching _____ in 1 Timothy 2. Paul said, "I desire then that in every place, (that is in every place of worship), the _____ should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling" (1 Timothy 2:8). Paul chose "men (adult males) in every place to _____." The phrase "in every place" is a specific term speaking of the _____ where congregations assembled to worship. Clearly, God wanted males to take the _____ in prayer and worship.

If women are not permitted to lead prayer, surely they are also forbidden to _____. Women are to learn in quietness, and not teach! **Read 1 Timothy 2:11-12.** Asserting his apostolic authority, Paul did not permit women to be public _____ of men or to exercise authority over a man at church. She cannot _____ or subjugate men to her will at church. Paul does not permit her to take these roles; even if elders, preachers, and other men _____ it, God does not. No person has a right to ask or to permit any female to do what is _____ to God's instructions.

To be quiet or silent (the Greek word is *hesuchia*) here means to be at rest, a spirit and an _____ of tranquility arising from within so that she causes no disturbance. They were to focus on

_____, not teaching, and to remain quiet, to say nothing. This learning was to take place with “entire submissiveness.” “Entire submissiveness,” is a complete, voluntary _____ of one’s rights or will. It is to give precedence to _____; she is to “subordinate herself in every respect.” This is not speaking merely of subjection to her husband; this is speaking broadly of women subjecting themselves to the leadership of men in the functions of the _____. “Submission” does not mean that one is inferior, or has inferior value or worth, but rather that one recognizes one’s _____ in a relationship. As we noted, Jesus was not inferior to God according to Philippians 2:5-8, but He _____ subjected Himself to his Father.

The theological basis for saying women cannot preach arises from the beginning with Adam and Eve, not a _____ bias from Paul himself. **Read I Timothy 2:13-14.** This teaching _____ God’s order of life, God’s way. According to historian Everett Ferguson, the writers in the early church history gave evidence that “Women were not _____ as elders, nor did they take public speaking roles in the assembly as prophets, teachers, or leaders in the assembly. Where women did take these roles in some of the heretical and schismatic groups, this practice was a _____ for objection to these groups.” While times change and cultures change, God’s Word, God’s Bible does not change.

We should use our talents for the Lord, but we shouldn’t assume that talents _____ us to engage in activities and roles that God never meant for us. King Saul was not a priest and he _____ when he presumptuously made a burnt offering, rather than waiting for the high priest Samuel to come (1 Samuel 13:8-14). Even though he was king, he had no _____ to make this sacrifice. By presuming that he could act without authority, Saul lost his _____ with God. God will not let an unmarried or childless man be an _____ either. It’s not a matter of _____; it’s a matter of qualifications.

Even Jesus, as the Son of God, could not _____ as a Levitical priest in the temple because He was from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Jesus didn’t feel _____ because he couldn’t function as a Levitical priest in the temple. Giftedness does not grant the right to _____ God’s laws. The Scriptures demand that anyone who leads must _____ the qualifications. Rather than feeling cheated over what we aren’t permitted to do, we should _____ on the things that we can and should do to serve God. And so with joy and thanksgiving let’s _____ His will and not our own.

Someone objects, “Well, isn’t being limited _____ to women?” The answer is _____. God has given women marvelous _____ in virtually every other area than in the leadership of the church. God has given women some roles that men will never be able to _____. Should men object and feel cheated? The answer is no! Our task is to _____ the work that God has given us to the best of our ability rather than _____ what God has given to someone else. In God’s eyes, every member of the body, that is the church, is _____ though they have different functions. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-19.** Yes, God has a _____ and a _____ for every single one!

Please let Jesus be Lord of your life. Trust His ways; they are higher than our ways. Believe in the Lord Jesus, turn from sin and selfishness to serve Him, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. When you’re baptized, God washes away your sins and makes you His child.