

Program Transcripts

November 2024



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

SEARCH PROGRAMS

November 2024

Topics subject to change without notice

NOVEMBER 3 – CITIZENSHIP AS CHRISTIANS

When it's time to elect government officials, should Christians get involved? If Christians never get involved in electing godly people, then ungodly people will have little trouble getting ungodly people elected.

NOVEMBER 10 – MORALS MATTER

Do morals matter in our culture? In a world where many people believe that morality is circumstantial rather than determined by God, people believe they can do as they please. God, however, will have the last say in matters of morality.

NOVEMBER 17 – BEING WITH CHRIST

Being with Christ is so much better than being without Him. In this lesson we will explore the joy and the blessing of having a close, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. In Christ we have blessings now and blessings in the life to come.

NOVEMBER 24 – IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

What should we do in these uncertain times? How can we give thanks? Life is filled with questions we cannot answer at the present. When we are uncertain, we must learn to trust in God and lean upon Him.

Citizenship as Christians

The founding fathers of the United States recognized God's role in the establishment and prosperity of America. George Washington, said that, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential agency."

Can we suppose this nation with all its struggles has outgrown the need for God's help? Can we have peace and security, while we reject the morals of the Lord? Do we imagine we can prosper, while we ignore the Source of all blessings? Can we assume that we have justice while we reject the teaching of the God of all righteousness? When nations forget the Lord and live by human standards, they deprive themselves of the blessing and righteousness the Lord's way provides. Pushing God out of our lives is a disastrous decision. William Penn wrote in 1681, "If you are not governed by God, you will be ruled by tyrants."

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter chapter 2 verses 13 to 17. And was at a time in which the society that they lived in did not respect Christians. They persecuted them. And he gave them this advice.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

That's still God's way for us today. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for Your love and we're thankful Father that You show us what is right and good. Help us to live good lives and not evil. To honor what is right and to do what is right. In Jesus name, Amen.

Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan." We should not imagine that all people are alike. There's an important difference between one who sets his heart to live right but sometimes does evil and one who sets his heart on evil but sometimes does what is right. Wicked rulers destroy cities and nations, while righteous rulers bless them. Wicked people are not content simply to be wicked; they want everyone else to join them in their wickedness. Psalm 125 verse 3 says, "For the wicked shall not rule the godly, lest the godly be forced to do wrong."

When wicked people rule, they open the door for all kinds of evil. Corrupt rulers abuse their power by making laws that oppress the righteous and use public funds to do things that no righteous person could approve. How can anyone who loves what is good support rulers who make laws promoting evil? If I believe a practice is morally wrong, I will not support legalizing that practice. If I believe a practice is morally wrong, I won't vote for or use my influence to support a candidate that will do what God says is evil. If I support an ungodly candidate, I'm giving my consent to his ungodly ways. How can I love God and support what is sinful? How can I hunger for righteousness and support wickedness?

True Christians belong to the Lord. They belong to Him in every aspect of their lives. It's inconceivable that a Christian citizen would vote for someone who supports a platform that contradicts the moral values that they hold. If we elect people who have no regard for God, we'll have to live with their ungodly decisions and ways. Tertullian, encouraged the Christian minority in the pagan Roman Empire of the second century to be the "soul" of their culture. God needs Christians today to be the soul and conscience of our culture. We can bring about moral change if we're willing to speak out against

evil. The best way to defeat the devil is to expose his wickedness. Christians have too often retreated into silence and let evil go unchallenged.

Edmund Burke, the 18th century a politician said that, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Many Christians have so silenced their voices that all one can hear is the ungodly calling for more ungodliness. We're fast destroying ourselves by letting the ungodly go unchallenged. We don't speak this way out of hate for anyone but out of love for God and for our children, and grandchildren. And for our neighbors. It's not bigoted to hunger for righteousness and to love the truth. It's patriotic to want what is right and good.

Have we forgotten God is the Judge of all nations? Every nation is accountable to Him. The Lord said in Jeremiah 18:6 to 10, "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it."

The Lord has witnessed our country's ungodly disrespect for the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of moral purity. Our language has become profane, and our nation is filled with the children of unmarried parents. The more we push God's way out, the more empty, hopeless, and depraved we become. God's Word still says in Proverbs 14:34 that, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." Our national sins are disgraceful, and we have no shame. We've forgotten how to blush; and our consciences have become hardened.

God's grace should motivate us to live godly and righteous lives, not remove all standards of Christian morality. Titus 2:11 to 12 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age." Should we not be so thankful for what Jesus did on the cross for us that we would turn from sin?

Today our laws allow some evil practices to fill the land. We no longer value the sanctity of life or the sanctity of marriage, as defined in God's Word. We have replaced these with human values, destined to corrupt the morality of our homes. We've made being tolerant of everything, whether it's good or evil, into some form of virtue; it's not. In tolerating evil, our society has become intolerant of God Himself and what He teaches. Many have become intolerant of God's values found in the Bible. They won't tolerate God's regard for the unborn as viable persons. God speaks of the unborn as people in Psalm 139; Jeremiah 1; and Galatians 1. Nor will they tolerate 1 Corinthians 7 and verse 2 that says every man should have his own female wife, and every woman should have her own male husband.

Many live today as they did in the days of the Judges of Israel. Judges 21:25 says, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Today people have pushed God out of their thinking and live by their own standards. Believing that we can live by our own rules is popular, but it's also destructive morally and spiritually. If what people think determines right and wrong, then truth, peace, and morality are lost in confusion.

Human reason, left to follow its own path, leads society to do unspeakably horrible things. Wicked men will find ways to excuse and justify themselves over every evil desire and every sin. Jeremiah 17:9 says that, "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" Some demand the freedom to do as they please, and they don't care who they hurt. When evil men with

no conscience or fear of God rule in society, they will lead people away from hope and from righteousness.

Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." God's prophet Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 10:23, "I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps." We need God's wisdom and guidance. People may think they're wise enough to choose their own way; but any path without God will inevitably end in ruin. People who refuse God's wisdom hurt themselves and their children.

God said through the prophet Hosea in Hosea 4 and verse 6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." Oh my. When we turn against God, we rob our children of the opportunity to know God, His holiness, and His righteousness. We leave them in spiritual darkness and confusion.

The books of Kings and Chronicles in the Old Testament provides a commentary on the spiritual lives of the kings of Israel and Judah for hundreds of years. God tied the prosperity of the nation directly to the devotion of the king and the people. When the king and the people followed God, God prospered them. When the king and the people defied God, they brought hardships and captivity upon themselves. If we today push God out of our lives, how can we think God will bless us? How can we imagine God will prosper us?

Character and devotion to God matter in our leaders. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, and priest of Midian, gave Moses some valuable advice. Moses was wearing himself out with his duties and needed help to govern the people. And so Jethro instructed him to "look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens" (Exodus 18 verse 21). You see Jethro knew Moses would need men of good character to govern the people.

These men had to be people that others would respect and follow. They must "fear God." And fearing God meant that they took God and His laws seriously. They drew their sense of right and wrong from God not from opinion polls. These men of integrity refuse to be bought with bribes. Moses needed such men to help him govern the people justly and honestly. And we still need capable officials today who fear God and have integrity.

Proverbs 25:19 says, "Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble." We've all been disappointed by corrupt officials who've brought shame to our cities, states, and nation. You can't count on a man of low character. A man who shows low character in private will have low character in public. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 16:10 that, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

Some say a godly man or a Christian should never serve in the government. But Joseph served as second to Pharaoh, and David served as King of Israel. God used Moses to lead His people out of bondage and to build a new nation. The Ten Commandments are both religious and social laws, on which the nation Israel was founded. Ezra was a Jew in the Persian government. Nehemiah served as an authority for the king to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Daniel as ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel also served as a commissioner to King Darius of all Persia. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius were pagan kings, but Daniel lived a righteous life and was respected for his faith. Queen Esther laid her life on the line to

influence King Ahasuerus of Persia, who reigned from India to Ethiopia. Paul mentions Erastus, the city treasurer of Corinth, in Romans 16:23. So, godly people through the years have served as public officials.

The Old Testament prophets called nations and cities to repent of their wickedness. When people refused God and abused their fellow-citizens, God noticed and He punished the wicked. God said through Amos, "But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5 verse 24). Ah we need to turn away from evil and turn to righteousness.

Why does all this matter? Well here's why. When people vote and support the wicked, they're actually taking a stand against God. Second Chronicles 18 tells how a good king, Jehoshaphat, made an alliance with a wicked king, Ahab, in fighting an enemy. Well, God sent a prophet who said in 2 Chronicles 19:2, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?"

If I vote and support an evil person who won't stand against sin, haven't I also said by my actions that I won't stand against sin? If I don't cast my vote for god-fearing people, I tell you, wicked people will take office. My failure to vote for what is right may allow a wicked person to rule. "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have given us a country in which we can cast our votes and use our voices for what is good and right. We pray Father that in days to come that godly men will be able to serve in roles of leadership and help us Father to support godliness. In Jesus name, Amen.

Some Christians don't vote because they believe their vote won't matter. But in 1839 one vote elected Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts. In 1868 one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment. In 1876 one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States. One vote can matter greatly. We must exercise our privileges wisely to support what is right and good. We must let our lights shine through wise and godly choices. We have the privilege to choose godly leaders. Let's use that privilege.

Christians are first and foremost citizens of heaven. And we owe our allegiance to the Lord Jesus. Philippians 3:20 to 21 says, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." Citizenship in heaven is a privilege and a blessing; we must not take it lightly. The best decision you'll ever make is to follow Jesus Christ. Do it today!

To become a citizen of heaven, believe in Jesus Christ with all your heart. Repent of your sins; you can't walk with God and the devil at the same time. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Confession is a public declaration of your decision to follow Jesus. And be baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water. And it's the time that we have our sins washed away and become a Christian. When we are baptized, the Lord adds us to His church and makes us His child. Oh, everyone needs to be a citizen of heaven. Don't wait another day! Come to the Lord.

Morals Matter

When people want to do something, they often ignore reason and find ways to justify their behavior. People often speak of being happy or love as if it could make right out of something that is wrong. Being happy or loving someone doesn't make wrong into right. Love doesn't turn sinful behavior into righteous behavior. Many times people feel their sinful behavior is love for themselves or others, but the same behavior shows no love for God or for the truth. God said in Isaiah 5 and verse 20, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"

You can't substitute sin for love. Sin will never bring lasting happiness. Morals do matter. While we may think we can get away with our sins, we never do. You see, we have a conscience that monitors our morals and either approves our behavior or condemns it. You cannot escape your conscience, and you cannot escape God. God always knows what we do and He is the final judge.

Our reading today comes from Ephesians chapter 4 verses 17 to 24. And we'll see that sharp contrast between living the pagan life and living a life knowing Jesus Christ.

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Oh, how badly we need that new life. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful that You teach us the truth. Teach us righteousness and holiness. Help us to put away the old life and to take on the new life. That we may show our love and devotions to You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Paul brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to a pagan world dominated by Rome. The Gentile world didn't know God nor what Jesus Christ did upon the cross. Our culture, frankly, is not much better than that ungodly culture. We've forgotten God, told Him to be silent, and have ended up darkened in our understanding, having callous hearts, possessing futile minds, and practicing every kind of impurity with greediness. We live in an ungodly nation that has no respect for the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, or the truth. We'd rather speculate about genders than respect biological facts.

Much of our distrust in the morality of the Bible comes from our willingness to listen to the ideas of humanism, which is the enemy of God. People have swallowed into the belief that men are wiser and better than God. Such folly has always failed those who believe it and those who are influenced by its corrupt nature. Why, as Christians, would we want to serve the interests of those who oppose God? Why would we want them as our leaders?

When people fail to love the truth, they'll buy into a lie. The devil has lied from the beginning and tells many convenient lies that please people. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 to 12 says that, Satan deceives with "wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness." When people love sin, they'll follow whoever gives them what they desire. Satan, however, will only enslave you and

ruin your soul. God will judge those who love sin more than they love the truth and righteousness. Will God, will He judge you?

1 John 2:15 to 17 says, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever." All the pleasures of sin will one day pass away along with this world. They hold no hope for you. Only those who follow Jesus Christ will continue to live in peace and love with God. God keeps His promises; but selfish, sinful behaviors hold no promise at all.

Hebrews 3:12 to 13 warns us, "Take care, brothers and sisters, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." I tell you, sin so deceives and hardens our hearts that people desert God. To "fall away" is a military term speaking of people who choose to desert rather than to serve. Many Christians have chosen to desert the faith. When you desert the faith, you lose the promises of the faith. You have no promise and no hope of eternal life.

Romans 8:12 to 13 says very simply, "So then, brothers (that is brothers and sisters that), we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Living after the desires of the flesh have a big price to pay. You cannot live with God if you serve the flesh.

God's patience and grace are not inexhaustible. You cannot willfully continue in sin and expect the grace of God to keep on forgiving. God's grace is conditional. And "If you live according to the flesh" or "if you put to death the deed of the body" will determine whether you face spiritual death or eternal life.

Galatians 5:19 to 21 speaks clearly, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, (that is fornication) impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, (Paul says) just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Don't be deceived or lie to yourself. You can't make sin your way of life and remain right with God.

So what is moral? Are there moral absolutes? Many believe that whatever they decide is the right way to go, but Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel." Oh, we can fool ourselves. Proverbs 14 and verse 12 reminds us that, "There is a way which seems right to a person, But its end is the way of death." If morals are relative and subjective, then any choice is as good as any other. Well, what if someone chooses to harm you or your loved ones? Is that moral? You see no one wishes to be a victim. There are some universal understandings about abusing and harming others. When you're the victim, you see things much differently than the one who abused you. Every victim is harmed and he hates what has happened.

Some things are always wrong, and deceiving ourselves about it doesn't change things. Let's remember that God has the final say in eternity as to what deserves condemnation. Just because something is popular doesn't make it right. Just because the majority of people believe it or do it, doesn't make it right. Matthew 7:13 to 14 says, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. "For the gate is small and the

way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” People justify their actions when they see other people doing something, but following the crowd and ignoring the teaching of God will only lead to destruction.

Some think that because people disagree over morals, that the truth about what is moral is impossible to discover. Again, this is deceiving. It is possible to know the truth, and there are some absolute truths. If someone says there are no absolutes, we ask if he is absolutely sure of that. Some things are acknowledged as wrong in all or at least almost all societies. Murder, adultery, stealing, and rape are never godly or moral.

What kind of people does God want us to be? Paul reminded the pagans who had been darkened in their understanding but became Christians in Ephesians 4:20 to 24, “But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

The more we deny our old life of deceitful lusts and take on the new life of following Christ, the more moral we will become. Jesus is our example of morality and righteousness. And unlike many religious teachers, we never have to be ashamed of anything He did or taught. The more we become like Him, the better our world will be. We'll never be moral people till we listen to the teaching of Jesus, found in the word of God, and follow it.

Peter described our lives in Christ in a world that doesn't understand or appreciate us in 1 Peter 1:13 to 19. He said, “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

We become right in God's eyes when we're saved by grace through the blood of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not earned but given; but gifts come with responsibilities. No one is saved apart from repentance. God can make you holy, but you also must choose to live holy lives. If the price Jesus paid with His body and blood doesn't mean anything to you, you'll never find eternal life. But if His redeeming you with His precious blood matters, then show it by conducting yourselves in respect to His teaching. People who fear or respect God don't live like those who don't care whether God exists. If you don't care about God, how can you imagine God will care to save you on the last day?

We serve a holy and just God, who will one day render judgment on evildoers. Romans 2:6 to 11 reminds us God “will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. (that's what they'll get) There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” One day God will render judgment on you. You can ignore or deny that fact, but you can't change it.

You might think there is no hope for you. The inspired apostle Paul spoke clearly to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor those habitually drunk, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God." Now here Paul lays down that sin will cause one to be lost eternally. Then he gets specific, he says to the church at Corinth, "Such were some of you." You see some of the Corinthians had committed those very sins. Paul, however, does not leave them hopelessly lost. He reminds them of their change. He said, "but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

Oh, I tell you, you too, can have hope. No matter what your past has been, you can change. The devil says you can't change, but God says you can. The Bible everywhere acknowledges people can repent. You can become a different person. You can repent! You can have a clear conscience and be washed free from sin. God can wash you clean from your sins. He can sanctify you and make you holy in His sight by the blood of Jesus. And God can justify or proclaim you innocent. You have hope!

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for the hope we have by the blood of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of our sins. Help us to leave our old man of sin and to live a new life of righteousness as we serve You and love You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Just because you think what you do is okay before God doesn't mean that God approves. God's not like us. He never approves of sin, and He's the judge of what is right and wrong. David said of God in Psalm 5 and verse 4, "For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil can dwell with You." People often suppose God thinks the way they do. After telling people about their wickedness God told the wicked in Psalm 50 verse 21, "These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes." You may think you're okay now, but what will you do if you're not okay with God on Judgment Day?

The most dangerous thing you can do to your soul is to forget or ignore God. Many people today simply don't care whether there is a God. One day they'll wish they had cared. One day they will bow the knee and confess Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father. Is Jesus your Lord? Now if Jesus is Lord of your heart and life, morals matter to you.

To follow Jesus and be washed with His blood, you must believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. As we have mentioned, you must also repent, turning away from sin and turning to righteousness. With love and faith you must confess your faith and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Being baptized means someone will baptize you in water, and God will save you and unite you with Christ according to Romans 6:3 to 7. Now you aren't working in baptism; rather God is working on you (Colossians 2:12 to 13). And in baptism God forgives and saves you. And God adds you to the church, and God causes you to be born again.

Being with Christ

The Lord Jesus said in John 12:24 to 26, “Truly, truly, I say to you, (that) unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. “He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

I tell you if we wish to be with Jesus, we must give up the idea of doing everything “my way” and turn our hearts to following Him and doing things His way. John 6 tells of some disciples who withdrew from Him and were not walking with Him anymore. When He asked the twelve if they would leave, Peter said in John 6:68 to 69, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

Our reading today comes from John chapter 14 verses 1 to 3. And in that passage Jesus is giving a promise to His disciples on the night before He was to die the next day.

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

Oh what a wonderful promise to be with Jesus. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that we can have a place, a dwelling place with You in heaven one day. We're thankful that we can be with Jesus and Father we pray that He will always be with us and help us to love Him and serve Him with all our hearts and soul and mind and strength. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Being with Jesus is, of course, an act of faith. Jesus lived on earth many, many, years ago, but He is eternal. He is alive in heaven and able to be close to those who love and follow Him. He knows us and He knows all about us. He wants us to draw close to Him and serve Him. He wants us to be by His side at all times. Just as Jesus walked among His churches in the book of Revelation, so Jesus still knows all about His people today. He knows when we love Him and He knows when we fail to love Him. He knows our hearts and sees our behavior. He wants us close to Him, but we must want to follow and serve Him.

Following Him takes faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Following Jesus takes a change of heart a change of ways when it comes to sin. We must repent. The Lord still said Luke 13:3, “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” Following Him also means confessing Him. The Lord said in Matthew 10:32 to 33, “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” You know loving Him means that we'll confess Him in the presence of others.

We won't, fully be with Christ until we are baptized into Christ. Romans 6 and verse 3 says, “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?” When we're baptized into His death, we're crucified with Christ. Romans 6:6 to 7 says, “knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

Now in baptism we're buried and raised with Christ. Romans 6 and verse 4 says, “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the

glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” When we’re baptized into Christ we’re clothed with Christ. Galatians 3:26 to 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.”

Romans 6 and verse 5 reminds us, “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, (that is we were baptized) we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” You see baptism unites us with Christ and gives us newness of life. And we grow together with Christ. Colossians 2:12 to 13 says, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.” You see baptism is when God makes us alive together with Christ and God forgives our sins.

Now if we are in Christ, we must consider how we live. Colossians 3:1 to 4 says, Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who is our live. We must look to what is ahead in heaven, not what is here on earth. Our lives are hidden with Christ in God.

And we’re fellow heirs with Christ. Romans 8:16 to 18 says that, “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” One day we will live forever with Christ in heaven as heirs with Christ.

Now the Lord promised in John 14:2 to 3 that, “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” Now the Lord Jesus wants to spend eternity with us. He wants to dwell with us in this life and in the life to come. The Lord said in John 14:23 that, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” If you want the Father and the Lord Jesus to make their home with you, you must love them enough to keep their word.

1 Peter 1:3 to 5 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (you) who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” Ah, heaven is truly a wonderful place, where God dwells. It has no disease or death. Nothing will cause it to perish, or to be defiled, or to fade away. It’s the perfect place of peace and love.

Ephesians 2:19 to 21 says that “when we are in and with Christ, we are in His family and a temple.” Paul wrote, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, (His family) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.” Folks, Christians don’t need a temple building in Jerusalem, no; we Christians in the church, in His church are ourselves the holy temple in the Lord. Wherever the people of God live, they are His temple. By the way, the word for temple here refers to the most holy place. The church, the people, is the most holy place today.

The apostle Peter makes it even clearer that we Christians are priests in His temple today. 1 Peter 2 and verse 5 says to us, “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Now he emphasizes our place in verses 9 and 10, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people (the people of God); once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

I tell you, Christians have hope. One day they will depart and be with Christ. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:6 to 8, “Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight— we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” When we pass from this life, we will go to “be at home with the Lord.”

Romans 14:7 to 9 reminds us, “For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.” I tell you if we remain faithful, we’ll never stop belonging to the Lord.

Paul wrote in Philippians 1:21 to 23, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that (being with Christ) is very much better.”

Now when Jesus comes again our bodies will be changed, so that we will be like Him. Yes like Him. Philippians 3:20 to 21 remind us, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform (that is change) the body of our humble state (that is the body we have right now. He’ll do it) into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” I tell you this, this lowly, earthly body that you possess now was not made to survive forever. We can live on the earth but we’re going to one day going to die. And when Jesus comes again and He raises you and me from the dead, one of the things He’s going to do is transform your body to become like the body of His glory.

1 Corinthians 15:50 to 54 says, “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (that is this body that’s perishable) inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; (that) we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal (a mortal is something that can die) must put on immortality (something that cannot die). But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” And we have that in Jesus Christ.

Yes, with Christ, we can live eternally. And death is no longer a master over us. Look at Romans 6 verses 8 to 11 which says, “Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.” Now when we are made alive with Christ in the resurrection, we will never die again. We will live eternally in heaven with the Lord. Romans 8 and verse 11 says, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, (then) He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Now in heaven, we'll be seated with Christ. Oh I love this idea. Ephesians 2 verses 4 to 7 says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (and then he says by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, (not only did He raise us up but) and seated us with Him in the heavenly places (seated us with Him in the heavenly places) in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." I look forward to God's promise.

Wouldn't you hate to miss out on God's blessing of being with Christ in this life and in the ages to come? If you miss being with Christ in this life, you will have lost everything in the ages to come. That's why we all need to come to Christ. To come to the Lord! To love Him, to serve Him, to be close to Him. To care about what He cares about and to serve Him every way that we can. To take His word seriously. Loving Christ means keeping His word. Do you keep His word? Do you love Him.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for Your love and we're thankful for the day. We pray that we may always serve You and love You from our hearts. That we would keep Your word so that we may live with You forever. In Jesus name, Amen.

Colossians 2:20 to 23 says, "If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? (Why?) These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but (they) are of no value against fleshly indulgence."

Much of religion today comes from human traditions and people's imaginations rather than the Word of God. If we have died with Christ, let's recognize Jesus as Lord and follow His teaching found in the New Testament. Jesus alone is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus alone is the One who has the words of eternal life. God proclaimed from heaven about Jesus on the mountain in Matthew 17:5, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Since the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth in the first century, we don't need church traditions or people's imaginations. To know God's will, we must go to Scripture given to us in the first century. The Scriptures teach the need to believe and obey the Lord by repenting of our sins, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and by being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Acts 2:38 and 22:16 teach that we're forgiven and washed of our sins when we're baptized into Christ. Baptism into Christ and into His death is an immersion in water of a person old enough to believe and to repent. That's when His blood causes our forgiveness and gives us newness of life according to Romans 6:3 to 7.

In Uncertain Times

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 9:11 to 12, "I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all. Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them."

We live in uncertain times. We don't know what the future will bring. We may face dangers economically, militarily, or practically. We have many safety concerns. We're challenged by so many questions that no one can answer as we look to the future. But there is more to the future than what will happen under the sun. We have a God who has always been in control and who has prepared a future of love and peace for His people. We need to thank Him and draw close to Him. We need to look to Him for courage and comfort. In our distress, He is our shelter and our protector. We need God in these uncertain times.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Matthew. It's the words of Jesus in the sermon on the mount. Matthew 6 verses 25 to 30.

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory (did not) clothe himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray. Heavenly Father we are so grateful that You give us the things that we need. Help us to put You first in all that we do. Your kingdom and Your righteousness. And Father to be grateful for how You provide for us. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 12:2, "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." Whatever the future holds, we have a God who loves us and will hold us in His right hand. Isaiah 41 and verse 10 says, "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." God will always take care of His people who love and serve Him.

Now nothing escapes the attention of God. He knows what you face and everything that happens. Proverbs 15:3 says that, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good." Now since Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide till the day is done, yes. Your Father in heaven knows and cares. Matthew 6:31 to 32 says, "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."

Rather than worry about things, we must turn to God who provides all our needs in Christ Jesus. The Lord said in Matthew 6:33 to 34, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." We should maintain a daily relationship with the Lord, studying His word

and praying from hearts. Yes, each day has its challenges; and each day we must remind ourselves of our dependence upon God. Now each day we should see God working in our lives and blessing us. Philippians 2 and verse 13 reminds us that "it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." We do not serve an absent God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 to 18 reminds us, "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." In everything give thanks? Yes, even for my weaknesses and troubles. Not everything is good, but God can take the harshest things of life and make good come from them. He can teach us valuable lessons and enable us to make life better. Romans 8:28 reminds us, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." God can do what we can't do; He can take what is cruel and make comfort from it. We can rejoice in everything, simply because we have a deep, loving relationship with God.

James 1:2 to 3 says, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." God doesn't remove us from this world and its challenges. Rather He allows us to encounter various trials that cause us to grow spiritually mature. When we see God's hand helping us to face these trials, our faith and hope grow so that we can meet whatever challenge comes our way.

Proverbs 3:5 to 8 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones." We look to God for answers, for our guidance, and for our needs, and for our protection.

When Job lost all ten of his children and all his wealth, He said in Job 1:21, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God. Later when Job was afflicted with a terrible and painful disease, his wife said to him in Job 2 verses 9 and 10, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

When Joseph, because of his brothers' hatred, was sold into slavery at Potiphar's house, was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, and was thrown into prison, he didn't despair, because the Lord was with him. Genesis 39 tells the story of this young man far from home suffering many things, yet the Lord was with Joseph and gave him favor. Joseph didn't know it at the time, but God was shaping and molding him into a competent executive who could save Egypt and his people. His own people.

In later years Joseph told his brothers who were afraid after Jacob, his father, died in Genesis 50 verses 19 to 21, he said, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and (for) your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. People will always do evil things that may cause us to suffer. Let's be kind. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:44 to 45, "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

We can put our faith and hope in God as we turn from sin and follow Him. Micah 7:18 to 19 says, "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea." We can have hope because we serve a forgiving God when we turn from sin. Psalm 36:5 says, "Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies."

Again, Isaiah 40:48 to 31 says, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

Jeremiah sang a song of sorrow at the destruction of Jerusalem and, of course, the temple with it in 586 BC. In spite of his sorrow, he could say in Lamentations 3:19 to 25, "Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. Surely my soul remembers And is bowed down within me. This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. The LORD'S lovingkindness indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him." Hebrews 10 and verse 23 encourages us: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

We may feel like the whole world is crashing down around us. We may worry and fret over the way things have become. But God is still in heaven, still hears our prayers, and still forgives our sins. Habakkuk 3:17 to 19 says, "Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places."

The apostle Paul faced a lasting problem. We all have troubles we can't overcome or escape. Paul had to learn to trust in the grace and love of God. And so He wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:7 to 10, "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' (then Paul observes) Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

In Jeremiah 17:5 to 8 the LORD says, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit." Trust God not man. This culture has been ruined by listening to the imaginations of men and pushing God out of their minds. Men are not wiser than God. They cannot give you what God can give you.

Psalm 33 verses 8 to 10 says, Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance." We must return to serving God in these uncertain times.

God's ways don't change; they bring peace and hope. They are righteous and kind ways. They aren't cruel, selfish, and violent. They bring humility and peace rather than selfish ambition, hunger for power, lust, and greed. They teach the truth rather than leave us confused and denying reality. Let's listen to God and serve Him. Psalm 37:23 to 24 says, "The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand." We need God's hand holding us and helping us in these confused and uncertain times.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You love us, that You provide for us, and help us to put our faith and our trust in You in these uncertain times. And help us to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Delight yourself in the Lord. Look to Him, trust Him, love Him, and serve Him. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." God knows what you need, so ask Him to help you. The Lord said in Matthew 7:7 to 8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Ah it's good for us to count our blessings. And to seek them from God.

Now if you are wondering if you can trust the words of Jesus, remember John 7 and verse 17, "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." God will truly keep His word and never deceives. God loves and blesses those who love Him enough to believe and do His will. When you do the will of God, you realize that His way is truly divine in wisdom. God's ways are better than human ways, because only the way of the Lord can lead to eternal life. God is the source of our lives and our blessings.

So trust in the Lord, believe His teaching. Repent of any evil in your life and turn your heart to righteousness. And do it in repentance. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be baptized into Christ and into His death so that you will have the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; and Romans 6 verses 3 to 7). Now you can have newness of life and be free from your past sins. You can become a child of God and be added to the Lord's church with your name written in the book of life. You can be an heir of God and live in heaven eternally.