

A New Life

Many people _____ their lives with sin and deep regret. Do you ever _____ you could start over, clean and pure? The Lord Jesus gives us the opportunity for a _____ life. The God we read about in the Bible is the One who _____ the world and each of us. He's the God of hope and forgiveness, who _____ us an opportunity to start over fresh and pure in Christ. The Lord God expects us to keep His _____ and avoid sin; but God is also our Father in heaven who has compassion on us, when we humble ourselves and _____. Through Christ we can have newness of life, filled with good things.

Today is the first Lord's day of this new year, and for me it's an anniversary. I began working with *In SEARCH of the Lord's Way* in January 2009. I've partnered with some of the finest people in the world over the last thirteen years, people who work hard to bring this program to you. I'm thankful for them and thankful to you for your prayers and kind words. Please remember to keep us in your prayers.

When people sin, and know they've sinned, they _____ defiled and wish they could start over clean and pure. They become _____ of themselves. They long for an opportunity to put the _____ behind and transform their lives into something nobler and better. The Lord's way is the _____ way to live; it's nobler and better than following the ways of the world. The Lord's way _____ us from the deception and enslavement of sin; it brings joy and peace. The Lord's way opens the _____ to hope and to eternal life. Worldly ways will _____ you freedom and happiness, while it corrupts and leads to ruin. Those who love this world will _____ all that the love of God can bring.

Our reading today comes from The Gospel of John 3:1-7, and deals with a new life.

David committed the _____ of adultery with Bathsheba and then caused the murder of her husband Uriah, then learned about God's forgiveness, and he wrote in Psalm 103:8-12, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast _____. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who _____ him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

God loves us and wants to _____ in lovingkindness toward us. Yes, we are flawed and sin, but God's love and forgiveness are _____. He offers to each of us the opportunity to be _____ again to a new and different life, free from the past. When He _____ us, He no longer holds our past sins against us. He offers us a new and better life.

People often delight in sin, but as time passes that happiness turns to _____. When people understand what the _____ life is really like, they're ashamed of themselves. They wished they had _____ lived so worldly. Romans 6:20-23 says "For when you were _____ of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what _____ were you then deriving from the things of which you're now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is _____. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, _____ life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free _____ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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

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

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

Paul gives us a before and after description of what it _____ to know the Lord and to walk with the Lord. Ephesians 4:17-19 says, "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 _____, 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 _____; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the _____ of every kind of impurity with greediness."

This way of life is characterized by a darkened understanding and a futile way of life. God excludes them because of their _____ of His ways. They've become hard-hearted and callous, giving themselves over to sensuality, impurity, and greed. The word sensuality refers to the _____ of one who is morally unprincipled, who excites disgust, by unbridled lust and shamelessness. These ways have no restraints. They're filled with selfish _____ and have no place for God.

Paul then describes the transformed _____ of those who walk with Christ. Ephesians 4:20-24 says, "But you did not _____ Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as _____ is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the _____ 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 _____ self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

At the heart of the transformed life in Christ is the _____. Christians listen to the voice of the Lord and have found the truth that sets them _____. Truth is and has always been in Jesus. Truth about sin and about Christ will _____ the eyes of anyone. It'll lead a person to lay aside that old self, because they realize _____ the lusts of deceit corrupt one morally and spiritually. But it doesn't stop there! When you know Christ, you _____ to put on the new self, which is in the likeness of God. When a person is in Christ, he is _____ to live in righteousness and to embrace the holiness that comes when we know the truth.

The devil himself is a _____ and wants to keep us ignorant of right and wrong, of sin and righteousness, and of heaven and hell. He wants everyone to believe that he can live any way he _____ and will suffer no consequences. But Christ brings us the _____ and with it freedom, hope, life, and love! He can _____ us lay aside the things that defeat us with corruption and give us victory over them.

Paul describes his thanksgiving for the _____ at Colossae that made that transformation from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of God's beloved Son. Paul wrote, "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the _____ laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel" (Colossians 1:3-5). The gospel message is God's _____ to save; and when we hear and obey the gospel, we're blessed with a true faith, a true love for all, and a hope laid up in heaven.

Because the Colossians had this kind of faith, Paul wrote, "For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we've not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will _____ in a manner worthy of the Lord, to _____ Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the _____ of darkness, and transferred us into the _____ of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:9-14).

Look at these marvelous _____ given to these redeemed souls who came to Christ in faith, love, and obedience. First, they were _____, delivered from the domain of darkness, by the blood of Christ from their sins. Satan no longer has a _____ on them. Second, God through Jesus has transferred them into the _____ of His beloved Son, the church. We know it's the church, because Paul is writing to the church about this kingdom. Third, God gave them through the _____ of the word the knowledge of His will, which provides all spiritual wisdom and understanding. God's teaching opens the door to the _____ that leads to eternal life.

Fourth, this wisdom and understanding helps us to walk in a manner _____ of the Lord, so that we may please our Creator in every way. When we see the love of God shown on the _____, it makes us want to love and to please Him. Fifth, His love for us leads us to love _____ and to bear fruit in every good work. His love showing in our lives makes the whole world a better place; our energy is not _____ on selfish desire but on caring for others. Anyone who loves the Lord loves to _____ the lives of others with good works. Sixth, a convert will be strengthened with all _____ according to His glorious might. We must not overlook the power of God to strengthen us, to protect us and to provide for us what we need to do His _____ (2 Corinthians 9:8-10). Seventh, God's activity in our lives will help us to become steadfast in our _____ and patient while we wait for God's providence and protection.

All of these blessings call us to give _____ joyfully to our God who has loved us so richly and qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. We have all these blessings here and heaven for an eternal _____.

It's no wonder that Paul never looked back. He _____ his old Jewish life and took on faith in Christ. He said, "But whatever things were _____ to me, those things I've counted as _____ for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing _____ of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:7-11).

Paul never considered himself as a _____ man, nor does any faithful Christian. He knew that he still had to reach forward and _____ on to the goal. He said, "Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I don't regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching _____ to what lies ahead, I press on toward the _____ for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14). Paul would not let his past keep him from disciplining himself and serving the Lord.

As you read the first few chapters of the book of Romans, you'll see the terrible _____ of sin. There were people who suppressed the truth, who ignored God, and would not thank Him for all His blessings (Romans 1:18-20). Some who professed wisdom became _____. They exchanged the truth of God for a _____, worshiping the creature rather than the Creator. They followed degrading passions and took on a depraved mind and were filled with all unrighteousness.

In the second chapter of Romans, Paul describes those who knew the Law, passed judgment on others, and yet they _____ the same evil things. He says, "God will render to each person according to his _____," and "there is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:6-11). Ultimately, we must realize that

“all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God” (Romans 3:23). So we need rescuing, we need redemption, we need the forgiveness of sins.

Converting to Christ by our obedience to the _____ is just the beginning. Hearing the word of truth, we believe, we repent, we confess that Jesus Christ is God’s Son, and we’re baptized into Christ. When we’re baptized, God _____ us to His people (Acts 2:41), He _____ away our sins (Acts 22:16), and He gives us _____ of life (Romans 6:4). Becoming a Christian by being born of water and the Spirit is necessary to salvation and necessary to enter the kingdom. Baptism is a birth to a whole new life; a life that one must _____ to serve the Lord all through his days.

Romans 12:2 was written to Christians. “And do not be conformed to this _____, but be transformed by the renewing of your _____, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” We’re transformed by the renewing of the mind, setting our minds on the will of God and living it out. Renew your mind by _____ the word of God daily and meditating on it. Spend time daily in _____. Get busy worshipping with the _____.

I like to remind people of this saying: “I’m not all I ought to be; I’m not all I want to be; I’m not all I’m going to be; but thank God by His mercy and grace I’m not what I used to be.” Don’t believe anyone who tells you that you cannot change or that you cannot start over with your life. Transformation or conversion always expects repentance on our part. The Bible everywhere assumes people can repent, if they choose to do so. The prodigal son repented, Nineveh repented, David repented, the people at Pentecost repented, Saul of Tarsus repented, and you too can repent. You don’t have to be stuck in a past way of life. You don’t have to stay ashamed. You can have newness of life.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” You can become a new creature in Christ. So place your trust in Christ and the gospel. Repent by turning from your old way of life to serve the Lord. Confess Jesus Christ as God’s Son, and be baptized into Christ. Romans 6:4 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.” In baptism we’re crucified with Christ so that our body of sin might be done away with (Romans 6:6). Through baptism into Christ, God makes us His children (Galatians 3:26-27) and transfers us into the kingdom of His beloved Son. This is the best day for you to do that. It’s the best day to begin your new walk with the Lord Jesus. So repent and be baptized, find a church home, and live every day for the Lord.

We hope today’s study about a new life has stirred you to start afresh in your spiritual walk with God. We encourage you to start going to church and to get involved. And as always we say to you, God bless you and we love you from all of us at *In Search of the Lord’s Way*.