

Pleasing God

When you truly love someone, you want to _____ them. Today, we're going to _____ the joy and the value of pleasing our Father in heaven. We're here to _____ the Scriptures for God's will. God has delivered to us in Scripture His _____ and steadfast love. Our gracious God promises us _____ life if we'll come to Him in faith and love. When you believe God, you take Him at His _____. When you love God, you do everything in your power to please Him and meet His expectations. If you wish to please God, you must know Him and _____ Him. God expects us to do His _____.

I hope and pray you make it your _____ each day to live pleasing to the Lord. It's amazing how many take the grace of God for granted and never think about improving their _____ lives. The apostle Paul said, "So whether we're at home or away, we make it our _____ to please him. For we must all _____ before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).

When you love the Lord, you want to please Him. You don't act out of _____ or because you feel compelled; you act out of love and respect. David said, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your _____, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). His loving and grateful relationship with God led him to take God's desires and His will seriously rather than to suggest that God ought to be happy with whatever we do. God is God, and we're His creatures and His servants. The Lord Jesus said we should _____ first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Our reading today comes from Paul's words in 1 Corinthians, chapter 9:24-27.

I hope none of you are disqualified either, so that we can please the Lord and live with Him forever.

"For the ways of a man are before the _____ of the LORD, He watches all his paths" (Proverbs 5:21). God knows _____ about each of us. He knows how we _____ and how we think. He can look into our _____ and know our intentions. The seer Hanani told Asa the king of Judah, "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His" (2 Chronicles 16:9). It matters to God whether we're devoted to Him and willing to _____ Him.

The Lord Jesus told two parables about the _____ of heaven. The wise were _____ for the coming of the bridegroom, while the foolish were unprepared. The wise virgins entered into the wedding feast, while the five foolish virgins were not allowed. In fact the Lord said to them, "Truly I say to you, I do not _____ you." (Matthew 25:12). We must be on the _____ then, because we don't know the day nor the hour when the Lord will come a second time.

In the second parable, the Lord Jesus tells of a man about to go on a journey, who called his own _____ and entrusted his possessions to them. He gave five talents to one, two talents to another, and one talent to a third servant. A talent was _____ and worth fifteen years of a laborer's wages. The man with five talents gained five more, and the man with two talents gained two more; but the man with one talent dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

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

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

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When the master returned from his journey, he _____ the five-talent and the two-talent men. He said, "Well done, good and _____ slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the _____ of your master." Wouldn't it be wonderful on the Day of Judgment to _____ these words from the lips of the Lord Jesus?

The one-talent man said, 'Master, I knew you to be a _____ man, reaping where you didn't sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. And I was afraid, and I went away and _____ your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, _____ slave, you knew that I reap where I didn't sow and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money _____ with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who doesn't have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth' (Matthew 25:24-31).

At this point, the Lord tells us a little more specifically about what will _____ on Judgment Day at the second coming. All the nations will be gathered before Him as He sits on His glorious _____. He will _____ the sheep from the goats. The King will say to the sheep on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom _____ for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." Because they _____ their fellow man, they were honoring the Lord Jesus and serving Him.

To the goats on His left who failed to serve their fellow man, the King will say, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal _____ which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you didn't invite Me in; naked, and you didn't clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you didn't visit Me." The goats "will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:31-46).

Our culture has this notion that everyone will be _____ no matter how we've acted or treated our fellow man; but not everyone will enter heaven. The Lord Jesus said, "Enter through the _____ gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are _____ who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are _____ who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). The Lord has no _____ for anyone to be lost, but people who choose to live in sin and choose to forsake the ways of God also choose to separate themselves from Him.

Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly to the Jews in Pisidian Antioch, and these people _____ Jesus as the Christ. In Acts 13:46, the Bible says "It was necessary that the _____ of God be spoken to you [that is, to the Jews] first; since you repudiate it and you judge yourselves unworthy of _____ life, behold we're turning to the Gentiles." Yes, people have freewill and make up their own _____ about whether they will believe. People also choose whether they would rather keep sin in their lives or _____. People choose whether they will _____ others with kindness or live in anger and hatred. God has shown us the way to eternal life in Jesus Christ, but many choose their _____ ways. By doing so, they judge themselves unworthy of eternal life.

If we wish to please the Father we must _____ in Him and in His promises. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without _____ 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 _____ Him.” The Lord has blessed us richly, and He’s blessed those who call themselves Christians with the knowledge of His will found in the scriptures, and these also include His promises, so that by His teaching and promises we may become partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the _____ by lust. This is a great blessing to be treasured and never taken for granted. The Lord expects us to _____ ourselves to becoming His people and following His will.

Second Peter 1:5-11 says, “For this very reason, make every _____ to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they _____ you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is _____, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to _____ your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an inheritance, an entrance into the _____ kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

The Lord Jesus is our example in all things, yet He realized His _____ was to do the will of the Father. When the disciples wondered why Jesus didn’t eat the food they brought to Him as He sat by the well near Sychar, Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the _____ of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work” (John 4:34). On another occasion, the Lord Jesus said, “I can do nothing on My _____. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who _____ Me” (John 5:30).

The Lord Jesus knew the day would come when He would die for the _____ of the world. Many doubted Jesus during His earthly ministry, but Jesus knew _____ He had come to earth and that He was indeed the Son of God and the Messiah. The Lord Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man [that is, when I’m crucified], then you will _____ that I am He [that is, the Son of God, the Messiah], and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father _____ Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are _____ to Him” (John 8:28-29). At the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus determined to do the will of the Father and not His own will, even at the _____ of His life on a cruel cross.

The Lord Jesus said in Hebrews 10:9 in fulfillment of the prophecy of His sacrifice found in Psalm 40:7-8, “Behold I have _____ to do Your will.” If the Lord Jesus felt the necessity of pleasing His Father in heaven, and if we follow His _____, shouldn’t we do everything in our power to please the Father. The Lord Jesus said, “If you keep My commandments, you will _____ in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love” (John 15:10). I want to remain in the love of the Father, and I want to remain in the love of the Son!

The apostle Paul by inspiration also encourages us to _____ the Lord by our attitudes, our words, our deeds, and by how we treat others. Romans 12:1-2 says, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy _____, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the _____ of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” We are to live out the will of God in our lives and not be conformed to the ways of the world.

Let’s look once again at 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the _____? Run in such a way that you may _____. Now everyone who

competes in the games exercises self-control in _____ things. They then do it to _____ a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my _____, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” Athletes train for years to be the _____ at their sport for an earthly and perishable reward. Our spiritual _____ is to receive an imperishable crown and to live with the Lord forever. We don’t want to be disqualified by _____ to discipline our lives, to control our thinking, to control our actions, to control our actions, to control our attitudes and to control everything about how we treat others. We want to remain _____ from sinful ways.

Colossians 1:10 urges us to “walk in a manner _____ of the Lord” and “to please Him in all respects.” Whatever God desires should be _____ heart’s desire. We should love the things that God loves and stay _____ of the things that God is offended by. Paul urged the young man Timothy, “Now _____ from youthful lusts and _____ righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22). Let’s keep our hearts pure and serve the Lord with all our hearts and all our soul.

Matthew 17:1-5 says, “Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and _____ them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, _____ with Him. Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it’s good for us to be here; if You wish, I’ll make three tabernacles here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ And while he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; _____ to Him!’”

The Father in heaven wants us to listen to the Lord Jesus. Whether we listen to Him _____. He will _____ us on the last day by His words (John 12:48). If we’re obedient to His will, we can _____ eternal salvation. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, “Although He was a Son, He _____ obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who _____ Him the source of eternal salvation.”

Obedience to the gospel is necessary to our salvation, and living faithfully to the Lord afterwards is also necessary. To become a Christian, hear the gospel, place your trust in the Lord Jesus and in what He says, repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ. And this means being immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ. And when you’re baptized, you’re baptized into the death of Christ; and God will wash your sins away (Acts 22:16). When you’re baptized you’re also raised with Christ in that baptism, and you’re able to walk a new life, and it’s free from sin (Romans 6:4-7).