

# Program Transcripts

January 2024



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

# **SEARCH PROGRAMS**

**January 2024**

*Topics subject to change without notice*

## **JANUARY 7 – WHAT GOD HAS DONE**

If you love the Lord, do you also love the truth? Many people claim to be religious but fail to see the value of the truth found in the word of God. They would rather be misinformed than to hear what the Lord has to say.

## **JANUARY 14 – THE GIFT OF LOVE**

Does it matter what Jesus says and whether we obey Him? Many think God ought to be satisfied with us if we do anything religious at all, but the Lord demands obedience that shows respect to Him.

## **JANUARY 21 – MEANT FOR GOOD**

Many think the Lord's kingdom will be set up in the future, while others believe Jesus built His kingdom in the first century. Was the Lord's kingdom set up in the first century? The answer to this question can be found in the Scriptures.

## **JANUARY 28 – BUT HE LIED**

When life is filled with troubles, strife, and uncertainty, how do you find joy? The apostle Paul endured many problems in life but still found ways to rejoice in the Lord. The book of Philippians teaches us how to have such joy.

## What God Has Done

There are many ways to know there's a God. One way to know that He exists is to count the ways God works in our lives. In this lesson we're exploring what God has done for us.

God gave us His word to teach us, to reprove us, to correct us, and to train us in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16 to 17 says that, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be (perfect) complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." We all need and want that training, so that we may live with God eternally.

We don't serve a dead God; nor do we serve a hidden or silent God who has nothing to do with us. We serve a God who cares for us and wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Yes, we can know The Truth. Jesus promised in John 8:31 to 32 that, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Our reading today comes from Acts chapter 2 verses 22 to 24. And Peter is preaching on the day of Pentecost and helping us to understand what God has done through Jesus Christ.

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

Ah, we have a great savior Jesus Christ and death could not hold Him in its power. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful for the great gift of Jesus Christ who allowed us to be able to be what You would have us to be. And Father we pray that love for You will grow more and more knowing all the things You have done for us. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

How do we know God exists and is working in our lives? Well first, God made you and gave you life. Yes, you're created in His image and in His likeness. God said in Genesis 1:26 to 27, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Genesis 2 and verse 7 says, "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (or a living soul)." Hebrews 12 and verse 9 says that we should respect God as 'the Father of spirits.' Yes He gave us our bodies but He also gave us our spirits.

Paul described the God that we serve to the Athenians in Acts 17:24 to 29: he said, "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to inhabit all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and (have our very being or) exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.' Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to suppose that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the craft and thought of man (mankind)."

Someone says, well, “Phil, this is circular reasoning. We know there is a God because the Bible says so.” Well I understand that, but let’s look at humanity. Humans are intricately made; every cell in our body has a unique DNA molecule that contains an enormous amount of information that determines every aspect of our makeup and proves that we are designed. Humans are intelligent, thinking beings unlike any other being on earth. Humans have a spirit and a conscience that continually assesses our morals. To suggest humans evolved from non-living matter and developed into highly intricate, intelligent beings demands assuming what has never been proved. It takes more faith to believe in evolution than to believe that we’re created. Why even Charles Darwin as he concluded the Origin of Species realized there was a Creator.

Second, God gave His Son Jesus for your sins. John 3:16 to 17 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, (or should not perish) but have (everlasting) eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” Yes, God sent His Son to save us from sin. 1 Peter 3 and verse 18 says, “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring you to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.” The sins that God forgives are fully forgiven, though they may be beyond counting. David wrote in Psalm 103:11 to 12, “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.” I’m so grateful the Lord Jesus was willing to die in my place so that my sins could be forgiven.

Third, God raised up the the Lord Jesus to be the Christ to be the Messiah and Lord. Peter said on Pentecost to the Jews in Jerusalem as we’ve read in Acts 2:22 to 24, “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” Later in this same sermon, Peter announced in verse 36, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” I tell we have a Lord and Savior, because of what God has done by giving us Jesus Christ.

Fourth, God makes us His children. John 1:11 to 12 says, “But as many as received Him, (that is took in what he said was true) to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” Yes, we must believe in Him, but biblical faith always acts. Galatians 3:26 and 7 the bible 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.” When believers are baptized, they become children of God, clothed with Christ. We’re no longer strangers to God but we’re His sons and daughters. Who can measure all the blessings, joy, and love (that) our God has bestowed upon us? “See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we would be called (the) children of God; and we are” (1 John 3 and verse 1).

Fifth, God provides for His people. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:31 to 34, “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 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 worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” God is with us and He knows our needs even before we ask Him. We can trust Him to meet our needs.

Sometimes Christians wonder how they can afford to do God’s will. I love the promise of 2 Corinthians 9 verses 8 to 10 which helps us to turn from looking at ourselves to looking at what God can

do. This passage says this, "And God is able to make every grace abound to you, so that in everything at every time having every sufficiency, you may have an abundance for every good deed; as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he gave to the needy, his righteousness stands forever." Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness."

Sixth, God answers our prayers. The Lord Jesus promises God's children in Matthew 7:7 to 11, "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. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

We must trust God to do what is best for us, answering our prayers. Proverbs 3:5 to 6 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." We often think we know what's best, but we must trust God. Psalm 37:4 to 5 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it." When we set our hearts upon doing what is right, God will indeed help us. Ephesians 3:20 to 21 reminds us of God's ability: "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or understand, (and it's done) according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

Seventh, God blesses the faithful person who overcomes temptation and the challenges of this world. He who overcomes will eat of the tree of life, never be hurt by the second death, will enjoy the hidden manna and receive a white stone, will receive authority and receive the morning star, will be clothed in white garments, will have his name in the book of life, will have his name confessed before the Father and His angels, will become a pillar in the sanctuary of God and never leave, will have God's and Christ's name and God's city written on him, and will sit down with Christ on His throne. This is all from Revelation chapter 2 verse 7, 11, 17, 26 to 28; and chapter 3 verse 5, 12, and 21). Yes God will bless those who overcome.

And then eighth, God is at work in our lives. Paul told the Philippian church in Philippians 2:12 to 13 "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." When God's people work out their salvation with fear and trembling, God is working in them to will and to do His good pleasure. Yes God works with us and in us.

Then you have ninth, God raised Jesus from the dead. Acts 2 and verse 24 says, "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power." The New Testament speaks of the resurrection of Jesus Christ 120 times. Romans 1 and verse 4 reminds us that God declared with power that Jesus was the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. Jesus was raised and is now sitting at the right hand of God, far above all rule and power.

And so tenth, that is that God will raise us up and give us a home in heaven. 1 Corinthians 6 and verse 14 simply says, "Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power." Yes we will be raised up. The Lord Jesus said in John 5:28 to 29, "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." No one will doubt God or His word on the Day of Judgment.

The Lord Jesus promised in John 14:1 to 3, "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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, (that's the promise of Jesus) that where I am, (Jesus says) there you may be also." Faithful Christians have the promise of eternal life in heaven with the Lord Jesus. Let me ask you a question. Do you belong to the Lord Jesus? Have you followed Him.

Let's pray together. Oh Father we are so grateful for all You have done for us. For the joy of our salvation, for the mercy and grace. Father we're thankful that You hear our prayers and that You have given us Your word to instruct us and protect us and to guide us. And Father we pray that our love will grow for You from this day forward. And our love for others may be increased. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:14-19, "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that He would give you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being firmly rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

Oh I pray this too! I want Christ to dwell in your heart by faith so that you will comprehend with all the saints the great love of Christ. I want God to be in your heart and life. And God wants to be part of your life and to help you, but you must let Him into your life. You can't ignore or dismiss God or His word and expect to know Him and His love for you. You can't ignore the Lord's church, made up of the Lord's family, and expect to draw close to God. Jesus purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20 and verse 28).

Please make a firm commitment to the Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus. Believe Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Turn from your sins and live for righteousness, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. Now baptism is for those who are old enough to believe and need to repent. Won't you turn to the Lord today in faith and love?

## The Gift of Love

When God sent His Son Jesus into the world, He was sending His very heart filled with love. In this lesson we're going to remember the gift of love.

We seek to please the Lord and to follow Him. When we follow the Lord, we know we'll find a joyous, abundant life filled with peace and purpose. God ways are always righteous and kind. They lift up rather than tear down. They give hope rather than discourage. They lead to wisdom rather than to foolishness. And the more you know about God, the more you'll love and praise Him.

God is love. And everything about Him reveals His love. The Lord Jesus said in John 3:16–17, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Jesus didn't come to this world to condemn us but to save us. He knew sin was our real enemy, and He suffered on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

God planned to send Jesus. An angel of the Lord told Joseph in Matthew 1:20 to 23, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” And all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).” Jesus is indeed God with us, and we're so thankful that He came into the world.

Our reading today is from 1 John chapter 4 verses 7 to 11. It reminds us that we need to love others because of how much God has loved us.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

And how true that is. The need to love each other. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful for that wonderful gift of love Your Son Jesus our Lord. And Father we pray that it will encourage us to love others and to be kind and to be generous because You were to us. Father we're thankful and we pray that You will bless us and help us each day. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Many people think of the infant Jesus, when they think of God's gift of love. God gave us Jesus to be one of us. He was like us physically and endured all the challenges of growing up in this world. Because He became one of us, He understands all our strengths and weaknesses. John said in 2:25 that Jesus didn't need anyone to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.” Though Jesus was the Son of God, He became flesh and dwelled among us. The Hebrew writer observed in Hebrews 4:14 to 16, “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Because He understands us and was tempted like we are, He can help us in our greatest times of need.

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

The Lord Jesus gave three reasons why He came into the world. First, He came to save us from our sins. He said in Luke 19 verse 10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Yes Jesus came looking for the lost, that He might save them from sin. Now because of sin, we're all lost in sin and needing a Savior. So many of the heartaches of life come from sinful behavior. As we have seen, when people reject God, they fill their lives with every kind of evil. Jesus wanted to bring salvation to our lives so that we could have hope and true life. Now Jesus isn't trying to manipulate us but to bless us. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 20 and verse 28 that, "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Now sin separates us from God and it enslaves us to evil; but Jesus redeemed us with the price of His blood. He redeemed us by giving Himself, His very own body and blood. And there could be no higher price, no greater gift.

Jesus not only died for us as individuals, He also wanted to rescue us from this sinful world. Paul greeted the churches of Galatia in Galatians 1:3 to 5 saying, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

One can truly describe this world into which Jesus was born as "evil." The predominant religion of the day was a mixture of superstition with paganism. Because it was a world with a warped understanding of God, people lived with warped values and warped morals. Romans 1:28 to 32 talks about how that, "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, (and) ruthless. (and) Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." Our world is much like the world of the first century; each day it seems to grow more and more evil. More and more people participate in that evil with the approval of others. And how tragic that people think a sinful world is better than a world where God is honored and served!

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

Ephesians 2:8 to 10 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not (of) your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should



walk in them.” When people live in sin, they spread misery and heartache everywhere; but when they serve the Lord, they become a blessing to everyone. They encourage, they give hope, they show love, they bring peace, and they spread joy and good news. Christians don't speak out against sin because of hate but because they know the agony and hurt that sin brings. The Lord offers something better. He was indeed God's gift of love. And what God gave to us was not things, but a Person.

Third, Jesus said He came to bear witness to the truth. John 1:14 says of Jesus, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Now Jesus proclaimed in John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. (and) No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus was the very embodiment of truth and honesty. Because of Jesus, we know what God is like. Because of Jesus, we know what righteousness truly is; and because of Jesus, we have the ability to distinguish truth from error.

When Jesus appeared before Pilate, Pilate wanted to know if the rumors he had heard were true. John 18:37 reads, “Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” (and) Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. (and) Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Jesus and the truth God reveals are inseparably bound with each other. If we wish to know the truth, we must listen to His voice.

Our world is filled with contradictory lies, myths and false hopes. Jesus came to give us an undeniable and unvarying path to the truth. And how wonderful to have an unchanging moral and spiritual standard that provides a basis for our values. Since God has raised Jesus from the dead, we can have confidence that the Lord's teaching is true. You can trust His promises, and you can believe that heaven waiting for you. 1 John 5 and verse 20 says, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.” My friends, it's a marvelous gift to know Who and what is true.

The Lord Jesus wants to bless you with His love. He wanted His sacrifice on the cross to transform your life. And if you take seriously the sacrifice of Jesus for your sins, you'll come to love Him. The Lord Jesus said in John 12:32, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” Let His sacrifice for you matter! The Lord Jesus was willing to pay the ultimate price to get your attention and to demonstrate His utter love for you. He wanted to draw you to Himself. He wanted you to love Him the way He loved you.

Romans 5:6 to 8 says, “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” We were once weak and needed saving; we were once ungodly and didn't take the ways of God seriously; and we were sinners who violated God's teaching and were offensive to Him. But in spite of these, the Lord Jesus willingly died for us to show His love.

When we respond to His love and become Christians, our response reveals that the cross matters. Surely, the God who created us and gave us His Son has many more blessings in store for us. Romans 8 and verse 32 says that, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” In Christ, God's love never ends! Romans 8:35 to 39 asks, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure (I'm persuaded) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will

be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” My friend, nothing can separate you from the love of God; but do not take His love for granted. Never turn away from God, as some do.

When Jesus redeemed you with His blood, He gave His utmost for you. And we must realize how God values us as His children. 1 Peter 2:9 to 10 says, “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; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Don’t let anyone or anything rob you of a close, loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Love Him, serve Him. Give yourself to Him.

Let us pray. Father we’re thankful for that great love that marvelous inexpressible that was given to us through Jesus Christ. In His mercy and grace. And Father help us to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. And to love others. Father we’re thankful that we have way to walk and to live. And we pray that we may follow You all of our days. In Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus came into the world to save us from sin, to give us a better way, and to reveal the truth to us. Does it matter whether you’re saved or lost, whether you live with wisdom or with foolishness, whether you know the truth or whether you’ve been deceived with falsehoods? You must come to understand this: the Lord Jesus is the most important Person in your life. No one else can bless you, love you, forgive you, give you hope, or save your soul but Jesus Christ. You need Him.

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

If you wish to enjoy the love of God, you must accept His gift of love. Believe in the Lord Jesus, turn from sin that only destroys, confess Jesus Christ as God’s Son, and be baptized into Christ. When you’re baptized into Christ, you’re “crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin” (Romans 6 and verse 6). Now this baptism in an immersion in water, just as Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, immersed, and just as Philip immersed the eunuch. Now when you’re united with Christ, the Lord sets you free from sin and makes you God’s child, a fellow-heir of heaven. Will you accept God’s gift of love? Will you love and obey the Lord Jesus?

## Meant for Good

Heartaches come to all of us, and we wonder how God fits in all this. God is just and His purpose is good, even when we don't understand why. Let us explore how God uses our heartaches for good.

The Holy Scriptures tell us all we need to know to be saved and to live righteous lives. They reveal God's grace and love, how God watches over us and helps us through the struggles and disappointments of life. God is good and will never permit us to face more than we can bear. God often uses things we consider harsh to bring about good. Even when we don't understand, we can trust God.

When Joseph was just seventeen years old, his father showed him love more than his ten brothers and made him a coat of many colors. Joseph later made a bad report about his brothers, and his brothers hated him and couldn't speak peaceably to him. God revealed to Joseph some miraculous dreams that showed his brothers and parents bowing down to him. These dreams led his brothers to hate Joseph even more.

They wanted to kill Joseph; but due to Reuben's interference, the brothers sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Joseph served Potiphar until Potiphar's scheming wife falsely charged him with trying to seduce her. Potiphar punished Joseph by placing him in Pharaoh's prison. But the hand of the Lord was always with Joseph, and God put him next to Pharaoh to save Israel during the famine. Even in the harshest times, God never forsook Joseph.

When their father Jacob died, the brothers worried Joseph might take vengeance on them. But Joseph spoke kindly to his brothers. He explained in Genesis 50 and verse 20, "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." What the brothers meant for evil, God meant for good. God works His good purpose, even when men are at their worst.

Our reading today comes from Psalm 23. A psalm of David beloved and probably the best known.

The LORD is my shepherd,  
 I shall not want.  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
 He leads me beside quiet waters.  
 He restores my soul;  
 He guides me in the paths of righteousness  
 For His name's sake.  
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I fear no evil, for You are with me;  
 Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
 You have anointed my head with oil;  
 My cup overflows.  
 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
 And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Oh what a wonderful relationship we have with God. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful that You bless us and watch over us every day of our lives. That You prepared a home in heaven for us if we remain faithful. And Father we pray You will bless us as we study together today. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Evil and painful things happen to all, all of us and we don't always know why. Why do the young die? Why are there earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes? Why do the evil men rule over nations? If God is completely good and all powerful, why does He allow suffering? Is there some reason why all these bad

things happen? Many times it's not what we know that causes us the greatest sorrow; it's what we don't know.

Now God sees what we can't see and He knows what we don't know. Some things He reveals in His Word, and but other things are secret. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Now God reveals what we need in order to do His will, but He doesn't explain everything to us.

Though we don't know God's purpose for some evil event doesn't mean that there isn't a reason. We're so limited in knowledge now, but we may understand many things in the future that we can't now see. For instance, we didn't understand much of what took place in our childhood until we became parents and had children of our own. Our parents didn't explain everything. And we couldn't understand everything, even if they had. Later in life, however, we learned that our strict parents loved and cared for us far more than we imagined. We can comprehend many things today that we couldn't explain earlier. Loving parents discipline their children because they can see what their children can't. And so it is with God.

Hebrews 12 verses 10 to 11 says of our earthly parents, "For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he [that is God] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." We can see the discipline that we received early in life became a great blessing for us later. Because they disciplined us, we learned to discipline ourselves.

When God disciplines us, we should understand it positively and not negatively. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:5 to 7, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by him; for those whom the lord loves he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives.' It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" God doesn't discipline us because He's evil or mean; He disciplines us to strengthen our character so we might endure.

God can see the future, and He often allows today's struggles to happen to prepare us. David faced a lion and a bear before he faced Goliath. Joseph managed a household and a prison before he managed Egypt. The struggle you face today may prepare you for some greater task tomorrow. Paul confidently told the Philippians in chapter 1, verse 6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." God is indeed working in our lives and through our lives to bring to completion what He wills.

Paul later urges the church in Philippians 2:12 to 13, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Whatever God does, He does to bring about what's good and right. When we serve God's good pleasure, we know it leads to our eternal good.

Now not everything that happens to us is good. We've all had our heartaches and disappointments. We've all faced callous people who unjustly abused us. But God has this amazing ability to turn what is painful at one point in our lives into something that blesses at another point. The apostle Paul endured as much abuse as any Christian in ancient times, but never once does he engage in a pity party or entertain the notion that God doesn't love him. Paul said in Romans 8:28, "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." Paul spoke this at a time when he knew many Christians would suffer and Rome would bring charges against the church.

God causes all things, good or bad, to work together for good. And God uses even our heartaches to bring some good blessing. We may not know what or how or when, but we know God can cause good. We know this by faith, because we know the God who makes this promise keeps His promises. Paul denied that their suffering separated them from the love or the blessing of God.

Paul said in Romans 8:35 to 39, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Far from separating us from the love of God, suffering may lead us to a greater love for God. Paul gives us a little insight into how God uses our struggles and heartaches to bless us in Romans 5:3 to 5. He says, "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance (or patience) produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Christian suffering produces the ability to endure, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Suffering is how we mature in our faith and love for God. Suffering may not be pleasant, but it is for our eternal good. It provides a necessary training ground to build us up.

1 Peter 5 verses 8 to 10 says, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." God permits suffering, but He's also the God of all grace who both tests and restores us. God knows how to heal the wounds of life.

Now we all face suffering, but we don't all react to suffering the same way. No one likes to suffer, but how we react to it determines our relationship with God. Some learn love and compassion from their suffering, while others harden their hearts and become bitter. We can't always control what happens to us, but we can choose how we will respond. James 1 verses 2 to 4 says, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (or patience). And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect (that is mature) and complete, lacking in nothing." Now that struggle or heartache that you face may be just the test that matures you in Christ and equips you for greater service. God may be blessing you through this struggle. Consider what God is doing for you and in you as something joyful. See the good.

God may be fitting you for a service to bless the lives of many. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 1:3 to 5, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ." We all need someone who is experienced to help us through the struggles. And your heartache and God's comfort may be equipping you to help others who are going through the heartache that you're facing. You understand your heartache in ways others don't, and that understanding helps to comfort others in their affliction. You can let your pain make you bitter or make you better.

Can God be both loving and yet permit suffering? How can a loving Father permit suffering? Many people assume that love and suffering are mutually exclusive. If God permits suffering, some assume that God could not possibly love us. Well let's pause here and ask, "What if suffering demonstrates love? What if someone chooses to suffer in order to demonstrate his love?" What if a loving person in order to achieve good for others is willing to suffer? What if loving people are willing to sacrifice now in order to bring about something better in the future?

Suffering is not simply a human matter; God also knows what it means to suffer. The God who permits us to suffer also permitted His Son Jesus to suffer. The Lord Jesus was willing to suffer many things to show

His love. On the cross He demonstrated His love for His Father. And speaking of His death on the cross, Jesus said in John 14:31, "so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me." Jesus earnestly prayed in Luke 22:42, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." Oh, Jesus despised the shame of the cross but He was willing to endure the suffering and fulfill the will of the Father, because He loved the Father.

Now God our Father loved mankind enough to sacrifice His Son Jesus, so that He could atone for their sins. God said through the prophet Isaiah 53:5 to 6, "But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him." God sent His Son to this earth to sacrifice Himself, so that He might bear the punishment for our sins and might be able to forgive us. By His scourging we are healed. He took the chastening for our well-being.

You see love acts and sacrifices out of a determination to do what is best for someone else. Real love always includes some measure of sacrifice. Real love puts the needs of others before the needs and desires of our selves. We can't speak of love without speaking of suffering and sacrifice in one form or another. Jesus died for your sins to bring you to God because He wanted something better for you. A loving person will give of himself to provide the greater good for someone else. The Lord Jesus demonstrates His undeniable love for you in His death on the cross. He died for you.

Let's pray together. Oh Father we're thankful that You loved us enough to send Your Son to die for us. Father we're so sorry that He had to suffer but we're so thankful that what He did on the cross was able to forgive our sins and to help us. To live honorable and to be Your children. Father help us to do Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

You may be having a rough time. Please don't give up on God; don't let your heartache make you bitter. There's hope! The last chapter of your life hasn't yet been written, and there is a life to come. One day God will right every wrong, make good prevail, and dry every tear. God has a home for you in heaven. Put your trust in Him and obey Him.

The apostle Paul, speaking about his troubled life, wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:8 to 10, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." Paul knew that whatever happened to him now could not take away the promise of God in the next life. He said in Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." We need the hope of Christ in our lives!

And how do we get that hope? We get it through trusting and obeying the Lord. Believe in the Lord Jesus with all your heart, repent and forsake your sins, confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and be baptized into Christ. Now baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ so that God may wash away your sins. Now when you're baptized the Lord will add you to the church, He'll make you His child. Christ suffered greatly to bless you and to show you just how much, how much He loves you. Show your love by serving Him.

## But He Lied

If you love the Lord, do you also love the truth? In this lesson we'll look at the difference between the truth and a lie.

We search the Scriptures because we know that the Bible is inspired of God. God breathed out every single word found in the Bible. Because God is all-knowing, infinitely wise, and never lies, we can trust what we read in Scripture. Humans, on the other hand, don't know everything and are often fooled. We can't always trust people, so we must measure what we believe by God's Holy Word.

Pontius Pilate once asked Jesus, "What is truth?" He must not have been paying attention, because Jesus had given him the answer to that question. The Lord Jesus said in John 18:37, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." The more we listen closely to the Lord Jesus, the more we'll understand the truth.

The Lord Jesus promised in John 8:31 to 2, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Now every word Jesus spoke was the truth. Because of Jesus we can separate right from wrong, we can know God's will, and we can possess an infallible standard by which to judge all things. Jesus gives us everything we need to know about eternal life, salvation, and godliness. He said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We must listen to the Lord Jesus. He'll never lead you astray. His words reveals the path to life.

Our reading today comes from 1 Kings chapter 13 verses 15 to 18 and talks about a young prophet who was told something by God and yet another older prophet told him something different. And the young prophet did not listen. Verse 15.

"Then he said to him, 'Come home with me and eat bread.' He said, 'I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. For a command came to me by the word of the LORD, "You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came.'" He said to him, 'I also am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, "Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" But he lied to him."

And sometimes people lie to us even people who are religious. And lead us astray. Let's pray together. Oh Father we're thankful that Your word always tells us the truth so that we may distinguish between truth and error. Help us Heavenly Father to turn to Your word that we may know what You would have us to know and to be and to do. This is our pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

After King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam took the throne. Because Rehoboam was immature and greedy for power, the people rejected him; and this brought about the division of Israel from Judah. Jereboam, who became the leader of these tribes, caused Israel to sin by making two golden calves and placing them in the cities of Bethel and Dan. Jereboam feared the people would go to Jerusalem and return to the Lord, so he told the people in 1 Kings 12:28, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."

Jereboam claimed his golden calves represented the God who led Israel out of Egypt. And he caused the people to offer sacrifices and burn incense to the golden calves, which he had made. They could never be God. The second of the Ten Commandments says, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous

God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments” (that’s Exodus 20 verses 4 to 6).

Now it’s startling how the people of Israel departed from God’s teaching and believed such an outright lie. They had to ignore almost everything they knew about God in order to follow Jereboam’s false and humanly-contrived religion. I’m reminded of Paul’s statement in Romans 1:25 about people who “exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.” How can something man-made create mankind? Well it can’t!

Now God saw what Jereboam did and decided to send a man of God to the altar at Bethel, where Jereboam was, and he spoke out against the king. And so in 1 Kings 13 this man of God at God’s direction predicted a sign or miracle: “This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: ‘Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out’” (1 Kings 13 verse 3). Now it happened just as God said that very day. The altar was split apart, and the ashes were poured out. The man of God left Bethel, going home by a different route and refusing to eat bread or drink water.

1 Kings 13 tells of an old prophet who chased down the man of God and said, “(you) Come home with me and (you) eat bread.” The man of God replied, “I may not return with you, or go in with you, neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place, for it was said to me by the word of the Lord, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.’”

The old prophet, however, was not content. 1 Kings 13:18 to 19 tells the sad story. The old prophet said well, “I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.’” But he lied to him. So he (that is the man of God) went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water. Well apparently the man of God placed his trust in what the lying prophet said rather than what God had told him.

And because of his disobedience, God punished the man of God. A lion met him on the way and killed him. Because he believed a lie, and he suffered the wrath of God. Some people say well it doesn’t matter what you believe if you love God. My friend, that isn’t so! It does matter what you believe. The man of God learned this the hard way. and I hope you won’t make that mistake. If you believe a lie, it could cost you your soul.

Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia, warning them not to follow a false gospel. Paul said in Galatians 1:6 to 9 well, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

Well even if the source seems to be credible, such as an angel from heaven, we must not distort what God says and turn it into a falsehood. Many people, frankly, are deceived by distorted gospels today. They think they believe the truth, but they’ve placed their confidence in a distortion of the truth. There is but one gospel, and anything contrary to that one gospel is dangerous to the soul.

Adolf Hitler once boasted, “By the skillful and sustained use of propaganda, one can make a people see even heaven as hell or an extremely wretched life as paradise.” Hitler told many outrageous lies. He held that if you tell a big lie frequently enough, people will believe it. He realized that people would fall for a big lie quicker than they would for a little one. By telling lies, Hitler and the Nazis were able to



slaughter eleven million people in his concentration camps. The more outrageous the lie, the more some become gullible. The old song says if you are unwilling to stand for something, you will fall for anything. And we must stand with God and with His Word, the Bible. Some have believed something so long that they no longer question whether it could be false. A generation often hears a falsehood from those who have gone before and never question whether it is true.

The difference between the truth and a lie is as great as the difference between God and the devil. The Lord Jesus is the source of truth, but the devil has always been a liar. The Lord Jesus described the devil this way in John 8:44, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Speaking lies, the devil pretends to be a follower of God. He wants everyone to think he is moral and true, but he has no intention of following Christ. He willfully fools people into following His error. 2 Corinthians 11:14 to 15 says, "No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds." Being religious doesn't make a person righteous, and calling oneself a preacher or a prophet doesn't guarantee that what one says is true.

Some believe the lie that we're saved by faith alone, but love and obedience are also necessary to salvation. John 3:36 in the New American Standard version says that, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." Some say well you don't have to be baptized to be saved, but the Lord Jesus said in John 3 and verse 5, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." One cannot enter heaven without being baptized. In the first gospel sermon, Peter told the guilty people at Pentecost, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (and you do it) for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Ananias told Saul of Tarsus in Acts 22:16, "Now why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." No, we aren't saved by faith alone. We must also repent and be baptized out of love for God.

Now some believe sprinkling is as good as immersing for baptism, but the very word baptism in the original language refers to an immersion or burial in water. Romans 6 and verse 4 says, "Therefore we were 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." Now some think it's right to baptize infants and small children, but we have no record of any infant baptism in Scripture. Acts 8 verse 12 says, "But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike." Now these were people old enough to believe and choose to be baptized, not infants or small children.

Now no matter how strongly we believe something is right, it's false if it contradicts what the Lord says in Scripture. The Lord Jesus takes His Word seriously, even if we don't. The Lord said in John 12:48 to 50, "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken (Jesus says) on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." Jesus knew His words were the measure of truth and would affect our salvation. If we reject His words, we'll be lost; but if we listen to Him, we can know the truth and be saved.

Many people have given up on trying to find the truth, though the Scriptures teach the truth. Because of sin and pleasure, many would rather believe a lie than take the steps necessary to believe the truth. We don't like to call sin sinful, so we lie to ourselves about when life begins. We lie to ourselves about

whether marriage matters. We don't like to think of anyone as being wrong, so we decide that every doctrine must always be right. We don't like to think of anybody being lost, so we consider everyone saved. We don't like to admit that there is one faith, so we believe that every road takes you to heaven. But humans aren't the measure of truth, God is! And His Word declares His truth.

Now when the truth is demanded but a lie is convenient, many choose the lie. They believe what they want and then they find preachers who will tickle their ears. And eventually they'll insist their lie is really the truth. They'll do nearly anything rather than listen to what God says in this book, the bible. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding." My friend, buying the truth may mean being honest and honestly admitting what we've heard in the past is not right but false.

Acts 17:11 says of the Bereans, "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." Have you searched the Scriptures to find out if what you believe is so? Or have you simply accepted what people have told you? Have you taken time to buy the truth, and yes it costs to find it. Have you taken time to buy the truth to get wisdom and instruction and understanding? I hope that you have.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we know how much You value the truth and how much Your Son values the truth. And how that we can be set free by the truth. Help us Heavenly Father to be willing to buy the truth and to rid ourselves of the things that are false. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

As humans, most of us have faced the bitter reality that what we once believed was right was actually wrong. We all get fooled, but we aren't left without hope. We can know the truth. And Jesus promised we could in John 8:32, and God desires that all men be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). God revealed the truth in His Word, the Bible; but we must take the time to search it out, to believe it, and obey it. It's not enough to know the Word. We must let it touch our hearts and shape our lives. Ignorance causes confusion, lies cause chaos, but knowledge of God leads to order and to wisdom.

James 1:22 to 25 says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, (stays with it) being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." If we do nothing with what we have learned from God, we've robbed ourselves of a blessing.

If your heart and soul aren't right with God, don't lie to yourself that everything is okay. You need to follow the perfect law, the law of liberty! And to become a Christian and be free from sin, you must believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Repent of your sins; follow God's will. Confess Jesus as the Christ and be baptized, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. And please do it today!