STUDY SHEET
March 27, 2016

Your Destiny
James 4:13-17

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

You have a soul that will ________ beyond this life. What is your destiny? The Bible says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things ________ belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29). God doesn’t answer every ________ that we can ask, but God does give us everything that we ________ to know, everything that pertains to life and godliness. If you wish to live with God eternally, you can do nothing more valuable than to ________ God’s Word.

Hebrews 9:27 says, “it’s appointed for men to ________ once and after this comes judgment.” From our earliest days we’ve heard about the Day of Judgment. We’ve heard about ________ and ________. We know something exists ________ this life, but we don’t know everything we’d like to know. Movies and television stimulate our imagination, but they only provide someone’s ________ about what lies beyond. We want to know what God says will ________ when we die. That’s why we go to God’s inspired Word for ____________.

Today, we’re going to talk about a very ___________ subject, so I want to speak to you personally. I hope that this time will be like two ________ having a heart-to-heart conversation. Life is ________, and death is _________. Even if you’re young and healthy, you can’t ________ reality. Your death will either open the ________ to the most wonderful experience that you’ve ever enjoyed or the worst experience that anyone could have. God wants to ________ you, and the Bible gives us the information we need to ________ that blessing.

Our reading today comes from the letter of James 4:13-17.

The word “death” occurs ________ times in the Old Testament and ________ times in the New Testament. Death signifies _________. Physical death separates the ________ from the _________. Spiritual death separates people from ________ and His blessing. The good news is that while death is a separation, it is not the ________ of our existence.

The Bible describes death in James 2:26, “For as the ________ apart from the spirit is dead, so also ________ apart from works is dead.” The body is dead without the spirit. But, we’re ________ than a fleshly body. We are body and spirit. The body ________ but the spirit still exists. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, “the dust returns to the ________ as it was, and the spirit returns to ________ who gave it.” God is the ________ of spirits according to Hebrews 12:9. Your spirit is not physical or material, and it’s not destroyed by a physical _________.

On the cross, Jesus told the thief, “Truly, I say to you, ________ you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). The Lord clearly says that we’ll survive and be conscious ________ this
life. The Lord _________ to see the thief in Paradise. There’s an _________ spirit that survives
death and is conscious. Life here and now is not _______ there is; there’s _________.

Yes, it’s appointed for men to die once, and then comes ______________. Death holds a lot of
______________ for us. The __________, especially judgment, is frightening. We worry whether
our after life will be one of ______ or not. Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14.
This surprises many who think nearly __________ will be saved and only a few of the
worst will be lost, but that’s not what Jesus says.

We must consider the afterlife. How we live will determine ______ we will spend eternity.
What are we saved by? The shed __________ of Jesus Christ and the _______ of God. What are
we saved from? The ___________ of sin. Read what Jesus warned in Matthew 5:29-30.

to what He says. “Now there was a ________ man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine
linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a _______ man named Lazarus was laid at his
gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich
man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and
was carried away by the _________ to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was
_______. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in __________ , and saw Abraham far away and
Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and he said, ‘Father Abraham, have ________ on me, and
send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and ________ off my tongue, for I am
in _________ in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you
received your ________ things, and likewise Lazarus _____ things; but now he is being
comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great
_________ fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that
none may cross over from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to
my father’s house—for I have five brothers—in order that he may _______ them, so that they will
not also come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let
them _______ them.’ But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the
dead, they will repent!’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not _______ to Moses and the Prophets,
they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Many think this story is a _________ or some kind of fanciful story and for that reason
shouldn’t be taken seriously. But Jesus never speaks about ___________ matters. When Jesus uses
a figure of speech like a parable, He does so to __________ a point, not to trivialize it.

However one takes this story, people will face ______ very different destinies after they die.
One destiny is ___________ with comfort and the other with agony. Lazarus and the rich man both
_________ where they were. Both could reason and have intelligent conversations. Both could
_____________ the lives that they lived back on earth.

Sometimes the Bible speaks of death as “__________.” This is likely because the physical body
after death __________ to be sleeping. This, however, doesn’t mean that our _________ are
unconscious or in a stupor. Moses and Elijah, though they had been dead for many __________, had a conversation with the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-5). Death happens to the ________, but death doesn’t make our spirits unconscious.

The lives that we live now, whether we’re right with the Lord will determine our future __________. The story of Lazarus and the rich man _________ our _________ to what happens when our spirits leave this world. After we die, the angels will come for us to take us to the ________ God has assigned for us. After death comes judgment. This may be a place of _________ or a place of __________.

Scripture uses the word “Hades” to describe the _________. “Hades” literally means “unseen.” Hades shouldn’t be confused with _______. Hades is a ____________ place, where the spirits reside until the Judgment Day; but hell is _____________. No one will enter the promised heaven or the eternal hell until ________ the resurrection. Hades is the place where only ___________ of dead people reside. At the resurrection, our spirits will return to earth and will be joined to ________, imperishable bodies. Death is the separation of the body and spirit. Resurrection takes place when our spirits are ____________ with a changed, imperishable body.

While Hades usually refers to that place of torment, the word can also be applied to the __________ realm, which is divided into both a place of torment and a place of comfort. In Acts 2:27 the apostle Peter _________ David’s prophecy in Psalm 16:10 about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He noted that Jesus’ soul was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh suffer __________. When Jesus died, his soul went to Paradise according to His statement to the thief on the cross. He said “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

The word Paradise is used _________ times in Scripture and each time refers to that heavenly realm where the righteous go after death. Second Corinthians 12:2-4 says Paradise is equated to the third heaven, that is the place where God __________. Jesus went to that _________ place of righteous spirits where God dwells. And so, the Paradise of God is where the ________ of life is (Revelation 2:7). If Jesus’ soul was not abandoned to Hades but He went to Paradise, then Hades must contain a place where righteous souls are _____________.

The apostle Paul also ________ us to understand that we will have an existence in spirit form after we die and until the resurrection. **Read what he said in 2 Corinthians 5:6-9.** When the righteous die, they go to be ________ the Lord.

**Read what Paul said in Philippians 1:21-23.** Paul said he would _____ and _____ “with Christ” when he died. This is the Christian _________, to live with our Lord Jesus forever and ever.

**Read the reassurance Paul gives in Romans 14:7-9.** We may die physically, but not even death can separate us from the ________ of our Lord Jesus. When Christians die, they go to be with Him that very ________. But when ________ people die, the angels take them to a place of torment.

This is why we must be _______________ spiritually. No one else can do that for you. The Bible says, “For we must _____ appear 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 5:10).
saved in Christ go to judgment washed ______ by the blood of Jesus; and their names are recorded in the book of life. They can face the afterlife with confidence that they have an eternal ______ with the Lord. The unbeliever and the impenitent person have no such ______. They must _____ God on their own without their sins being washed away. They will be ______ eternally.

God doesn’t want anyone to be ______—He wants everyone to be ______. He wouldn’t have sent Jesus to die painfully on a cross if He were looking to __________ everybody. But God won’t make people __________ and He won’t turn their lives around, and He won’t make people believe in Him or love Him. That is your ___________. You are a _______ moral agent, and you are deciding whether you will serve Him or you won’t serve Him.

God has prepared the way for your salvation in the ______ of His beloved Son, Jesus. By His ______ you are saved. But grace as a gift must be received by _______ and ______________. We don’t ______ our salvation, but God has determined that those who receive His gracious salvation are people who meet his _______.

The Bible says, “Although He (that is, Jesus) was a Son (that is, a son of God), He learned __________ from the things which He suffered. And having been made __________, He became to all those who ______ Him the source of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:8-9). Your gift of salvation is ready for you if you ____________, ___________, and are ____________. My friend, have you prepared? Death is something that all of us will face one day, and it may come sooner than we think. Are you prepared?

I bought life insurance to _________ my wife and to __________ for my family after I’m gone. I’ve known people to buy a plot, choose the casket, and arrange the funeral service _______ before the time. How foolish I think it is to be so well prepared for the dying and the death here, but ______ to prepare oneself spiritually for the hereafter. I don’t want to be like the five foolish virgins who failed to ______ the oil needed for their lamps. They ran to the dealers to buy oil; and while they were gone, the bridegroom came; and the _______ was shut and they were not allowed in (Matthew 25:1-14). We must __________ now before the time is up.

Don’t waste your opportunity to get right with God; once life is over, there isn’t any __________ chance. Why not _______ in a new and different direction for your soul’s sake and for those you love? Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and _________. And if anyone ______ my voice and _______ the door, I’ll come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Friend, you can lose your car, your house, your health, or your life and still go to ___________. But if you lose your soul, you’ve lost ___________. Make the most important commitment that you’ll ever make, that of giving yourself to the Lord by ___________ the gospel. Believe in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Repent of every sin. Confess the name of Jesus, and be baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you’re baptized, the Bible says in Acts 22:16 that God will wash your sins away. The Lord will add you to His church, and you’ll be a child of God with the promise of eternal life. Would you do that?