

Saying “No” to God 2 Peter 2:4-9

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

You can say “yes” to God or you can say “no” to God; but if you say “no”, you must realize there’s a _____ to pay and much to lose. The Bible teaches the love and the grace of God; it gives us an unchangeable _____ of truth and righteousness. The Scriptures provide both an _____ for the soul and a north _____ to guide us in the right path. It not only helps us to know more about God, the Bible provides a mirror for our _____. The more we study God’s Word, the more we understand about ourselves. We need to be able to see ourselves as God sees us so that we may make the _____ necessary to please Him.

I can think of few things more precious than a newborn _____. I love the thought of something so _____ from heaven. Sweet Jackie and I have twelve grandchildren. We had four daughters of our own, and now we enjoy the love and the blessing of our grandchildren. They’re such a _____! When a little one gets to be about 18 months to 2 years, however, they learn a _____ that starts a challenge that lasts for a lifetime. They learn to say the word “_____”! They’ve heard it from their parents, and now they’re telling their parents “no.”

Many think challenging authority is the way to _____. Some never imagine that “doing your own thing” could be more _____ than it’s worth. Saying “no” to God, challenging His _____ doesn’t go unnoticed by God. He sees and knows _____ we do and _____ we do it. We can’t expect to live by our own _____, to act outside the morals of the Scriptures, to ignore the Word of God, and to escape the judgment of Jesus Christ on the last day.

Our reading today is from 2 Peter 2:4-9. The battle of a lifetime is one inside our _____. Ultimately, it’s the battle for our _____. Will you do your own will or will you _____ authority? The first authority is our _____. In time we learn that God is the _____ authority in our lives. The Bible urges us to be _____ how we deal with our inner person. Our hearts are important. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of _____.” If we let our hearts grow selfish and indulgent, we can _____ our lives by a moment’s foolish choice.

Rebellion is an _____ of the heart and will; it’s an act of defiance or resistance to one in authority. God gives us all freewill, and we can say “yes” or “no” to God. We can do God’s will or we can follow our own _____; God won’t stop us. You can choose to do what you _____. You can say “no” to God, but saying “no” to God comes at a great _____. God is gracious to the penitent and the willing; but when people _____ against him, there’s a price to pay. That price is always higher than you think.

In the days of Isaiah, hundreds of years before Christ, the people of Israel had _____ away from God and began living immoral lives that pleased themselves. The Bible says, “‘Come now, and let us _____ together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your _____ are as scarlet, They will be as

white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. If you consent and _____, You will eat the best of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You'll be devoured by the sword.' Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 1:18-20).

Bible history shows that when people said "no" to God, they _____ Him out of their lives and they did it to their own destruction. God gave Adam and Eve only one boundary in the Garden of Eden. They could not _____ of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." God said, "in the day that you eat of it you shall surely _____." But they listened to the _____ of the devil, and they chose to say "no" to God and then to sin. They were _____ out of the garden, where they could have enjoyed eternal life and the fellowship of God. The woman bore children with _____, and the man would eat his bread by the _____ of his brow "till you return to the ground, for out of the ground you were taken; and you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

In Noah's day people also _____ against God. **Read what the Bible says in Genesis 6:5-7.** You'll remember that God sent a great _____ and destroyed every person except those on the ark—eight souls in all.

Bible students will remember what happened to Israel as the people came into Palestine. In Joshua and Caleb's day, the people _____ to do God's will. In Numbers 13:1-2, the Bible says: "Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 'Send out for yourself men so that they may _____ out the land of Canaan, which I'm going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, everyone a leader among them.'"

Twelve went out and ten came back and brought a _____ report. The Bible says, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with _____ and _____, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there" (Numbers 13:27-28). They were _____ and they counseled the people not to go into Canaan. Numbers 13:32-33 says: "So they gave out to the sons of Israel a _____ report of the land which they had spied out, saying, 'The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that _____ its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size. There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); we became like _____ in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.'"

Numbers 14:1-4 says: "Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. All the sons of Israel _____ against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, 'Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the _____? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be _____ for us to return to Egypt?' So they said to one another, 'Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.'" The people showed a lack of faith; they _____, and they rebelled against God.

Numbers 14:5-9 says: "Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel. Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, 'The land which we passed through to spy out is an

exceedingly _____ land. If the LORD is _____ with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not _____ against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not _____ them.”

Verse 10 says, “But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel.” The Lord was _____ with Israel and thought about smiting them all with pestilence. But Moses interceded for the people, asking for their pardon. The Lord pardoned the people, but they had a _____ to pay.

In Numbers 14:21-23, the Lord God says, “Indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.” Every rebellious person in that generation twenty years old and upward _____ in the wilderness. Only Joshua and Caleb entered the Promised Land.

In Jesus’ day, there were disciples who had seen many _____. When they heard Jesus _____ something they didn’t understand or like, these disciples turned away from the Lord. The Bible says: “As a result of this many of His disciples _____, they weren’t walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, ‘You don’t want to go away also, do you?’ Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the _____ of eternal life. We have believed and we’ve come to know that You are the Holy One of God’” (John 6:66-69).

When people say “no” to God, they _____ more than they imagine. They may think they have gained their freedom to do as they _____, but they often find themselves _____ to sin. Adam and Eve did as they pleased and were _____ of the Garden of Eden. The people in Noah’s day _____ their lives. The people in Caleb’s day _____ young and lost their inheritance. The people in Jesus’ day _____ “eternal life.”

Let’s say “yes” to God. Let’s be _____ to God’s will. We need to be like Moses. Hebrews 11:24 to 26 says, “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of _____, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”

We need an attitude like the generation who entered the Promised Land after _____ years in the wilderness. God’s Word says: “They (that is, that younger generation under twenty at the time of the bad report) answered Joshua, saying, ‘All that you have commanded us we will _____, and wherever you send us we will _____. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may the LORD your God be with you as He was with Moses. Anyone who rebels against the command and doesn’t _____ the words in all that you (Joshua) command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous” (Joshua 1:16-18).

Later, Isaiah also showed a marvelous spirit when he said to God, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8). I’ll go; I’ll do what you _____. Here am I send me. Do you have that _____? We need the _____ and _____ for God that says, Tell me what to do and I’ll do it. Tell me what it is that

is _____, and I'll _____ it. We're not going to _____ with God. We're not going to give any "ifs," "ands" or "buts." We're going to _____ and do. We're simply going to trust God enough to _____ whatever He instructs us. We aren't going to _____ with Him or try to _____ His Word to suit ourselves.

The church began on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was fifty days after he had been crucified. Peter preached a compelling _____ to the people proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and how the Father in heaven had made him both Lord and Christ. When the people heard it, they were pierced to the _____, because they realized the crucified Jesus was indeed the Lord and Christ. They were guilty and cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we _____?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). The Bible says, "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were _____ about three thousand souls. They were continually _____ themselves to the apostles' doctrine (teaching) and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:41-42).

These people said "yes" to God, "yes" to repentance, "yes" to baptism, and "yes" to the church! God _____ them with forgiveness and with an abundant new life. He made them His children and heirs and citizens in His _____, the church. They had _____ and they had eternal life. You too are making a _____. Will you have the blessing of God, or will you _____ against God? Will you say "yes" to God, or will you say "no" to God? You can say "no", but just think about what you've _____. Don't play around when the _____ of your soul is at stake.

I fear these days some folks are more sold on what they _____ about morals and about truth than what God teaches. For instance, they permit all kinds of sin and they endorse them, even though God _____ it. Sometimes when God teaches, they will only say "yes" when God _____ with them. Otherwise, they _____ their own course and ignore the moral teaching and the truth that God gives us. It's unwise to say God will just _____ us to choose our own ways, our own morals, and our own beliefs. It's unreasonable to imagine that God will let us _____ and _____ whatever we wish and then never judge our morals, our beliefs, or our actions.

Rather than follow our _____ paths, we ought to say "yes" to God, "yes" to repentance, "yes" to baptism, and "yes" to the church! When we realize that we have sinned, and the _____ of sin weighs on our souls, we ought to repent and be baptized. No "ifs," or "ands," or "buts" about it. No substituting what we'd like to do for what God asks us to do. Obedience is doing God's _____ in God's _____. It doesn't attempt to justify error or suggest that we have something better than the ways of God.

Let's say with our hearts and with our lives, "yes, Lord! We will come to you and serve you by _____ what You've taught us. We will, out of faith and love, repent of our sins, confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and we'll be baptized. We love you and want to be _____ to your will." Baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of sin. Saying "no" to God or changing the instructions would be the _____ thing that we could do; but saying "yes" and obeying is the best thing we can do. Let's say "yes" to God and make things right. Let's not permit one day, not even one day to go by in rebellion to God, but make up our minds today that we will follow the Lord!