

August 14, 2016

Believing in Christ Hebrews 11:1-6

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

Do you truly believe Jesus Christ is the _____ of the living God? Today we're going to explore what it _____ to believe, truly believe, in Jesus Christ. We believe God, so we believe what He _____ in His Word, the Bible. God has shown us the _____ to eternal life in Scripture. We know God will keep every _____, but we also realize that God makes a distinction between those who will _____ Him and those who won't. So, we study the Scriptures and we strive to _____ the Lord.

If you wish to be _____ with the living God, faith is a necessity. The Lord Jesus said, "For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Do you recall the next two verses, verses 17 and 18? The Lord also said, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be _____ through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Believing in the name of the only Son of God is necessary if we're to have _____ life. It's not just believing God _____; it's also believing in Jesus as God's only Son. We must put our faith in Christ. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____; and no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). The way to God is through _____ in Jesus.

Our reading today comes from the book of Hebrews 11:1-6.

I want us to look at faith from _____ perspective. Many look at God and Christianity through the eyes of popular _____. Salvation is not an entitlement that God _____ us. It's a _____ to those who believe. But we must understand the idea of believing as God _____, not try to read into it what we _____ it means. Let's take some time to _____ to God, asking what kind of faith God wants from us. We seek to _____ God.

Throughout the Bible, God distinguishes those who _____ Him, those who abide in His grace and have His approval, from those who don't. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it's _____ to please God, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him." We must believe in God, but we must also know about the God that we believe. We must know He _____ those who seek Him. Many people believe a God exists, but the God they _____ is not the God of the Bible.

Our postmodern society thinks it should _____ its own god and wants to sit in judgment of God rather than seek the God who created them. Some manufacture a god that _____ with the times. Faith in a culturally-correct god is not the same as faith in the God who made the world and will one day _____ it. We must believe in God as He _____ and _____ Himself in His Word, the Bible, not in a mushy god popularized by our culture.

Our culture thinks of God as one who winks at _____, who never condemns anyone, and who believes everything that we believe. Many think the God of all _____ doesn't care about righteousness or truth. Others have forgotten that God is not just holy, but He's _____ holy. Habakkuk 1:13 says of God, "Your eyes are too _____ to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor." Some think God doesn't _____ what we believe or do, but God is vitally interested in our living holy _____ devoted to the truth, serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

We cannot speak of having faith in Jesus Christ but then believing _____ we want to believe. Nor can we speak of having faith in Jesus Christ and living any way that we _____ to live. When a person comes to Christ as a believer, He belongs to Jesus. Paul told the Christians in Corinth, "You are not your _____, for you were bought with a _____" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). If we wear the name Christian and we believe in Jesus Christ, we can never _____ that. We're not our own; we _____ to Jesus. He's our Lord and Master, and we are His _____.

Moses wrote, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God" (Psalm 90:2). The eternal God stands _____ our changing culture. The Lord is not _____ to the changing philosophies of humanity. His holiness, His righteousness, His purity, and His justice do not change with popular _____. We must _____ Him and His revealed will in the Scriptures as He gave it to us instead of trying to remake Him in our own image. How can anyone say He trusts in God, when he doesn't believe what God _____? Faith means we believe what the Lord Jesus _____. Why? Because He is Divine. He knows all things and has all _____. He gives us His wisdom in the Bible, His Word, because He _____ us and wants us to know the truth.

Believing in the God of the Bible also necessitates _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ, His Son. The Old Testament prophesies of Jesus as the _____ Messiah. The New Testament tells how He _____ dozens of prophecies. Believing in Jesus means that you believe the _____ that He made to be God's Son. Jesus said that He would _____ from the dead, and He did. Jesus said Jerusalem would _____, and the Romans destroyed the city in 70 A.D.

The Bible says, "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:11-13). Many people approach Christ with preconceived _____. If Jesus fails to measure up to what they want or imagined, they aren't _____ to believe. Some will only believe if Jesus never _____ anyone and never calls for moral _____. That kind of Jesus simply doesn't _____. To know the real Jesus, we must _____ all of the New Testament, all that it says about Him, not just pick out certain passages and ignore the rest.

Jesus came to His own people, but they didn't _____ Him. The Lord Jesus _____ only those who believe in His name, who believe who He really is and what He really teaches. Only they are given the _____ to become children of God. Jesus loves you, but He's not obligated to save you unconditionally. Jesus isn't your _____; He's your creator and Lord.

Faith stands _____ being accepted and being rejected. God made that decision, and we can't _____ God. The Lord Jesus said, "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned _____, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God" (John 3:18). On another occasion Jesus taught the Jews that He had come from the Father in Heaven. He said, "I told you that you would die in your _____, for unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). Believing in Jesus means believing He _____ is the Christ, the Son of God. It means believing that He is the fulfillment of God's _____ of the Messiah.

Saving faith is not simply believing in the _____ of believing. It's believing in the _____. Believing in Him means that you believe what He _____, what He _____, and what He _____, that all of these things are true. If I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, then I will recognize His authority over my _____ life. Faith includes _____ and responsibilities. The Lord Jesus said, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46). If I regard Jesus as Lord, I cannot pick and choose which of His commandments I will _____ and which I won't.

There are times when we wonder _____ God asks the things that He asks. Trusting faith means that we _____ even when we don't understand. Hebrews 11:8 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was called, _____ by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going." Abraham didn't _____ with God because he _____ God; he simply obeyed. He showed his confidence in God, though he didn't _____ what lay ahead. We trust God in things that we _____ know because we find Him trustworthy in what we _____ know. We know God is true and loving.

The apostle Paul said, "For this reason I also suffer these things, but I'm not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I'm convinced that He is _____ to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul could face the _____ with peace and confidence because He knew God and how God kept His promises. We can trust God in what we do not know because God has proved Himself _____ of our trust in what we do know!

Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." By faith we can understand God _____ this world in six days just as He said in Genesis, chapter one. While no one was around to _____ the creation, we can trust God's word about the creation. Why? Because we know God is trustworthy, and _____ of our faith.

The early disciples were willing to _____ for their faith for two reasons. First, they were _____ of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing _____, appearing to them over a *period of forty days*" according to Acts 1:3. They _____ Him, _____ Him; they touched His body. They were so convinced that when they were threatened by the Jewish council, they replied, "we cannot _____ speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Second, they believed in Jesus because they saw how He _____ Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. Jesus was _____ in the right place, at the right time, in the right tribe, with the right family lineage, and with the right kind of mother—a virgin. A _____ announced His birth, and wise men came from the East looking for Him. The apostle Philip said to his brother Nathaniel, “We have _____ Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45). As you read through the book of Acts, the apostles and evangelists time and again _____ that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah.

What we know is true about Jesus is that He is the promised Messiah who _____ from the dead. For this _____, we call Him “Lord” and “Christ.” Since we have confidence He is the Son of God, we can trust what He _____ about creation, about Adam and Eve, about the flood, about Sodom and Gomorrah, and every other story found in the Old Testament. When Jesus spoke of the Old Testament, He treated what He read there as _____, historical events. For this reason we can believe the Old Testament is trustworthy and _____. Why? Because we _____ Jesus Christ.

Because we have a living Savior, we want a _____ faith not a _____ one. **Read James 2:14-18.** Dead, inactive faith is _____. It doesn't reveal that one truly believes in Christ. It doesn't save.

Saving faith is _____ obedient. The Lord Jesus said, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; and whoever does not _____ the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36). You can claim to believe, but unless your faith _____ to obedience, you really can't be right with God. When the Bible speaks of saving faith, it's _____ an active, obedient faith. Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were _____ into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” James said, “Be _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving yourselves.” Are you a doer or merely a hearer? Faith means I'm willing to do what God wants me to do. I'm willing to be the kind of person God wants me to be. I'm going to hear what He says; I'm going to believe it's true; and I'm going to do it; I'm going to be obedient. Oh, the believer “has eternal life, but the one that does not obey shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

Read John 11:23-27. You need to ask yourself, “Do you believe this?” Do you believe God _____ the world in six days? Do you believe the Bible is _____? Do you believe that Jesus arose from the dead and is _____? Do you believe Jesus' death on the cross can _____ for your sins? Do you believe that you will one day be _____ from the dead? Do you believe in the _____ Day? Do you believe in Heaven and Hell? Faith in Christ means believing what He _____ and what He _____ to give us eternal life.

If you really believe, put your faith into action by _____ of your sins; _____ Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God; and by being _____ into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water of a penitent believer. It's done in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of sins. Baptism is the time when you become a child of God, free from sin, and _____ to the Lord's church. The Lord Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Oh, we hope that you'll become a Christian today.