

August 20, 2017

## Your Salvation

### Romans 5:6-10

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

Most people think everybody is going to heaven, but the Scripture distinguishes the \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_. Does it \_\_\_\_\_ whether we're saved? The New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ more than a dozen chapters to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus died upon the cross so that \_\_\_\_\_ might be saved. We study the Scriptures because we know they tell about Jesus, and we want a relationship with the Lord Jesus, and to be saved by His \_\_\_\_\_. For us, the \_\_\_\_\_ is not merely words on paper; they give us \_\_\_\_\_. **Read what the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:1-2.** We want everyone to be saved; we don't want anyone to believe in \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus came to earth "to save His people from their \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 1:21). "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus is in the saving business, the \_\_\_\_\_ business. He takes people where He \_\_\_\_\_ them and He \_\_\_\_\_ them into the kind of people that He wants them to be. He's the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners! He's like the \_\_\_\_\_ who leaves the ninety-nine in the open pasture and searches for the lost sheep until he finds it! He brings it home on his shoulders \_\_\_\_\_! God rejoices over every sinner that \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 15:7). The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ for you if you're a sinner, my friend. He wants to find you. He doesn't want you to be \_\_\_\_\_!

**Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to the Romans 5:6-10.** God's Word tells us about the great demonstration of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

What does it mean to be lost spiritually? We know what it means to lose our \_\_\_\_\_ or our \_\_\_\_\_. We know what it means to lose our \_\_\_\_\_, our savings, or our \_\_\_\_\_. We have \_\_\_\_\_ alerts for a lost child and \_\_\_\_\_ alerts for a lost senior citizen. When a child is missing or a senior is missing, we'll turn over every rock to \_\_\_\_\_ them. All these things are tragic, but they're trivial compared to the loss of our \_\_\_\_\_. Being lost spiritually means that we're without \_\_\_\_\_ and without \_\_\_\_\_ in this world. Being lost spiritually means that we can't enjoy the blessings or the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in this life or in the one to come. God doesn't want \_\_\_\_\_ to be lost. First Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good, and it's pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The fact is that many are lost and don't \_\_\_\_\_ it. Our nation has become so morally and religiously confused that many have come to \_\_\_\_\_ that everyone is okay with the Lord. The Lord Jesus, however, clearly taught that not everyone is saved. He said, "Enter

through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are \_\_\_\_\_ who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are \_\_\_\_\_ who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). Wouldn’t it be \_\_\_\_\_ not to be among that few who find life? Scripture reminds us that there is salvation in no one else, “for there is no other \_\_\_\_\_ under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Even many religious people think that they are right with God, but not everyone who is \_\_\_\_\_ is saved. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the \_\_\_\_\_ of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” When people \_\_\_\_\_ to follow the will of the Lord, even if they’re religious, the Lord will not allow them into heaven. But when people do love the Lord, when they are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to His Words and obey Him, God opens His heart and opens the way for them to enter into Heaven. When you get away from the Words of Jesus, you get away from Jesus.

The prodigal son had lived wickedly until he ran out of \_\_\_\_\_. When he became destitute, he took a long look at his \_\_\_\_\_ and life. The Scriptures say, “he came to his senses.” He realized that he needed saving. What about you? Do you need saving? Are you in \_\_\_\_\_ and in need of forgiveness. The prodigal son decided to go home to his father and \_\_\_\_\_ that he had sinned against heaven and in his father’s sight. In his \_\_\_\_\_, he was no longer worthy to be his father’s son. Sin makes us small in our own \_\_\_\_\_. Sin ruins our lives. Our sins \_\_\_\_\_ be atoned for. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross to atone for our sins. We must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to Him for forgiveness.

The prodigal son was afraid of what might happen, and many today have a \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord or the church won’t accept them. When people come home humbly and penitently, willing to do the will of the Father, God will \_\_\_\_\_ them. When David came to God for forgiveness, he said, “For You (God) do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:16-17). Just as the prodigal son’s father, God will \_\_\_\_\_ His arms to us, run to meet us, embrace us, and kiss us. The Father knew his son had been wicked, but the father \_\_\_\_\_ loved him. God still loves us!

“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was \_\_\_\_\_ and has come to \_\_\_\_\_ again; he was \_\_\_\_\_ and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:22-24). God celebrates when people recognize their sins and come home in \_\_\_\_\_. Do you need to come back to God?

God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you, to save you from sin because He loves you. Your salvation is so very important. Preaching the gospel means \_\_\_\_\_ about sin and salvation. That is what gospel preaching is all about.

What happens when you're saved? Let's see:

First, your salvation means that God has \_\_\_\_\_ you clean from sin. Sin leaves a \_\_\_\_\_ and it causes us to feel the sting of our \_\_\_\_\_. When we become Christians, the stain and the guilt are \_\_\_\_\_. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** When we're washed clean, we're also made \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous. God no longer sees what we \_\_\_\_\_ but sees what we have \_\_\_\_\_, and what He caused us to become. We're \_\_\_\_\_ creatures.

When we're baptized, we're \_\_\_\_\_ out to God for a good conscience (1 Peter 3:21). Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "Now why do you \_\_\_\_\_? Get up and be baptized, and \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16). That's how we \_\_\_\_\_ upon God for salvation. First Peter 3:21 explains, "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an \_\_\_\_\_ to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." In baptism, we're asking God to \_\_\_\_\_ our souls and our consciences so that we can be right with Him and right with ourselves.

Second, your salvation means you are \_\_\_\_\_ and reconciled to God. Reconciliation means I'm in a right relationship with God; God and I are \_\_\_\_\_ again. To be \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and know you're not forgiven is scary. To think I will \_\_\_\_\_ eternity without God's favor, without His friendship, and having no hope; my friend, that is frightening. Hebrews 10:31 reminds us, "It's a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the \_\_\_\_\_ God." I wouldn't want to face God outside of Christ, lost in sin, never having believed or never having \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. I wouldn't want to face God having forsaken the \_\_\_\_\_. I wouldn't want to face God living in sin and being unwilling to \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm thankful for the words of 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow about His \_\_\_\_\_, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for \_\_\_\_\_ to come to repentance." God doesn't want to \_\_\_\_\_ anybody. He wants people to believe, to love Him, and to \_\_\_\_\_ their ways. He wants us to leave our sins and to become \_\_\_\_\_. I'm thankful God is \_\_\_\_\_ with us. I don't want to presume on the \_\_\_\_\_ or the patience of God. I know I must change my \_\_\_\_\_ if I want to see the grace of God work in my life.

My favorite saying is this: "I'm not all I \_\_\_\_\_ to be; I'm not all I \_\_\_\_\_ to be; I'm not all I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to be; but thank God by His mercy and grace, I'm not what I \_\_\_\_\_ to be." God's grace and forgiveness transforms us. When we're obedient to the gospel, we become a \_\_\_\_\_ of God. We become \_\_\_\_\_ people, transformed into a child of God. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.** Being forgiven means that God no longer holds my sins against me, and that allows me to \_\_\_\_\_ friends with God once again.

Third, your salvation means that you are \_\_\_\_\_. What does that mean? It means God \_\_\_\_\_ you holy and regards you as holy. **Read how Peter describes obedient Christians in 1 Peter 2:9-10.**

If God has forgiven you, and cleansed you by the blood of Jesus, and He's made you holy, then you should \_\_\_\_\_ that way. **Read what God's Word says in 2 Timothy 2:19-22.**

Fourth, when the Lord saves you at the time that you're baptized, He \_\_\_\_\_ you to His kingdom, His family, the church! When you're baptized into Christ, you're also baptized into His \_\_\_\_\_. **Read what Peter said in Acts 2:38-41.**

These penitent believers were \_\_\_\_\_ to do what God says. They didn't \_\_\_\_\_ with God. They committed themselves, and God recognized that. So, He added them to the \_\_\_\_\_ believers, to the church. Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord was adding to their number (that is, the church) day by day those who were being \_\_\_\_\_." My friend, to be saved means to be added to their number, and to be a part of the church, the family of God.

Why does this matter? It matters because we're talking about your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_. To be saved means every \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ is yours. To be lost means you have no relationship with God and no \_\_\_\_\_. Don't gamble with your \_\_\_\_\_. Buy the \_\_\_\_\_ and do not sell it. Get right with God and don't let anything come \_\_\_\_\_ you and God ever again. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ with God. Life is too uncertain to put off putting your \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel in repentance and baptism. If the Lord Jesus came in the clouds this day, would you greet Him with love or would you be \_\_\_\_\_? Why would you remain afraid? Get right with God!

How are we saved? God saves us by His grace; it's a \_\_\_\_\_. God has always wanted to save and redeem us from \_\_\_\_\_. Ezekiel 18:23 says the Lord takes "no \_\_\_\_\_ in the death of the wicked" but He wants us to "turn from" our sinful ways and live! God is in the saving business. People lose their souls when they \_\_\_\_\_ against God, or \_\_\_\_\_ to believe in God, or will not \_\_\_\_\_ God. God grieves when His people sin. He made and loves you and He doesn't want anybody to be lost.

Some people want the grace of God, but have little \_\_\_\_\_ in what He teaches or commands. They want a Savior, but not a \_\_\_\_\_. However, you can't separate Him from His \_\_\_\_\_. Wanting Him means \_\_\_\_\_ to what He has to say. First Corinthians 1:21 says, "God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the \_\_\_\_\_ preached to save those who believe." God saves through a message. **Read what 1 Peter 1:22-23 says.** God saves us through the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:16).

If you \_\_\_\_\_ and are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as the Son of God; if you're willing to \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins; and if you're willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, you too can be saved and the Lord will add you to His church. Peter told the people to repent and to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38). Ananias told Saul of Tarsus to rise and be baptized and wash away your sins (Acts 22:16). That is how a person responds to the grace of God. Won't you repent and be baptized today?