

Saved or Lost?

There is a _____ difference between being saved and being lost. Today, we're exploring the difference between being right with God and not being right with God. The Scriptures give us the words of Jesus, and these are words of _____ life. That's why we turn to Scripture! We want to _____ eternally with our Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that you too will have eternal life with the Father. You can always _____ the Scripture to teach the truth that leads to eternal life.

The Lord Jesus 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). Most people are _____ at this statement from the Lord. They imagine that most people are saved and only the _____ people will be lost. But Jesus didn't say that; He said many travel the broad way that leads to destruction, while few take the narrow road that leads to life. Be one of the few!

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one _____ to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). Many are embracing a _____ assurance that everything is spiritually all right when unresolved sin is endangering their _____. Others are blindly following the _____, never examining the Scriptures to see if what they believe is true. They listen to the world and never consider what God says. They don't realize that they're risking their souls. When it comes to our souls, everything we treasure is at stake. Whether we serve God is not a trivial matter.

Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to Titus 2:11-14.

The topic of _____ is sensitive for many people. People don't want to think of themselves as sinners, so people tend to _____ the Word. A Harris poll several years ago suggested that 13 percent of Americans _____ there's no such thing as sin. Many others think the whole concept of sin is _____ and that God won't condemn anybody. The Scriptures, however, are clear. We have _____ sinned, everyone of us. Romans 3:10 says, "as it is written, 'there is none righteous, not even _____.'" Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Solomon observed, "Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). First John 1:8 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we're deceiving ourselves and the _____ is not in us." Verse 10 continues, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a _____ and His word is not in us." Considering that we all have sinned against God, we may say with the psalmist, "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3).

When we sin, it affects our _____ and our relationship with the Lord. What does sin do to us? First, sin deceives us. Hebrews 3:12 speaks of how people are _____ by the deceitfulness of sin. People grow to _____ sin, because it promises them pleasure; but sin's pleasure ends up corrupting and enslaving those who practice it. Second, the Lord Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that everyone who commits sin is the _____ of sin" (John 8:34) We think we're in control, but sin will take control of us and make us do things that bring shame and regret.

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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Ultimately, sin will cause us spiritual _____. James 1:13-15 says, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I’m being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he’s carried away and enticed by his _____ lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth _____.” Romans 6:23 says, “the wages of sin is death, but the free _____ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Christ brings us eternal life, but sin brings nothing but spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

Paul describes those who are lost in sin in Ephesians 2:1-3, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly _____ according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, and of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly _____ in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” When people follow the devil and live in disobedience they are destined to face the _____ of God. He gets even more specific in verse 12, when he said. “remember that you (that is, before you became a Christian) were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” No hope and without God! That’s what it means to be _____.

Thankfully, this is not the whole story. No one has to _____ lost. Because of the _____ of Jesus Christ, we can have forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. Ephesians 2:4-7 says, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were _____ in our transgressions, made us _____ together with Christ (by grace you’ve been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.” God has graciously given us Jesus Christ that we might find forgiveness and hope for eternity. The grace of God is truly amazing; but it’s only amazing when we realize the consequences of sin and our _____ to be saved. When we finally realize the bitterness of sin and being lost we’ll begin to see the _____ and the love found in salvation and grace.

Read the text again, Titus 2:11-14. God doesn’t _____ us where He found us. His grace not only saves us and redeems us; it _____ our hearts and our lives. We become _____ people, born again.

Titus 3:3-7 tells what happens. “For we also once were _____ ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the _____ of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we’ve done in righteousness, but according to His _____, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Forgiveness takes place when we’re washed and regenerated (that is, born again) in _____. God’s grace justifies us and makes us heirs of eternal life.

Forgiveness permits us to be reconciled to God. Second Corinthians 5:19 describes forgiveness as God “not _____ their trespasses against” us. When we’re forgiven, we can come to God. First Peter 3:18 says, “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might _____ us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.” When we come to God, God sees us differently than when we were in the world.

First Peter 2:9-10 describes those who have come to God, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has _____ you out of darkness into his marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of GOD; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Ephesians 2:19 says, “So then you’re no _____ strangers and aliens, but you’re fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household (God’s family).”

The Lord Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that He _____ His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting (or eternal) life” (John 3:16). Every word the Lord said here is true, but the Lord says _____ than what is found in just one verse, or this verse. One verse may tell you something true but not the _____ truth. Some take this verse as the whole gospel and _____ other verses that are just as binding, and just as inspired and authoritative. They argue one is saved by faith alone and nothing else is necessary, some do.

The Lord Jesus, however, also said to Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is _____ of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). We must believe this verse is also _____. Unless one is baptized, born of water and the spirit, he cannot _____ the kingdom of God. Saying we must believe in Jesus is surely true, but we can’t _____ the necessity of being born again of water and the Spirit. Christianity isn’t a smorgasbord where we can _____ which verses we like and leave the rest alone. Jesus is Lord every time He speaks. Baptism into Christ is a necessary _____ of faith. Scripture reveals that God desires penitent and baptized believers, not simply people who say they believe. 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.”

John 3:16 should also be understood with John 3:35-36, which says, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” If you believe the Lord but are unwilling to obey Him you won’t have eternal life. Saying you believe isn’t sufficient, you must obey the Lord and _____ your faith. Many people have faith, but they’re not willing to practice it.

John 12:42-43 describes such people. “Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they _____ the approval of men rather than the approval of God.” Some today hold so strongly to their human traditions and positions in the community that they’re _____ to confess and obey the Lord.

The Scriptures teach that people who come to Christ can fall away and _____ the Lord. Hebrews 3:12-14 says, “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving _____ that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it’s still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of _____. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold _____ the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.” It’s not enough simply to become a Christian; we must hold fast our faith until the end. Those who begin walking the narrow road must _____ on that road. To forsake the Lord and the church by turning back to the world will cost you your _____.

Second Peter 2:20-21 says, “For if, after they have _____ the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become _____ for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have

known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.” Many Christians have _____ away from the faith; they no longer believe in Jesus Christ. And others have allowed the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life to _____ God out of their hearts and lives.

Continuing in willful _____ can cost a wayward Christian his soul. Some Christians turn from the Lord and _____ sin so much that they’ll not give it up. The writer of the book of Hebrews _____ some early Christians as drifting away from the truth, neglectful of their salvation, dull of hearing, immature, and sluggish. Some have abandoned assembling with other Christians at _____. Hebrews 10:26-27 says, “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a _____ for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.” The sacrifice of Jesus Christ that once _____ them would no longer be available to them. God didn’t abandon them; they abandoned God. What about you? Have you become a Christian? Have you abandoned your faith? Are you saved or are you lost?

Would you rather be saved or be lost? Some have made this earth their _____, but there’s something more valuable than the whole world. The Lord Jesus said, “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it _____ a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his _____? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will _____ each person according to what he has done” (Matthew 16:25-27). Wouldn’t you rather live with God in heaven than without Him? Heaven is a place of joy and love and peace. It’s a place without sorrow or sin.

First Timothy 2:3-4 says, “This is good, and it is _____ in the sight of our God, our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” You can be saved if you’ll place your faith in Jesus, if you’ll confess your faith that He is the Lord, that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God, and if you repent of your sins, and if you’ll be baptized (that is, immersed in water) in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, just as Acts 2:38 teaches. God’s love and His grace are abundant, but we must not take grace for granted.

We must hear and obey the Lord. We must deny ourselves and take up our crosses daily. Sadly, many choose the broad way that leads to destruction. Won’t you take the narrow road that leads to life? Won’t you hear God’s word, believe it, and follow the Lord all your days? Only the truth can set you free.