



You Can Have Eternal Life

Many worry they can _____ live the Christian life and have eternal life in heaven. Today, our message is this: you _____ come to Christ and have eternal life. The Lord's Way is not only the way to heaven, not only the right way, it's the _____ way to live. God will _____ us with an abundant life when we follow Him. He's made His way available to every person through the _____. His grace is _____ to all.

Hope is to the _____ what breath is to the body. You simply can't live without hope. Many years ago, while knocking doors seeking people to study the Bible with me, I met a woman who believed that God would not _____ any of her prayers. "They don't go _____ the ceiling," she said. "God just doesn't _____ about me and isn't interested in me. Do you think there is _____ hope for me?" I told her there was hope for her then, and I'm saying to you there's hope for _____ now. You can _____ God and you can go to heaven! That's the greatest _____ you or I will ever hear. There is hope!

G. K. Chesterton said, "There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as the expectation of something _____ tomorrow." We all _____ in hope. Life here on this earth may be good, but it's not _____. We wish for something better, something purer, kinder, stronger, and more _____. Man is desperate for something better for many _____. We live in an imperfect world and know one day we're going to _____. This imperfect world is filled with sin, disease, ignorance, poverty, and prejudice. We all _____ for peace and love and security! We hope life will be better than what we have _____. We want an abundant, eternal life with God!

Our reading today comes from Peter's first letter, chapter 1, verses 17 through 21.

Job asked the question "If a man dies, will he live _____?" (Job 14:14). Is there anything _____ this life? Is heaven _____? Is there any hope that life beyond this life will be _____ better than what we already know? The answer is yes, a thousand times yes! God's plan for us all is to _____ us richly. Jesus died on the cross so that you could go to _____! He lived His life on this earth so that you might know _____ to live the very best kind of life, free from the destructive things that arise from _____. Everything about Jesus Christ breathes hope and life and good and love. The _____ of Christianity is found in the hope that it brings.

The problem for many is not whether God is willing to _____ them but whether they can live the life of a Christian. More than a few times, I've met people who believed they could never live up to Christian _____. They believe their past is so _____ that they have no hope of salvation. If that's not enough, some churches teach the _____ idea that God arbitrarily selects those He wants to save and He rejects all others. They actually teach that no one can _____ his eternal destiny; that God has already _____ who is saved and who is lost. If that's the case, why did Jesus _____ to this earth preaching repentance? Why did He _____ to all?

Jesus Himself said, "For God so _____ the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have _____ life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be _____ through Him" John 3:16-17). This

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

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passage has a “whoever” in it. Whoever believes can have eternal life. Jesus came to save not to _____. The reason Jesus commanded his disciples to preach the gospel to all is because God wants all people to be _____. They can be saved if they’re _____ to come to Him penitently in faith and obey the gospel! There is hope for every person, everyone!

The Hebrew writer said, “But we do _____ Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death, and how He was crowned with glory and honor, so that by the _____ of God He might taste death for everyone” (Hebrews 2:9). Jesus died for every single individual, every man, every woman, every boy, and every girl. The idea that Jesus died for some but not for others _____ what the Scriptures say and it _____ what Jesus did on the cross. The apostle John, in 1 John 2:1-2, agrees with the Hebrew writer. He states in very clear terms that Jesus died for _____ person in the world. “My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you may not _____. And if anyone sins, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the _____ world.” The word “propitiation” refers to Jesus as our “atoning _____.” His death on the cross atoned for our sins. God _____ Jesus for your sins. Jesus took the punishment that was _____ to you and me for the evil things that we’ve done. We didn’t have to _____ an unwilling God to provide the way of salvation. God, in his grace and love, gives us _____ from sin through the blood of Jesus.

Jesus’ death came at a very high _____ for the Father and for Jesus himself. One can only imagine the _____ in the heart of the Father to watch his Son Jesus die cruelly upon the cross. The Father observed every _____ thing done to His Son. He was _____ when Jesus was beaten and mocked. He heard the slander and the way they laughed at an _____ Jesus. He heard the _____ shout “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” He was there when Jesus was scourged. He _____ the wagging heads and the nails pierce his hands and feet. He watched as they suspended Jesus between heaven and earth on the cross. He watched as they gambled over his clothes.

God _____ Jesus’ cry, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” The Father did not _____ His Son but put the punishment upon this perfect sacrifice. Paul said, “He made Him who knew _____ sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might _____ the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus died so that _____ could become righteous. He was innocent, and we are _____. But God put your sins and mine on that righteous One, so that we might _____ our guilt and become righteous. Such _____ is far beyond what any of us deserve or even understand. God has given us a great gift—the most precious gift—His Son.

The gift that Jesus gave was a very _____ one. He gave his _____ to a crown of thorns, his _____ to the scarring whip, his hands and feet to the nails, and his _____ to a spear. He gave up his _____ at the young age of 33, so that you could _____ forever. Jesus was nailed to a cross to _____. He would not be taken down _____. His last words were, “Father, into Your hands I commit my _____” (Luke 23:46). God would never have sacrificed His Son Jesus if there were no _____ for you. He sacrificed his Son Jesus to give the _____ hope that you could imagine, a hope for life, for righteousness, for forgiveness, and for heaven itself with eternal life.

At this point someone says, “Well Phil, you don’t understand. I’ve been a very wicked person. I’ve done terrible things and don’t _____ to go to heaven.” Sin is a terrible thing, and none of us deserves to go to heaven for our goodness. But I would say to you, no matter what you’ve done, no matter how you’ve lived, and no matter how you feel about yourself, “God _____ loves you and sent His Son to die for your sins too. There is hope for every _____ who will believe in the Lord Jesus

and come to Him penitently and obediently. The blood of Jesus is greater than _____ our sin. You can go to heaven, whoever you are.”

Paul writes to the church at Corinth a _____ that we all need to hear. This was a _____ church, when he wrote to them. Many of them came from a very sinful _____. He wrote them, however, with _____. The sins they committed were terrible, but the grace of God gave them an opportunity to _____, and gave them hope. Paul said, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will _____ inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, (none of these) will inherit the _____ of God. (Then he looked at them and said) Such were some of you” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

If this passage had stopped here there would be _____ hope to tell you about, but the passage doesn’t stop there. Even though some of these people had committed terrible _____, there’s hope for them. At this point it says, “but,” which means there is more _____ to be told: “but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” God washed them, sanctified them (made them holy), and justified them (declared them righteous or judged them as innocent). He did this in the name of Jesus Christ, because of the _____ of the blood of Jesus to change lives and destinies.

If the Father could _____ the penitent prodigal son, if the God of heaven could _____ wicked King Manasseh’s prayer, if God could _____ penitent David’s murder and adultery, if God could save the _____ of sinners Saul of Tarsus, God can forgive and save you. You’re not worse than they were. Jesus, the _____ of God, came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Make no mistake, both the Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus knew how sinful this _____ was and is still. They’re not naïve. While God _____ sin, God _____ you. While God hates evil, God loves the people that He created enough to send Jesus to die for those sins.

As we’ve mentioned, Paul says “For while we were _____ helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were _____ sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8). The Father and the Lord Jesus wanted to demonstrate their _____ to us. Forgiveness is not just _____ to them. They acted in love to _____ those who are helpless, ungodly and sinners. They wanted you to know their _____. They love you even when you have not loved them. Jesus paid a price for his enemies.

God’s love ought to _____ us up. God wants to _____ all of us go to heaven. He’s paid the _____ for our sins by crucifying His Son. He’s given us the _____ to tell the story that Jesus has given His life, and has built His _____, and given its members the responsibility of telling the gospel story again and again, to every person. But God’s not going to twist our arms, making us _____ to Him. He’s going to open the _____ but not force us to go through. We must decide to _____ to His love and grace by loving Him, by trusting in Him, by repenting of our sins, and by taking up our crosses to follow Jesus each day. God has made His commitment to you. Will you make a commitment to Him?

Put the Lord _____ in your life. If you _____ the hope of heaven, don’t keep the Lord at arm’s length. Many people become ashamed of themselves and rather than draw near to God in penitence and obedience act like Adam and Eve and _____ themselves from God. Then they wonder why God seems so _____ away. God has taken the first _____ in offering His Son on your behalf.

He's holding out His hand for you to take it and come to Him in obedience to the _____. Don't turn the Lord away. He is your hope. He is your salvation. He is your life. That's why getting _____ to Him is so very, very important.

The Lord Jesus said, "Come unto Me, _____ ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you _____. Take My yoke upon you and _____ from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find _____ for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus _____ us to come to Him and promises us an easy yoke and a light burden. Christianity is not an impossible faith. One can live the Christian life, and in fact millions have followed Christ!

You can go to _____. You can be the Christian that you _____ to be. You can live victoriously, faithfully, lovingly, and positively _____ God and loving every minute of it! You were created to be a _____ of God who loves God! You were created in Christ Jesus for good _____ not evil. The Lord Jesus believed in you enough to _____ for your sins, so that you could become a servant of God. Don't sell yourself short. You can, you can, you can go to heaven!

Don't let Satan _____ you by thinking, "I can't live the Christian life." Satan is not interested in your going to heaven. He wants to discourage you from _____ Christ. Of course, you can become a Christian! Don't let anyone _____ you it's impossible. You can be God's child with God's _____. You can go to heaven, and you can go for an eternity! You can find all the _____ of living close to God, the hope of heaven, and the love of God in Christ Jesus, if you draw _____ to Him and obey Him as His child.

Drawing close to God begins with _____. Trust Him enough to do what He _____ of you in the Word. Trust Him enough to let go of your _____—to give them up completely and begin living as Christ _____ us. You can't hang on to the world with one hand and try to _____ the Lord with the other. The message of Jesus to a lost and dying world is trust in Him and _____ of your sins. You cannot have access to the _____ of Christ that cleanses you until you're united with Him in baptism. Ananias told Saul, "Arise and be baptized, and _____ away your sins, calling on His name." (Acts 22:16).

If you wish to have newness of life, be baptized into Christ. Paul said, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? And therefore we've been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might have newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). If you want the newness of life, trust the Lord, repent of your sins, and be baptized into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

We do ask that you focus your heart on God today by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. There's probably a church of Christ that's in your area. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one.