



I Believe in Christ
Romans 10:14-17

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

We number years from the _____ of Christ, and some historians regard Him as the most influential person who ever lived. Is Christ God's Son? I love the Word of God because it _____ me of God's love and grace. I learn of God's _____ and His concern for my welfare. I learn of God's provision to _____ my sins through Christ, to make me His child, and to give me a home in heaven. I love God and His _____, and I pray that you do too!

Some question whether Jesus really lived; they say he is a _____ like Superman or Harry Potter. The historians of old, however, never _____ his existence. Historians from ancient times like Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, or Lucian all speak of Jesus Christ. Pliny the Younger, a Roman governor, and the Emperor Trajan wrote letters to one another discussing what to do with Christians who _____ in Jesus Christ. The 27 books of the New Testament, dating from the first century, speak of Him as _____. The existence of the church from the Day of Pentecost points to His great influence.

Many have recognized Jesus as the _____ influential, significant, and important person who ever lived. He is certainly the greatest religious _____ of all time, and no one can compare with Him. He lived a _____ life and blessed everyone who knew Him. Even His enemies knew of His ability to _____ miracles. After He raised Lazarus from the dead, the enemies said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs (miracles). If we let him go on like this, everyone will _____ in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation" (John 11:47-48). Yes, Jesus lived and worked miracles!

Our scripture reading today comes from Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:14-17.

When we speak of Jesus, we're speaking of someone _____. There is no one like Him in all of time. The Old Testament _____ His coming into the world. Even the wise men from the East saw His _____. They knew He would be born in Bethlehem, because Micah 5:2 says, "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be _____ in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." They knew He would be born of a _____ because Isaiah 7:14 says, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his _____ Immanuel." Matthew confirms this prophecy of Jesus' birth, that Jesus was born of a virgin and called Immanuel, which means "God _____ us" (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus criticized the Jews, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear _____ about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life" (John 5:39-40). He knew the Scriptures spoke about Him and told His apostles, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything _____ about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44).

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The apostles appealed _____ to the prophecies of the Old Testament to show Jesus was the promised Messiah. Peter preached at the temple, “But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would _____, he thus fulfilled” (Acts 3:18). Paul told the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia, “And when they had carried out all that was _____ of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb” (Acts 13:29). Paul later reasoned with the Jews at Thessalonica, “from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus, whom I _____ to you, is the Christ (the Messiah)’” (Acts 17:2-3).

The prophecies of Jesus proved _____. He was born of a virgin in Bethlehem of Judah. The wise men came to visit Him because they saw His star. Jesus was born according to the prophecy of Daniel during the fourth great _____, the Roman Empire. These are not accidents. Daniel 2:44 says, “And in the days of those kings (that is, the kings of that forth empire) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.” Jesus established His kingdom, His church, during the first century; and it _____ to this day!

Read what Isaiah prophesied of Christ in Isaiah 9:6-7.

Isaiah also prophesied that Jesus would _____ the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6, also verse 8), that He would be silent before His enemies (verse 7), and His grave would be assigned with wicked men and a rich man (verse 9). He was crucified between two criminals and was buried in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea. Psalm 41 and Psalm 55 predict Jesus would be betrayed by a familiar _____, and Judas Iscariot betrayed Him. Zechariah 11:12 says Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of _____, and He was (Matthew 26). Psalm 22:18 predicted that they would divide His clothes and cast lots for them, and the Roman soldiers did just that (John chapter 19).

On the Day of Pentecost in Acts, chapter 2, when Peter with the twelve proclaimed that they were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter _____ from Psalm 16:8-10, “I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo _____.” The body of Jesus was in the tomb from Friday until Sunday morning, three days in Jewish time. It did not decay, but God raised Him from the dead.

Jesus Himself predicted, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will _____ Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up” (Matthew 20:18-19). David had predicted a thousand years before the time of Christ in the Messianic Psalm 22:16, “a company of evildoers encircles me; they have _____ my hands and feet.” Crucifixion was unknown in the days of David, a thousand years before Christ. The Babylonians started crucifying people in the sixth century B.C. The Greeks then learned it from the Babylonians, and the Romans learned it from the Greeks.

The Romans would only crucify non-citizens. The Jews would have _____ Jesus if they

had the legal right to execute Him. Instead, the _____ soldiers had to put Jesus to death. This fulfilled the prophecy of Psalm 2:2 that “the rulers (plural) would take counsel together against the Lord and against the Anointed.” The chief priests and Pontius Pilate _____ to put Jesus to death, just as Psalm 2 prophesied.

We might ask the question, “Could Jesus really _____ miracles? Did He really _____ from the dead?” While some _____ miracles are possible, the apostles were eyewitnesses and insisted that He arose! Acts 1:3 says, “He presented himself _____ to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” This is why these men were willing to _____ persecution, imprisonment, and death to proclaim His resurrection to the world.

After beatings and scourging, after being nailed to a cross, after a spear pierced his side, and after being wrapped head to toe in cloths soaked with myrrh and aloe, Jesus was _____ dead in His tomb. He wasn’t merely wounded and _____ on His own. The tomb was _____ with a giant stone, weighing three to four thousand pounds, and sealed with the governor’s seal. No one could move this large stone without breaking the governor’s seal and breaking the law. It would take _____ men to roll away the stone.

The Jews asked Pilate for a Roman _____ to protect the tomb and to make it as secure as they knew how (Matthew 27:66-67). They knew the prophecy of Jesus, that He said He was to rise after three days. We shouldn’t suppose that only a _____ Roman guards were there. The scholars suggest between ten and thirty Roman guards were at the tomb. These were hardened men, capable of gambling over the clothes while crucifying the Lord Jesus. They wouldn’t be frightened by a band of _____ wanting to steal a dead body, but they would be frightened by mighty angels who could roll an “extremely large stone” away! God raised Jesus from the dead and declared with _____ that He is the Son of God (Romans 1:4).

Read Luke 24:1-7. They had heard the prophecy of His resurrection, but they came to _____ His body. The angels told them to go and tell the _____. The apostles doubted at first, but Jesus proved Himself to them, appearing over a period of _____ days.

Matthew reveals that the guards went into the city and told the chief priests, who gave them a large sum of money to start the _____ that the disciples stole the body while they slept. The priests said that if the guards got into trouble with _____, they would get them out of trouble. Did the disciples _____ the body and pretend that He resurrected? First, of all Roman, soldiers knew the _____ penalty for sleeping on watch; they wouldn’t risk their necks sleeping. Second, only something miraculous like the _____ moving the stone would frighten the guards. A small band of untrained _____ wouldn’t frighten these soldiers. Third, the soldiers were _____. How did they _____ the disciples stole the body if they were sleeping? Fourth, there were grave clothes _____ in the tomb. Why would disciples leave the grave clothes and fold them up? Peter and John saw the clothes folded (John 20:6-7). Last, why didn’t the Sanhedrin make the apostles, while they were in custody, confess to the _____ of stealing the body of Jesus.

All the Jews had to do to _____ Jesus didn’t rise from the dead was merely to produce the

dead body. This would prove the apostles were _____ witnesses. You can be sure they left no stone unturned in their _____ for the body of Christ. But they didn't produce a body because they couldn't. Nor were they successful in _____ the preaching about Jesus. From Pentecost onward, the church increased _____ because the people were convinced Jesus had risen from the dead. They had seen His miraculous _____ for three years; they knew He was real; and they believed the preaching of the twelve.

The Jewish authorities persecuted the early _____. Acts 8:3 says, "But Saul (of Tarsus) was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to _____." But they didn't stop the church; they merely scattered the people. Christians went everywhere preaching the _____ of Christ. Saul went to Damascus to catch some disciples of the Way and take them _____ back to Jerusalem. But, God sent a bright light that struck Saul blind, and Jesus revealed himself to Saul, telling him to go into Damascus and there it will be told him what he must do (Acts 9:6).

Saul prayed and fasted for three days. God had a bigger role for Saul. When Saul repented of his sins and was baptized, God _____ away his sins (Acts 22:16). Saul of Tarsus became the apostle Paul who spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel and suffering to tell men of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus, an _____ of the cross, his conversion into the apostle Paul, a believer, reveals the power of the truth about Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again to give us eternal life. The one who overwhelmingly opposed Jesus Christ (Saul) became blind physically for a time but had his eyes opened spiritually. He became a Christian, an evangelist, and an apostle. I hope your eyes will be opened too.

Jesus was the most loving, most caring, most truthful person who ever lived. He was truly _____. You may have many loved ones, but no one has ever loved you like Jesus. No one ever died for your sins but Jesus, and no one else could. First Peter 2:22 says, "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth." That's what made Him a _____ sacrifice for us. First Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might _____ us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit." Jesus suffered much for you so that He could bring you to God. In Christ, we have forgiveness of sins, we have eternal life; we have a family in the church; and we have a home in heaven. No one else can _____ you these things but Christ.

What will you do with Jesus? You can ignore Him; you can refuse Him; you can oppose Him; or you can follow Him. What you choose will make the difference in your _____. The Lord Jesus said, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you _____ that I am he you will die in your sins" (John 8:24), There are many good _____ to believe in Jesus, and I've only spoken today of a few.

If you believe, repent of your sins and be baptized into Christ. That's how and when your sins are forgiven and you begin your relationship with Him. Baptism is an immersion in water; at that time, God washes away your sins and gives you newness of life (Romans 6:3-7). Won't you become a Christian, today?