



Hungering for Righteousness

I'm sure at some point in your life you've been really hungry, but we're not talking about _____ food. What we're talking about is hungering for righteousness. God's Word gives us the _____ to feed the hunger of the soul and quench our thirst for an eternal life. That's why we _____ the Scriptures for God's truth and His promises.

In the last few weeks, we've been seeing the blessedness that comes from being _____ in spirit and wholly dependent upon God; we've also seen blessedness that comes from taking an honest look at our sins and _____ over them. Today, our focus is on Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be _____ (or filled)." We all know what it is to be hungry and what it is to be thirsty, and we also know what it is to be _____. The hunger and thirst of this passage, however, is not the _____ hunger and thirst for food and water but the _____ hunger and thirst of a person who must have food and water to survive. Such desperate hunger and thirst for righteousness will cause a person to _____ it, that he has to have it. In Christ one can _____ the filling satisfaction that they must have.

How hungry and how thirsty are you to be _____ with God? If you truly know your need for God and you truly mourn over your sins, then you'll realize the importance of finding the fulfillment that comes from being _____ of those sins and being right with God. A _____ person in sin is empty and broken, while a _____ and faithful person is filled. You have a _____ in your soul that only God can fill. You have a nagging in your conscience that cannot be satisfied until you get right with the Lord, and you find that forgiveness that you _____. Are you hungering and thirsting for the righteousness that only comes through the _____ of Jesus Christ?

Our reading today comes from Philippians 3:7-11.

There's a _____ difference between being hungry and being filled physically and spiritually. Just as there comes a time when you must _____ to survive, so there's a time when you must _____ to the Lord to survive spiritually. 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). The apostle Peter clearly said about Jesus, "And 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). People seek spiritual fulfillment in many places, but there's only _____ that can fill your soul with the promises of God.

The Devil uses _____ and broken lives to keep us empty. Many don't know their sins and their focus on the _____ is what makes them empty. Jeremiah spoke of the empty people among the idolaters of his day, but the same is _____ of people who pushed God out of their lives today. Jeremiah 2:13 says, "For My people have committed two evils: They 've forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns, That can _____ no water." To survive physically we must have an adequate supply of _____ water, and to survive spiritually we must have a _____ relationship with God.

In our hurried world today, people have forsaken God for their _____ busy lives that have little room for all the joy and blessing that comes from serving God. First John 2:15-17 warns, "Do not love

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

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633

This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – www.searchtv.org

the world, nor the things _____ the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is _____ in him. For all that's in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives _____."

Perhaps you've seen what I've seen in people. The person who is spiritually and emotionally _____ wishes to be made whole and healed. The person enslaved by sin longs to be _____ from the hold that sin has on him. The person who knows he's _____ in sin wishes he could be righteous. The person filled with _____ wishes he could make things right. The person who has a defiled conscience wishes that he could once again _____ himself. The person who feels _____ with sin longs to be pure and clean. The guilty _____ hungers for forgiveness.

The person who is filled with conflict longs for _____. The person who's unloved hungers for _____. The confused person thirsts to know the _____. The person who has no _____ wishes that he could trust in the Lord. The lost person who has no hope hungers for the hope that can fill his soul. The lost person who only sees judgment longs for the _____ that opens the doors of heaven.

Righteousness means loving God with all your heart and allowing God to _____ in your heart. It means loving the things that God loves and avoiding the things that _____ God. It's all about Jesus Christ being your Savior and your _____. You long for His mercy, but you will _____ have to respect His being your Lord and Master. It's all about _____ with God. We won't find purpose, love, rest, joy, peace, or hope, _____ we find it in the Lord Jesus Christ. You will remain hungry until you taste and see that the Lord is _____.

The apostle Paul realized that his _____ wouldn't give him what the Lord Jesus could give him. He wanted _____ than what he had as a Jew and as a Pharisee. He wanted to "be found in Him (that is, in Christ), not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through _____ in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith" (Philippians 3:9). Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it's no _____ I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who _____ me and gave Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Paul knew that God's grace came as a _____ that he couldn't earn. He knew the Law of Moses couldn't give him _____. He said, "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law (speaking of the Law of Moses), then Christ _____ needlessly" (Galatians 2:2). He explained, "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him (that is, Jesus) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who _____ is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39). We're not saved by the blood of bulls and goats but by the blood of Jesus Christ. We're now under the _____ covenant of Christ not the _____ covenant given at Mount Sinai.

Have you considered how _____ God hungers and thirsts for people to become righteous? If you want people you love to be _____, and I know you do, God does even more so. Remember the words of Jesus, "For God so loved the world, that He _____ His only begotten Son (others just say only Son), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish (or 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 saved through Him" (John 3:16-17). God loves every person, every man, every woman, every boy, and every girl.

In 1 Timothy 2:3-4 the Bible says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires _____ men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." God wants everyone to be

saved and everyone to know the _____ of the gospel that's found in His Word. God has never wanted people to lose their souls; He wants them instead to _____ and to live righteously. Ezekiel 18:31-32 says, "Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and _____ yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no _____ in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live."

Have you considered how _____ the Lord Jesus wants you to be righteous and to be saved? In Matthew 23 Jesus pronounced several _____ upon the scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites and describing their sinful behavior. Yet He says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I _____ to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!" in Matthew 23:37-38). His heart was _____ that the religious leaders of his day refused to believe and refused to leave their hypocrisy.

John wrote words of encouragement: "My little children, I am 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 whole world" (1 John 2:1-2). Do you know what Jesus is doing in _____ right now? He's serving as an advocate, defending you to the Father, even though you've sinned as a Christian. He's at God's right hand interceding on your _____ (Romans 8:34).

Even when the lukewarm and offensive church at Laodicea thought they were rich and needed nothing, Jesus was concerned about _____ them back. The Lord Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; and if anyone hears My voice and _____ the door, I'll come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). The Lord wants to have a relationship again, even with people who have _____ away from Him. He never quit loving you, even if you've quit loving Him.

Did you know that even the Holy Spirit is _____ by whether we live righteously or live in sin? Ephesians 4:30 says, "Do not _____ the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Yes, the Holy Spirit grieves when we _____. We think of how sin affects us and we _____ how it affects the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Sin offends God; it transgresses God's law; it's an abomination to God; it causes us to be _____ from God spiritually. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not short, That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your _____ have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

In God's eyes, sin brings spiritual _____. Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death", and that hasn't changed. Culture may lead you to think that sin doesn't _____ to God, but it does. Don't take sin _____; God doesn't. Don't act like God won't _____; He does. Don't imagine God will hold others responsible for sin but will overlook yours, He won't. God is no respecter of persons and will hold _____ responsible for his sins. If your sins are not washed away by the blood of Jesus, you will bear the _____ and the punishment for your sins. We have no other hope than Jesus Christ.

This fact ought to make us hunger for God's grace that saves and the transforming of our lives to _____ what the will of God truly is, "that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2). We can't be saved apart from God's _____. You can't earn grace, and God doesn't _____ it to you. Grace is God's _____ that frees you from sin and punishment, but that's not all that it does. God's grace "instructs us to _____ worldly desires and to _____ sensibly, righteously, and godly" (Titus 2:12).

Grace opens the door to _____ our lives, freeing us from an old man of sin destined to be punished and leading us to a new life that lives in love like Christ lived.

This newness of life, the new birth, means the old man of sin is dead, and you are _____ again. You were dead _____ sin, now you're dead _____ sin and alive in Christ. If that's so, God expects you to live as a person born again who has repented and intends to _____ free from sin. We must never take the grace of God for granted, as if it were something _____. Jesus paid a great _____, His precious blood. Only His blood can wash us _____ (Revelation 7:14). He does this when we unite with Him in His death and resurrection, and that takes place in _____ (Romans 6:3-7).

Do you want to be _____ from sin? Do you want a _____ conscience? Would you like to respect yourself again? The grace of God can _____ you to a pure heart and a life that God intended for you. So place your trust in the Lord, turn from your sin, and be baptized into Christ. God never wanted you to hate yourself when you look in the mirror. His way will give you _____ for your soul and give you promise in the life to come. I can't imagine living one day, one hour, or even one minute without the grace, love, and promises of God. Do you hunger for a close, loving relationship with God?

When Jesus passed through Samaria, he sent the disciples into town to get Him some food, but the events of that day led to something _____ important to Jesus than a meal. When the disciples returned with food, there also came men from the town to hear what Jesus had to say. Jesus refused to _____ at that time and explained, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His _____" (John 4:34). Jesus' focus was on _____ the Father's will and teaching the people. Nothing else was as important. The Lord Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:33 to "seek first His _____ and His righteousness." What are you seeking? Paul urges us to "pursue righteousness" (2 Timothy 2:22). What are you pursuing?

There's only _____ way to be right with God, and that takes being justified by the blood of Jesus Christ. To be justified means that God _____ us as innocent of sin. Romans 5:8-9 says that "God demonstrates His own _____ towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the _____ of God through Him." We're saved by grace through faith when we put our trust in Christ, turn from sin in repentance, confess His name, and are baptized into Christ. Romans 6:3-7 says that in baptism we have newness of life, we're crucified with Christ, and we're freed from sin. Now baptism is an act of faith in the working of God (Colossians 2:12), and it results in being made alive in Christ and the forgiveness of sins. Consider being baptized into Christ today? If you hunger for righteousness, don't put off responding.