



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY<sup>®</sup>

*Program  
Study Guides*

**For  
April 2015**

## **But He Lied**

### **1 Kings 13:15-18**

If you love the \_\_\_\_\_, do you also love the \_\_\_\_\_? We search the Scriptures because we \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible is inspired. God breathed out the \_\_\_\_\_ that are found in Scripture. God willed \_\_\_\_\_ word found there. Because God is all-knowing and utterly wise, but He \_\_\_\_\_ lies, we can \_\_\_\_\_ what we read in Scripture. Humans, on the other hand, don't know everything and are often \_\_\_\_\_. We can't always trust people, so we must \_\_\_\_\_ what we hear by God's Holy Word.

Pontius Pilate once asked Jesus the \_\_\_\_\_, "What is the truth?" He must not have been paying attention, because Jesus had actually given him an \_\_\_\_\_ to that question. The Lord Jesus said, "For this purpose I was born and for this \_\_\_\_\_ I have come into the world – to bear \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth. Everyone who is of the \_\_\_\_\_ listens to my voice" (John 18:37). The more we listen closely to the Lord Jesus, the more we'll understand the truth. The Lord Jesus promised, "If you \_\_\_\_\_ in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you \_\_\_\_\_" (John 8:31-32). Every word that Jesus spoke was the \_\_\_\_\_. Because of Jesus we can know what is right and wrong; we can know about our God; and we have an infallible \_\_\_\_\_ by which to judge all things. Jesus gives us \_\_\_\_\_ we need to know about eternal life, and salvation, and godliness. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father \_\_\_\_\_ through me" (John 14:6). We need to listen to the Lord Jesus, because He will never \_\_\_\_\_ us astray.

### **Our reading today comes from 1 Kings 13:15-18.**

After King Solomon \_\_\_\_\_, his son Rehoboam took the \_\_\_\_\_. Solomon had \_\_\_\_\_ against God greatly; and because of his \_\_\_\_\_ God said that He would tear apart the kingdom. Then Rehoboam came along and he was immature and greedy for \_\_\_\_\_; and the people rejected him; and this brought about the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel from Judah. Jeroboam, who became the leader of these ten tribes to the north of Israel, caused Israel to \_\_\_\_\_ by making two golden calves and placing them in the cities of Bethel and Dan. Jeroboam feared the people would go back to Jerusalem and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, so he told the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your \_\_\_\_\_, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 12:28). Jeroboam \_\_\_\_\_ that his golden calves represented the God who led Israel out of Egypt. He incited the people to \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices and burn incense to the golden calves which he had made. They could \_\_\_\_\_, of course, be God. **Read the second of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:4-6.**

You have to wonder how the people of Israel could \_\_\_\_\_ from God's teaching and \_\_\_\_\_ such an outright lie. They had to \_\_\_\_\_ almost everything they knew about God in order to follow Jeroboam's false and humanly-contrived religion. They ignored the \_\_\_\_\_ about God. I'm reminded of Paul's statement in Romans 1:25 about people who "exchanged the truth about \_\_\_\_\_ for a lie and worshiped and served the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the Creator." How can something man-made \_\_\_\_\_ mankind? Of course, those golden calves \_\_\_\_\_ gods. God saw what Jeroboam did and He decided to send a man of God, a \_\_\_\_\_, to the altar at Bethel where Jeroboam was, and to speak out against the king. This man of God, at God's direction and \_\_\_\_\_, predicted a sign or a miracle. He said, "This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: 'Behold, the altar shall be \_\_\_\_\_, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out'" (1 Kings 13:3). It happened just as God said that very \_\_\_\_\_. The altar was split \_\_\_\_\_, and the ashes were poured out. The man of God left Bethel, going home by a different route and refusing to eat \_\_\_\_\_ or drink \_\_\_\_\_.

First Kings 13 tells us of an old prophet who \_\_\_\_\_ down this man of God and said, "Come home with me and eat bread." The man of God replied, "I may not return with you, or go in with you, neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place, for it was said to me by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.'" The old prophet, however, was not \_\_\_\_\_. So, in 1 Kings 13:18-19 we see a \_\_\_\_\_ story. The old prophet said, "I also am a prophet as you are, and an \_\_\_\_\_ spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.' But he \_\_\_\_\_ to him." So the man of God went back with this older prophet; he \_\_\_\_\_ bread in his house; he \_\_\_\_\_ water. Apparently the man of God placed his \_\_\_\_\_ in what the lying prophet said rather than what God Himself had told him to do. Because of his disobedience, God \_\_\_\_\_ the man of God. A lion met him on the way and \_\_\_\_\_ him. Because he believed a lie, he \_\_\_\_\_ the wrath of God. Some people say it doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ what you believe as long as you love God. That isn't so! It does matter what you \_\_\_\_\_. The man of God had to \_\_\_\_\_ that the hard way. I hope that you won't make that \_\_\_\_\_. If you believe a lie, it could cost you your \_\_\_\_\_.

The apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia, \_\_\_\_\_ them not to follow a false gospel. **Read what Paul said in Galatians 1:6-9.** Even if the source \_\_\_\_\_ credible, such as an angel from heaven, we must not \_\_\_\_\_ what God says and turn it into a falsehood, a lie. Many people, frankly, are \_\_\_\_\_ by distorted, twisted gospels today. They think they believe the truth, when they have \_\_\_\_\_ their confidence in a distortion of the truth. There is but one \_\_\_\_\_, and anything contrary to that one gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ to the soul. That's what the Bible says!

Christians must be in the business of \_\_\_\_\_ people to distinguish truth from error. That means, because we love people and we want them to be saved, we must proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ and expose what is \_\_\_\_\_. It's not mean-spirited, but loving, to expose error and to help people learn the truth. James 5:19-20 says, "My brethren, if any among you \_\_\_\_\_ from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the \_\_\_\_\_ of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."

**Read what the apostle Paul taught Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:24-26.** Our task as humble and gentle servants of God is to \_\_\_\_\_ people who are in error to find the \_\_\_\_\_, to help them go to heaven. I would rather tell people the truth that \_\_\_\_\_ for a little while than to tell people a lie that causes them to be \_\_\_\_\_ eternally. It matters what we believe!

Adolf Hitler told \_\_\_\_\_ outrageous lies. He held that if you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it'll be \_\_\_\_\_. By telling lies, Hitler and the Nazis were able to \_\_\_\_\_ eleven million people in his death camps. The more outrageous the lie, the more some become gullible.

The difference between the truth and a lie is as \_\_\_\_\_ as the difference between God and the devil. The Lord Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, but the devil has always been a liar. The Lord Jesus described the devil this way, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not \_\_\_\_\_ in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own \_\_\_\_\_, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). While the devil speaks lies he \_\_\_\_\_ to be a follower of God. He wants everyone to \_\_\_\_\_ he is moral and true, but he has no intention of being moral or being true to people and telling the truth. He is out to \_\_\_\_\_ people into following his error. **Read what 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 says.** Being religious doesn't make a person righteous, and \_\_\_\_\_ oneself a preacher or a prophet doesn't guarantee what one says is true.

Many people, like Pilate, have, frankly, \_\_\_\_\_ on trying to find the truth when it's really staring them right in the face. Some people don't \_\_\_\_\_ to know the truth, and some have no \_\_\_\_\_ for the truth. Because sin is in their lives and they want the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin, many people would rather believe a lie than take the steps necessary to believe the truth. We don't like to call sin, this day and time, sinful, so we \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves about when life begins or whether marriage matters. We don't like to think of anyone as being \_\_\_\_\_, so we decide that just every doctrine is \_\_\_\_\_. We don't like to think of anybody as being \_\_\_\_\_, so we consider everyone \_\_\_\_\_. Someone doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ the teaching of the necessity of baptism for salvation, so they \_\_\_\_\_ that baptism isn't necessary. People don't want to admit that there is but \_\_\_\_\_ gospel, so they will think \_\_\_\_\_ gospel is true. People don't like to admit that there is one \_\_\_\_\_, so they believe every \_\_\_\_\_ takes you to heaven. But the fact of the

matter is many people \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. People are not the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth; God is and His Word declares His truth!

No matter how \_\_\_\_\_ we believe something is right, it's false if it contradicts what the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ in His Word, the Bible. We need to know that the Lord Jesus takes His Word \_\_\_\_\_, even if we don't. **Read what the Lord said in John 12:48-50.** The Lord Jesus knew His words were the measure of truth and would affect our \_\_\_\_\_. If we reject His words, we'll be \_\_\_\_\_; but if we abide by His words, we can know the truth and we can be \_\_\_\_\_. When believing the truth is demanding, but believing a lie is convenient and popular, many people \_\_\_\_\_ to believe the lie. They believe what they want to \_\_\_\_\_, and they'll find preachers and teachers who will tell them what they want to \_\_\_\_\_. They get complacent and \_\_\_\_\_ that their lie is really the truth. They'll do nearly anything rather than \_\_\_\_\_ to what God has actually said. Solomon urges us, "Buy truth, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Buying the truth comes at a high \_\_\_\_\_. It means being honest enough to \_\_\_\_\_ that what we have heard in the past may not be true.

Many people in our religious world no longer \_\_\_\_\_ the truth, and they have bought into lies. We need to be like the noble Bereans. "Now these Jews (that is in Berea) were more \_\_\_\_\_ than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, (and they were) examining the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Have you \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures to find out if what you believe is so? Or have you simply accepted what \_\_\_\_\_ have told you? Have you \_\_\_\_\_ the truthfulness of what you believe by a serious study of God's Word? Have you taken \_\_\_\_\_ to buy the truth? As humans, most of us have faced the bitter \_\_\_\_\_ that what we once believed was right was actually wrong. We all get fooled, but we aren't left without \_\_\_\_\_. We can \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. Jesus promised we could in John 8:32, and that God \_\_\_\_\_ all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). God revealed the truth in His Word, the Bible; but we must take the time to \_\_\_\_\_ it out, \_\_\_\_\_ it, and \_\_\_\_\_ it. It's not \_\_\_\_\_ to know the Word. We must let it touch our \_\_\_\_\_, to shape our \_\_\_\_\_. Ignorance causes confusion, and lies cause chaos, but \_\_\_\_\_ of God and His Word leads to order and wisdom. **Read what James says in James 1:22-25.** If we do \_\_\_\_\_ with what we have learned from God, we've robbed ourselves of a \_\_\_\_\_.

If your heart and soul aren't \_\_\_\_\_ with God, don't lie to yourself that everything is ok. You need to \_\_\_\_\_ the perfect law, the law of liberty! To become a Christian, to be free from sin, you must \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Repent of your \_\_\_\_\_; follow God's will. Confess Jesus as the Christ and be \_\_\_\_\_, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. And, do it today!

## Not Biblical Anymore

### Exodus 1:6-10

Where is the \_\_\_\_\_ and our convictions these days? Many people \_\_\_\_\_ abandoned by their spiritual leaders. Many people today feel spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ because their denomination or church has forgotten God. Do you feel empty? The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. And no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). If Jesus is the way to the Father, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ what the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. If we love the Lord, we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ to what He says. If He has given us His way in the Scriptures, then we need to \_\_\_\_\_ what they teach and \_\_\_\_\_ firmly to them. We want the Lord's way because we know that nothing else can take its \_\_\_\_\_.

You've probably noticed that our \_\_\_\_\_ has changed in recent years. Both morality and religion seem to have \_\_\_\_\_ upside down. What used to be \_\_\_\_\_ is now \_\_\_\_\_, so society is telling preachers not to \_\_\_\_\_ against immorality. Society says we can't \_\_\_\_\_ certain immoral behaviors sinful any more. Some say that \_\_\_\_\_ is obsolete. Society says husbands and fathers are no longer the \_\_\_\_\_ of their homes. Some are pushing women to take \_\_\_\_\_ roles in the church. Many who stand with God's Word are amazed and they \_\_\_\_\_, "What has happened that people no longer hold to the Bible?"

### Our reading today comes from Exodus 1:6-10.

I once had dinner with an acquaintance who belonged to a prominent denomination, and the conversation \_\_\_\_\_ to religion. This man told me how much his church had \_\_\_\_\_ and how alienated he felt. He grimaced at the moral and spiritual compromises that the leadership of his denomination had \_\_\_\_\_. He felt like he was no longer in the \_\_\_\_\_ denomination. What he knew growing up and what he saw in the present were very \_\_\_\_\_. He felt that his denomination had abandoned what it had believed and had \_\_\_\_\_ something unbiblical.

Society and secular progressives have pushed many religious groups to accept views that \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible. They told the religious world that they were childish and backward believers and must \_\_\_\_\_ what a more advanced society thinks or they will die. They said evolution is \_\_\_\_\_, and the church must give up its belief in \_\_\_\_\_. They said the \_\_\_\_\_ are not viable people until they are born and may be aborted. They glorified non-traditional \_\_\_\_\_ and said marriage was obsolete. They said the Bible wasn't for us \_\_\_\_\_ but spoke to people in other ages. They decided that love for \_\_\_\_\_ was more important than loving and obeying \_\_\_\_\_. They argued that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God meant that we didn't have to keep any \_\_\_\_\_ at all. In the end they \_\_\_\_\_ that God has any authority over their lives or that He matters to them.

Sadly, the more any culture \_\_\_\_\_ God out of their thinking, and their ethics, or their morals, the more miserable and difficult their lives will become. Societies can't thumb their noses at God and expect the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ them and \_\_\_\_\_ them. Just because the thinking of a people changes with time doesn't mean that God has changed His \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 33:11 says, "The counsel of the LORD stands \_\_\_\_\_, and the plans of his heart to all generations." People's attitudes may change, but God's \_\_\_\_\_ on the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage haven't changed. Just because people permit themselves to \_\_\_\_\_ God's law doesn't mean that God will \_\_\_\_\_ it. We can't \_\_\_\_\_ on God's will. God is God, and we are not. Wherever you live, whoever you are, God's Word is still \_\_\_\_\_ on you.

**Read what God said in Jeremiah 18:7-10.** God \_\_\_\_\_ nations, and God \_\_\_\_\_ nations. He deals with nations on the basis of whether they are \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to His voice. Are you listening to God?

I fear some think that because \_\_\_\_\_ believes or practices something, that it must be approved by God. God, however, doesn't take a \_\_\_\_\_ to determine what is right and wrong.

**Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14.** The popular, easy way is not \_\_\_\_\_, but leads to destruction. Only a few people will \_\_\_\_\_ God's narrow way, but it leads to life! Even if everybody tells lies, lying is still \_\_\_\_\_. Even if everybody steals, stealing remains \_\_\_\_\_. No matter how popular a sin is, sin will never be okay with God. You can't solve the problem of sin by making it \_\_\_\_\_.

The same is \_\_\_\_\_ with regard to religious groups. When people \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord's voice and \_\_\_\_\_ His teaching, He blesses them and counts them as His own. But when an individual or some group ignores His teaching or departs from the way of the Lord into moral or doctrinal error, God \_\_\_\_\_ them all accountable. Sometimes people create religious groups and cults according to their \_\_\_\_\_ thinking rather than listening to \_\_\_\_\_. Even if that group grows very \_\_\_\_\_, it's still accountable to God. The Lord created every person and will someday \_\_\_\_\_ each one according to the words that are found in the books. He commands all men everywhere to \_\_\_\_\_. We're all accountable to the Lord whether we know it, whether we acknowledge it, or whether we agree to it.

**Read Hebrews 4:12-13.** Time and distance don't \_\_\_\_\_ accountability. A change in the winds of \_\_\_\_\_ worldviews doesn't release anyone from God's jurisdiction. We're accountable to the Lord in matters \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Rebellion over a small matter is \_\_\_\_\_ rebellion against God.

More than accountability, \_\_\_\_\_ is our motivation to follow the way of the Lord. When people love the Lord they enjoy being \_\_\_\_\_ Him. The Lord's way lifts up virtue and makes every person \_\_\_\_\_ and nobler. Aren't you \_\_\_\_\_ of all the ungodliness, dishonesty, and indifference in our world today? Aren't you \_\_\_\_\_ of the selfishness, greed, pride, and

power-hungry attitudes? Aren't you \_\_\_\_\_ for what's pure and good? Don't you \_\_\_\_\_ people were kind and trustworthy? We love the Lord because we have seen what the love of the Lord does in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the people who turn from sin to righteousness. They become \_\_\_\_\_ people filled with faith, and hope, and love. Men become \_\_\_\_\_ and loving husbands and fathers when Christ is in their life. Wives become warm and \_\_\_\_\_ wives and mothers when Christ is in their life. Children look to parents with \_\_\_\_\_ hearts when Christ is in their life. Neighbors \_\_\_\_\_ each other and bear one another's burdens whenever Christ is in their life. Second Corinthians 5:17 rightly says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_ creature; and the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." Those new things are so much better than the old ways.

Take God and His Word out of people's lives, and people will be \_\_\_\_\_ and in misery. They'll turn to destructive behaviors that \_\_\_\_\_ them. They will become indifferent to other people; they will be selfish, and ungrateful. They'll seek in \_\_\_\_\_ to find something to take God's place, but nothing will. The Lord's way is so much \_\_\_\_\_ than the ways of the world; and we have to wonder how anyone could prefer sin to righteousness, or prefer lies to the truth, or prefer selfishness to love.

When churches \_\_\_\_\_ story-telling, and pop-psychology, and humor for a study of the Word of God, they've \_\_\_\_\_ from following the instructions of Scripture to being a social club. **Read what Paul charged the young preacher Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2-5.** God expects preachers to preach the \_\_\_\_\_, not their opinions, not their experiences, and not their imaginations.

If you attend a worship service that doesn't study the Bible, you're being cheated out of God's \_\_\_\_\_. Has your religious group deserted the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture so they can entertain you or make you feel good? One popular speaker decided that he will not speak out against \_\_\_\_\_ or speak about salvation; he said he would leave that to others. He may be a famous motivator, but he's no preacher of the \_\_\_\_\_. He has made his \_\_\_\_\_ religion that has references to some of the Bible, but he has cheated his listeners out of the whole counsel of God.

Some religious groups study religious books written by men but never open the \_\_\_\_\_. They may not realize that the \_\_\_\_\_ author may be contradicting Scripture or teaching something false. People who \_\_\_\_\_ studying Scripture often \_\_\_\_\_ their minds with half-truths and mistaken ideas. The Lord Jesus said, "It is written, that Man shall not live by bread alone, but by \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). We need \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word to live as God wills. Second Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has granted to us \_\_\_\_\_ that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who has called us to his own glory and excellence." In the Bible, we find the truth, the \_\_\_\_\_ truth, and nothing but the truth. When we stop hearing the Bible, we can't be sure that what we're hearing is \_\_\_\_\_. Just because someone \_\_\_\_\_ himself a preacher doesn't mean what he says is true.

This is why the Lord Jesus gave the apostles the charge in Matthew 28:19-20. We must know the truth so we can \_\_\_\_\_ what God really says from what people think. Acts 17:11

calls the Bereans \_\_\_\_\_, because “they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” We too must begin examining the Scriptures so that we won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ by something that is unbiblical. Colossians 2:8 says, “See to it that no one takes you \_\_\_\_\_ through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, and according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” Study your Bible; don’t let anyone \_\_\_\_\_ you astray from the truth of God’s Word.

Perhaps you attend where they substitute entertainment for worship; you may be cheating yourself out of \_\_\_\_\_ Biblical worship in spirit and in truth. Many religious groups have given themselves over to religious entertainment, where worship leaders and soloists perform religious music like at a \_\_\_\_\_. God wants everyone to worship Him, not \_\_\_\_\_ someone else perform for them. The Lord Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in \_\_\_\_\_ to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 6:1). When people take the \_\_\_\_\_ off of God and put it on themselves as in a concert, they aren’t worshipping God; they’re performing. **Read what Jesus said in John 4:23-24.** Don’t substitute praising someone’s talent for the worship of God.

For some time you may have \_\_\_\_\_ what we’ve discussed today. Perhaps you’re attending a religious service or you belong to a religious group that doesn’t hold to Bible \_\_\_\_\_ anymore. You’re hearing preaching that isn’t preaching from the Word of God and isn’t leading you \_\_\_\_\_ to God. You are being entertained rather than called to \_\_\_\_\_. You need the Lord. God said through Isaiah, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor your ways My ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8-9). What our sick world needs is not more looking from side to side at what people think or feel; we need to look up to God for His \_\_\_\_\_. What God teaches is far \_\_\_\_\_ than the ways of the world. Don’t substitute human ways for what is genuinely from God, and by doing that \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.

Isaiah 55:7 says, “Let the wicked \_\_\_\_\_ his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him \_\_\_\_\_ to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” God yearns for every heart to come to Him, for people to \_\_\_\_\_ their own ways and follow His teaching. When people turn their hearts, God abundantly \_\_\_\_\_ their past and blesses their future. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ yourself out of a genuine faith.

To get right with God, place your \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Believing in Him as Lord means believing His teaching is true and necessary to be \_\_\_\_\_. Real faith and real love leads to \_\_\_\_\_. Repentance means I will forsake every wrong and turn to what is right and be Biblical. Repent and be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ upon the confession of your faith. When you are baptized, the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins according to Acts 22:16; and He will \_\_\_\_\_ you to His church according to Acts 2:47.

## The “Musts” of Christianity

### Mark 10:42-45

Is Christianity optional, or are there some things that we must do to \_\_\_\_\_ God? Today we’re going to \_\_\_\_\_ the word “must” as it’s used in Scripture. The Lord God speaks to us today through His \_\_\_\_\_ word; and the Bible says, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who \_\_\_\_\_ 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” (John 3:35-36). The idea that faith \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient to maintain a right relationship with God is simply not found in Scripture; \_\_\_\_\_ to God is also necessary. In fact, it’s a must. When a person will not obey, he faces the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and cannot have eternal life. This is how \_\_\_\_\_ God’s teaching is, and why we teach it with love. We want everyone to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

The word “must” is out of \_\_\_\_\_ with most people today. It seems politically incorrect to \_\_\_\_\_ people must obey God’s teaching. Our culture is more inclined to make up their own faith or religion or to select what they \_\_\_\_\_ to obey rather than to follow all the teaching that’s revealed in the Bible. Most people want \_\_\_\_\_, and the word “must” means they have no choice. “Must” is a verb that \_\_\_\_\_ an obligation, a requirement, or a moral necessity. “Must” removes every other \_\_\_\_\_. If we want to \_\_\_\_\_ God and have eternal \_\_\_\_\_, there are some things that we must do. This really isn’t strange, because even \_\_\_\_\_ had some things that he must do. So do we!

**Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to Mark, chapter 10, verses 42 to 45.**

We generally think of God as so far above mankind that He has nothing that He must do, but God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for mankind led Him to send Jesus into this world. Love cannot exist \_\_\_\_\_ obligation and commitment. Jesus knew that He must do His Father’s \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said, “We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work” (John 9:4). While on earth Jesus lived within \_\_\_\_\_ constraints, and so must we. We must now do God’s will.

Jesus knew that He had to \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross. He prophesied His \_\_\_\_\_ and resurrection. **Read Matthew 16:21-23.** Though Peter didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ Him to die, Jesus knew that He \_\_\_\_\_ die in order to fulfill God’s plan of redemption.

**Read what Matthew 26:51-54 records** when the crowd came to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus and bring Him in to try Him. The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ that He must die in order to fulfill the eternal \_\_\_\_\_ of God. He could have \_\_\_\_\_ it, but it was necessary for Him to fulfill the Scriptures.

Jesus was utterly \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father, even when the Father \_\_\_\_\_ everything from Him. When the Father commanded His Son Jesus to go to the \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord Jesus obeyed. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane, and He told them, “My soul is very \_\_\_\_\_, even to death; remain here, and watch with me” (Matthew 26:38). The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on his face on the ground. Luke 22:44 says, “And being in \_\_\_\_\_ He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.” The persistent \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus was this, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your \_\_\_\_\_ be done” (Matthew 26:42).

The example of Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ to us. We’ve got to \_\_\_\_\_ in His steps. **Read Hebrews 5:7-9.** The Father \_\_\_\_\_ His prayer. Many think the prayer of Jesus was just to \_\_\_\_\_ the cup, and that’s certainly what He wanted. But the ultimate prayer of Jesus was “your will be \_\_\_\_\_,” and God heard that prayer. Jesus was perfect in His obedience to the Father and that opened the way for us. He became the source of eternal salvation to all those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him. We must \_\_\_\_\_, but we must also \_\_\_\_\_!

Some say, “You don’t have to \_\_\_\_\_ anything to be saved. God has \_\_\_\_\_ it all.” We’re saved by grace through faith; and the Scripture clearly says salvation is a \_\_\_\_\_ in Romans 6:23; and Ephesians 2:8-9 makes this point as well. But we must also realize that gifts often have conditions or obligations to \_\_\_\_\_. Meeting a condition doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ the gift, but that doesn’t mean conditions don’t obligate the person who will receive the gift. In John chapter nine Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a blind man by anointing the man’s eyes with some mud that He made with his saliva. Then Jesus told the man, ““You go, \_\_\_\_\_ in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent).” So, the man \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and came back seeing. The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ that man his sight; and no one would ever suggest that by washing in the pool the man healed himself or earned something so precious as his sight; but that doesn’t mean that he still did not have to meet the \_\_\_\_\_ of washing before he enjoyed the healing! The blind man didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus; he simply went to the pool and washed.

So while we are saved by grace, God’s grace is \_\_\_\_\_. The Scriptures plainly teach that there are things that we must do in order to please God; they’re not \_\_\_\_\_. First, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus. Acts 4:12 says, “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other \_\_\_\_\_ under heaven given among men by which we must be \_\_\_\_\_.” If one is to be

saved at all, he \_\_\_\_\_ come to the Lord Jesus; no one else can save him. The Lord Jesus said, “If anyone serves me, he must \_\_\_\_\_ me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone \_\_\_\_\_ me, the Father will honor him” (John 12:26). We \_\_\_\_\_ follow Jesus.

Second, we must \_\_\_\_\_ in God. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it is \_\_\_\_\_ to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Faith in God means believing what He \_\_\_\_\_ and that He will keep His \_\_\_\_\_. It’s absurd to \_\_\_\_\_ that we believe in God, if we are unwilling to believe what He teaches. In a conversation with the Jews about whether Jesus was from God and the Son of God, the Lord Jesus said, “I told you that you would die in your sins, for \_\_\_\_\_ you believe that I am he you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). Faith in Christ means believing that He is the Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of all. Believing in Him means taking what He \_\_\_\_\_ seriously. The Lord must be heartbroken that some people are Christians in \_\_\_\_\_ only, and they profess to believe in Christ, but follow after the ways of man.

Third, we must \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins. The Lord Jesus said, “unless you repent, you will all likewise \_\_\_\_\_” (Luke 13:3). Repentance is not an \_\_\_\_\_ for anyone who wishes to live with God. Romans 6:11 describes what repentance does. “So you also must consider yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to God in Christ Jesus.” Repentance means \_\_\_\_\_ our old sinful ways and \_\_\_\_\_ for God. **Read Romans 8:12-13.** To live with God, we \_\_\_\_\_ repent.

Fourth, we must be \_\_\_\_\_. **Read what the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5-7.** This birth of water and the Spirit refers to \_\_\_\_\_, just as every early Christian testified. One must be baptized in order to enter God’s \_\_\_\_\_. When Saul of Tarsus was blinded on the road to Damascus, the Lord Jesus Himself told him, “get up and enter the city, and it will be \_\_\_\_\_ you what you must do” (Acts 9:6). Saul prayed and fasted for three days; yet he was not \_\_\_\_\_. Ananias came to Saul and told him, “And now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16). God didn’t wash away Saul’s sins \_\_\_\_\_ he was baptized into Christ. We \_\_\_\_\_ be baptized!

Fifth, we must \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit and in truth. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in John 4:23-24.** Many today have \_\_\_\_\_ worship with various forms of entertainment. True worship \_\_\_\_\_ from pretense or man-made worship, as well. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ that difference in two things. Is their worship genuinely \_\_\_\_\_ their spirit or heart? And, is their worship authentically what God \_\_\_\_\_ in His Word? If it differs, it isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ worship. According to Matthew 15:8-9, if their practices come from the \_\_\_\_\_ of men, then their worship is in \_\_\_\_\_.

Sixth, we must pay close attention to God's \_\_\_\_\_. **Read Hebrews 2:1-3.** Some think God ought to be \_\_\_\_\_ with just whatever we offer Him, but the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ that we pay attention and keep His commandments carefully. We must not \_\_\_\_\_ to or \_\_\_\_\_ from God's teaching. We have no \_\_\_\_\_ to rewrite God's teaching to suit ourselves or to satisfy the whims of our culture.

Seventh, we must \_\_\_\_\_ God first. When the apostles appeared before the Sanhedrin, the high priest said, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us" (Acts 5:28). In verse 29, Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must \_\_\_\_\_ God rather than men." We must \_\_\_\_\_ for our God and our faith above all else. We must never suppose that God is \_\_\_\_\_ to be one voice among many. God is God, and He \_\_\_\_\_ to be obeyed.

Eighth, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the weak. Paul said, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_'" (Acts 20:35). Christians must stand \_\_\_\_\_ to help those who are in need, to provide what they can for those who cannot provide for themselves. Christians \_\_\_\_\_ of themselves, just as Christ \_\_\_\_\_.

Why does all of this matter? Because there's \_\_\_\_\_ more "must." We must appear before God in \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:10). On judgment day, you will be there; you cannot \_\_\_\_\_ this appointment. The Lord Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ righteously, saving His followers and condemning those who don't believe or won't obey Him. You and I must \_\_\_\_\_ before Him. Will you be \_\_\_\_\_ to face God?

**Read the parable the Lord tells in Matthew 25:7-11.** While Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His gift of salvation to everybody, sadly not everyone is \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the Master when He comes. Just as the virgins needed oil, so you and I must not \_\_\_\_\_ until the Lord comes to get right with God. We don't \_\_\_\_\_ the day nor the hour when the Lord will return, so we must be prepared at \_\_\_\_\_.

Have you met the conditions that God demands in order to \_\_\_\_\_ His grace? Do you \_\_\_\_\_? Have you \_\_\_\_\_? Have you \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as the Christ? Have you been \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? Have you \_\_\_\_\_ watchful and ready to meet Him? Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ another day unprepared. Get right with God \_\_\_\_\_. Accept His offer of grace by \_\_\_\_\_ what He commands.



## **When Your Heart Breaks**

### **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

When our hearts break, we wonder, “Does God really \_\_\_\_\_ us?” Today we’re going to explore the value of \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible reveals God’s love in \_\_\_\_\_ times and in \_\_\_\_\_. He hears every \_\_\_\_\_ and knows every \_\_\_\_\_ we face. He gives us His \_\_\_\_\_ to teach us, to comfort us, and to guide us through the rough times. You’ll never face a \_\_\_\_\_ that someone hasn’t faced before, and the Scriptures give us an amazing \_\_\_\_\_ to see how others have handled their struggles. God knew what we needed even \_\_\_\_\_ we had a need and He gave us this marvelous book to help us (Psalm 119:50).

Annie Johnson Flint was crippled and twisted much of her life with arthritis, yet from her pain she developed a sensitivity to suffering that \_\_\_\_\_ her to understand and encourage others who were suffering. She wrote these words of encouragement: “God hath not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through; God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain. But God hath promised strength for the day, Rest for the labor, light for the way, Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love.”

As Christians, we shouldn’t \_\_\_\_\_ God to prevent every problem. People say, “If God loved us, He wouldn’t let us \_\_\_\_\_.” But those who say such things may be speaking too \_\_\_\_\_, they may not understand. God may be using a difficulty now to \_\_\_\_\_ a greater good. Heartaches teach us the most important \_\_\_\_\_ of life (Psalm 119:75). The heartaches of life may bring us the greatest \_\_\_\_\_.

**Our Scripture reading today comes from 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.**

**Read what Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 7:2-4.**

It’s an assumption that the best life is one \_\_\_\_\_ from pain or distress. But life free from difficulty is \_\_\_\_\_, and what seems hard and painful may be what’s \_\_\_\_\_ for us. I received a letter from a prisoner, \_\_\_\_\_ God that he was imprisoned. Why? Because he \_\_\_\_\_ salvation and a \_\_\_\_\_ life in prison. He would never have \_\_\_\_\_ for it in the free world. A jail cell and a hospital bed have often led many a person to \_\_\_\_\_ their lives for the better. The psalmist said in Psalm 119:71 that, “It was good for me that I was afflicted, That I may \_\_\_\_\_ Your statutes.” When your \_\_\_\_\_ aches, life hurts all over. But if suffering has \_\_\_\_\_ and can lead to \_\_\_\_\_ in a person's life, then we might think of God very differently. How is suffering good?



**First, some “good things” can only be brought about in our \_\_\_\_\_ by suffering.** The pearl comes not through \_\_\_\_\_, but suffering. A pearl forms when an irritant, such as a piece of \_\_\_\_\_, works its way into a particular species of oyster. As a \_\_\_\_\_ mechanism, the oyster then secretes a fluid to coat the irritant. Layer upon layer of this coating is deposited on the irritant until a lustrous pearl is \_\_\_\_\_. If there were no \_\_\_\_\_, there could be no pearl. Suffering can help a person \_\_\_\_\_ himself, what his character is, and that God can help him \_\_\_\_\_ whatever comes along. Suffering will not only strengthen him; it will also give him confidence to \_\_\_\_\_ the future (Romans 5:4). When God has helped us through one trial, we have \_\_\_\_\_ that He will help us through whatever comes our way. Paul spoke confidently in Romans 8:28, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for \_\_\_\_\_ to those who \_\_\_\_\_ God, to those who are called according to His purposes.” Not all things \_\_\_\_\_ good, but God causes all things (good and bad) to \_\_\_\_\_ together for good for those who love Him. God can take the heartaches of our lives and \_\_\_\_\_ them for some greater good. We may not always know what He will do with them, but we can \_\_\_\_\_ that He will use those experiences to bring about good.

**Second, suffering can help a person \_\_\_\_\_ what is really important or valuable.** The psalmist said in Psalm 119:67, “Before I was afflicted I went \_\_\_\_\_, But now I keep Your \_\_\_\_\_.” An affliction is something that \_\_\_\_\_ great physical or mental distress. It usually comes through no \_\_\_\_\_ of our own. It can, however, \_\_\_\_\_ us up to what really matters. It is very easy to get our priorities and our lives out of \_\_\_\_\_, to put such high emphasis on things that don't matter. Suffering is painful, but one thing it does is it helps us to see what really does \_\_\_\_\_ in this life. Having an HD TV isn't nearly as important as being able to \_\_\_\_\_ or being able to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible (3 John 2). It's when we're \_\_\_\_\_ that we most value the presence of God our Father in our lives. With the breakdown of the \_\_\_\_\_ so prevalent in our society, many individuals are terribly lonely. The number of \_\_\_\_\_ adults in America has greatly increased. The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ loneliness. He never had a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Isaiah 53:3 says, “He was despised and \_\_\_\_\_ of men, A man of \_\_\_\_\_ and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men \_\_\_\_\_ their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” When He needed His \_\_\_\_\_ most, they didn't help Him. They \_\_\_\_\_ while He \_\_\_\_\_ in the Garden of Gethsemane. One \_\_\_\_\_ Him, another \_\_\_\_\_ Him three times, the others scattered. Jesus went to the cross and suffered for our sins \_\_\_\_\_.



Where did Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His strength? Jesus stayed \_\_\_\_\_ to His Father, and that closeness sustained Him through the hard and lonely times (John 16:32). **Read what the Bible says in James 4:7-8.** Likewise Paul drew His \_\_\_\_\_ from the Father (2 Timothy 4:16-18).

**Third, suffering teaches us to be \_\_\_\_\_ for our blessings.** A truly hungry person is thankful for something to \_\_\_\_\_. He's not \_\_\_\_\_ and won't \_\_\_\_\_. People who have an abundance are often the first to \_\_\_\_\_ when things aren't perfect. **Read Philippians 2:14 and Ephesians 5:20.** Someone says, "What do you \_\_\_\_\_ giving thanks for all things? How can I give thanks for this \_\_\_\_\_ and heartache that I'm going through?" I know it's \_\_\_\_\_ and harsh. When you can't change your circumstances, however, you can change how you \_\_\_\_\_ things. If all you can see is the pain, you may be \_\_\_\_\_ what God is able to do with that trouble that you're facing. **Read what the Bible says in James 1:2-4.** In Acts chapter 5 the apostles were \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus in the temple. The high priest and the Council heard of it and \_\_\_\_\_ them up. An angel of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ them and told them to go back to the temple and preach, and they did. The guards then arrested them a second time; the Council rebuked them, beat them, and told them not to preach in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus any more. The Jews usually \_\_\_\_\_ people with whips or rods. They would \_\_\_\_\_ them repeatedly up to 39 times. The Sanhedrin Council that condemned Jesus meant business towards the apostles with this beating; and it must have been quite \_\_\_\_\_. **Read Acts 5:41-42.** They saw their suffering as a way to show \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God. **Read what the Bible says in 1 Peter 4:12-16.** Perspective matters, and if we see our suffering as a way of showing our devotion, we can \_\_\_\_\_ even when we suffer.

**Fourth, suffering can teach us compassion for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.** Walking through some difficult experience is \_\_\_\_\_, but it helps us understand what other people who \_\_\_\_\_ a similar problem are going through. We've been there, and we \_\_\_\_\_ what it's like. God may be using that heartache to \_\_\_\_\_ us to help someone else who may not be as strong as we are, and they can't \_\_\_\_\_ it maybe as well as we can. God's comfort \_\_\_\_\_ us to be a comfort for others. **Read what the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.** That is true, too! We all need the blessing of someone who \_\_\_\_\_, someone who can help us work through our struggles, and someone who will pick us up when we stumble. Mistakes and suffering \_\_\_\_\_ valuable lessons, equipping us with the understanding and the compassion necessary to help someone else through a struggle that we've endured ourselves. Suffering teaches us the value of \_\_\_\_\_ in word, thought, and in deed. We learn what it is to \_\_\_\_\_ a kindness and how valuable it is to \_\_\_\_\_ a kindness.



**Fifth, suffering can teach us the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer and of Bible study.** Suffering \_\_\_\_\_ us of God. Some never think about God \_\_\_\_\_ some great need comes into their lives. It's a great day when we come to realize that we \_\_\_\_\_ God. We need Him in the \_\_\_\_\_ times and in \_\_\_\_\_. And it's just as \_\_\_\_\_ to understand God in those good times as it is in the bad; and to understand that He is always \_\_\_\_\_ to our prayers. The psalmist prayed in Psalm 119:153, "Look upon my affliction and \_\_\_\_\_ me, For I do not forget Your law." The psalmist said in Psalm 119:143, "Trouble and anguish have come upon me, Yet Your commandments are my \_\_\_\_\_." When your heart aches, go to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Read God's \_\_\_\_\_ of love; read His \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ for His children. God's promises hold \_\_\_\_\_. You can lose your \_\_\_\_\_; you can lose your \_\_\_\_\_; you can lose your \_\_\_\_\_, or your friends; but don't ever let go of your God or His promises. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ to God. We wonder if God \_\_\_\_\_ loves us, why does He let us suffer. But love is more involved than merely keeping people \_\_\_\_\_ from pain. Some pain is \_\_\_\_\_ in life. We couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ without some pain. It's our pain and anguish that \_\_\_\_\_ us necessary lessons and \_\_\_\_\_ us want to change. Much of our heartaches come from \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes the sins of others and sometimes our own. The pain of sin makes us \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness. Bearing the consequences of our sins \_\_\_\_\_ us to understand why sin is so terrible. God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ sin because He's mean and hateful. He hates sin, because He knows how sin \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of people that He loves. Second Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slow about His \_\_\_\_\_, as some count slowness, but is \_\_\_\_\_ towards you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." God doesn't want anyone to be \_\_\_\_\_ in sin; He wants people to \_\_\_\_\_ their lives and come to the Lord. Your struggle today may be the motivation that you need to change your \_\_\_\_\_.

To become a Christian, \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord with all your heart. God is utterly trustworthy. Turn from your sins, because sin will only \_\_\_\_\_ to more heartache and ruin. Confess \_\_\_\_\_ as the Christ, the Son of God. And be baptized. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins. Romans 6:3-7 teaches that baptism \_\_\_\_\_ us with Christ. And in baptism we're \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. Baptism is the time when that old man of \_\_\_\_\_ is crucified with Christ and we begin to \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of life free from sin. Won't you do that today?