



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

*Program  
Study Guides*

**For  
June 2015**

June 7, 2015

## Inspired 2 Peter 1:16-21

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

When the Bible speaks of being inspired, it \_\_\_\_\_ that it was breathed out by God. Today we will \_\_\_\_\_ the inspiration of the Bible. We search the Bible because we know the Bible provides the one true and trustworthy \_\_\_\_\_ of God's wisdom and instructions. We go to the Word of God because it's the only \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life. Some modern-day prophets \_\_\_\_\_ God spoke to them, but they offer no \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration. We can, however, \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

Occasionally someone speaks of a book being inspirational, meaning the book had a positive \_\_\_\_\_ on their thinking and lives. I love inspirational books like *Tom Sawyer* or Greg Tidwell's new book, *The Effective Edge*. You pick them up and they're so \_\_\_\_\_ you can't put them down. You read them with a smile and appreciation. But being inspirational isn't the \_\_\_\_\_ as being inspired of God. While one can learn a whole lot from an inspirational book, in the end it's still coming from a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. But when the Bible speaks of being inspired, it means that it came from God Himself; that God breathed it out to us and for us.

One of my teachers and a translator of the New Testament, Hugo McCord, said, "The Bible was given by inspiration of God as the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ within select men, revealing to them the thoughts of God and enabling them to use the appropriate words to communicate divine truth without \_\_\_\_\_. God put the Holy Spirit into the writers of the Bible and, through Him, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the writing of the Bible. Thus, 'inspiration' may be defined as the \_\_\_\_\_ by which God breathed His Spirit into men, enabling them to receive and to communicate divine truth without \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, the Bible is God speaking!" Brother McCord is right! We must pay \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word.

### **Our reading today comes from 2 Peter 1:16-21.**

If we wish to \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of inspiration, we must go to the Scriptures themselves. The Bible actually has a \_\_\_\_\_ to say about inspiration. There are three passages in the New Testament that are especially valuable.

**First, read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:10-13.** Paul argues that what he \_\_\_\_\_ came from God through the Holy Spirit, not through \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom. He didn't borrow these things from the worldly religions or the Jewish rabbis; the Holy Spirit himself was their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Second, read what Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.** When Paul says "all Scripture," he unquestionably is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Old Testament, but not exclusively. Paul had earlier given a \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture that included passages in the New Testament. Paul wrote, "For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his

wages” (1 Timothy 5:18). In this passage, Paul quoted from \_\_\_\_\_ the Old and New Testaments (Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7), and he called both of them Scripture. While Paul spoke of the “sacred writings” or “Holy Scriptures” in 2 Timothy 3:15, referring to what Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ as a child, Paul speaks of “all” Scripture in chapter 3 verse 16. The use of the word “all” suggests that Paul understood clearly that there was \_\_\_\_\_ to the inspired Scriptures than merely the Old Testament. Paul said what he wrote came from God and had God’s \_\_\_\_\_. He told the Corinthians that “the things that I am writing to you are a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37).

**Third, read what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:20-21.** Prophecy didn’t come by an act of human will, but men of God \_\_\_\_\_ as the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ them. The phrase “of one’s own interpretation” doesn’t refer to how men today interpret or understand Scripture, but how the prophets \_\_\_\_\_ it. While false prophets set forth their \_\_\_\_\_ ideas, the Holy Spirit moved the men of God to speak what He wanted to be said.

The Lord God spoke through men not only with their \_\_\_\_\_ but also through their \_\_\_\_\_. One can hardly read the Psalms without also wanting to \_\_\_\_\_ closely into the life of David. One can hardly read the book of Philippians about \_\_\_\_\_ and not remember how Paul was imprisoned. One can hardly read of Hosea’s struggles with an unfaithful \_\_\_\_\_ and not see how God was revealing His own heart and His own \_\_\_\_\_ to an unfaithful Israel. God moved and spoke through His \_\_\_\_\_.

The Old Testament repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ to be from God. God told Moses in Exodus 34:27 to write the commandments of the Lord in a \_\_\_\_\_. The Old Testament repeats hundreds of times such expressions as “The Lord says,” or “thus says the Lord,” or “the word of God came saying....” Jesus called the Law of Moses the “word of God” in Matthew 15:6. Scholars estimate that there are over \_\_\_\_\_ such claims that Scripture is God’s Word.

David said, “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my \_\_\_\_\_” (2 Samuel 23:2). God said to Isaiah, “I have put My words in your \_\_\_\_\_” (Isaiah 51:6). The Lord told Jeremiah, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth” (Jeremiah 1:7), and “Because you have spoken this word, Behold (that is God speaking), I am making My words in your mouth \_\_\_\_\_ and this people \_\_\_\_\_, and it will consume them” (Jeremiah 5:14). God made His will known by testifying through the \_\_\_\_\_ according to 2 Chronicles 24:20. The clear testimony of the prophets and the writers of the New Testament was that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament came from God.

While the Old Testament sometimes designates a \_\_\_\_\_ speaker or author to a passage, the New Testament attributes those same words to God. For instance, Psalm 2:1-2 is attributed to \_\_\_\_\_, but Peter claimed that this verse came “by the Holy Spirit” in Acts 5:25-26. What the psalmist said in Psalm 95:7, the Hebrew writer says the same verse came by the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ in Hebrews 3:7. What the sons of Korah wrote in Psalm 45:6 and an unknown Psalmist said in Psalm 102:25-27, the New Testament attributes these things to \_\_\_\_\_ in the book of Hebrews 1:8-12. God speaks through Scripture, so that one may easily recognize that whatever the Scripture instructs us, the Lord is actually \_\_\_\_\_ those instructions.

The New Testament views the \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament as “the oracles of God” (Romans 3:2). Christ and his apostles \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament texts, not merely as what Moses, David or Isaiah said, but also as what God said through these men. The idea of God speaking and the idea of Scripture are interchangeable in the Bible. For instance, Paul refers to God’s verbal \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham as words which the Scripture spoke to him in Galatians 3:8. This shows how completely Paul equated the statements of Scripture with the utterances of God.

The New Testament likewise \_\_\_\_\_ inspiration for itself. Jesus claimed that His words were not His \_\_\_\_\_ but came from His Father in John 7:16-17. **Read John 12:49-50.**

Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would inspire their \_\_\_\_\_ and would defend them before authorities (Luke 12:11-12); also, the Spirit would \_\_\_\_\_ them what to speak and remind them of Jesus’ words (John 14:26); and the Spirit of truth would \_\_\_\_\_ them into all truth (John 16:13). According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit’s function was to \_\_\_\_\_ to the apostles the truth that was given to Him by the Father.

When Paul wrote to the various churches, he argued that what he wrote was indeed “the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.” **Read why Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Read what Paul said in Galatians 1:11-12.**

We should look at Scripture the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus did. When Jesus relied solely upon the Hebrew Scriptures as the \_\_\_\_\_ of authority for those under the Law, He looked at them as God’s \_\_\_\_\_. Christ never referred to extra-Biblical literature, those books of the day, but He candidly \_\_\_\_\_ the Jewish traditions that contradicted the Scripture in Matthew 15 and Mark 7. He didn’t want those traditions. For Jesus, Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_. When Jesus says, “It is written,” He means that what has been written is still written and still in \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus shows the enduring \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture with such statements as: “Have you not read...?” (Matthew 21:16; or Mark 12:10), or “You do err, not knowing the Scriptures” (Matthew 22:29). What God said through Moses and the prophets was still \_\_\_\_\_ even hundreds of years later in the days of Jesus Christ.

Jesus believed \_\_\_\_\_ part of Scripture is worthy of our accepting. In Luke 24:44-45, He speaks of the law and the prophets and the writings. In Matthew 23:34-36, the Lord speaks of the first and the last martyrs in the Bible (that is “from Abel to Zechariah”). This is a reference from Genesis to Chronicles, the first and last books of the Hebrew Bible.

When Jesus interpreted Scripture, he commonly used the \_\_\_\_\_ method (according to Matthew 12:40), considering the events of the Old Testament, like Jonah being in the belly of the great fish for three days, so he would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. He looked at those things as \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus used the punishment of Lot’s wife as a means to \_\_\_\_\_ his disciples not to turn back (Luke 17:32). There is simply no evidence that He ever regarded the creation, the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, or any other story of the Bible as some \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said, “For this \_\_\_\_\_ I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the \_\_\_\_\_. And everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37). What

does Jesus have to \_\_\_\_\_ by dealing with myths or fables? Nothing! But He has a great deal to lose by presenting inventions of men as \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus frequently \_\_\_\_\_ erroneous religious teaching when he found it. He was indeed committed to the \_\_\_\_\_. What did He have to \_\_\_\_\_ about the authenticity of the Genesis account of creation, of the flood, of Jonah's big fish, or of Daniel's writing of the book of Daniel? Jesus underscores the truthfulness of the Genesis account of \_\_\_\_\_ when He referred to the "beginning" of creation as the time when a man and a woman were created and joined together by God in marriage (Mark 10:6-9). By \_\_\_\_\_ from Genesis, Jesus acknowledged its authority and truthfulness. By using the words, "What God has joined together....," He recognized God to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of these Genesis writings.

For Jesus, all Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ true and trustworthy. He said, "Scripture cannot be \_\_\_\_\_" (John 10:35). Jesus is arguing that Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ authoritative and reliable. If the Son of God, who has lived through all eternity and witnessed all the events of the Old Testament, regards them as true and utterly trustworthy, what \_\_\_\_\_ have we of further witnesses? We too can \_\_\_\_\_ every word of every sentence of every verse of every chapter of every book is inspired of God and utterly trustworthy.

Whether the Bible arose from men alone or whether God inspired it is perhaps the most crucial \_\_\_\_\_ of our time. Some are \_\_\_\_\_ whether the Bible is verbally inspired and whether it is inerrant. Some believe the Bible to be inspired of God, but say it contains \_\_\_\_\_ and contradictions. They say the Bible is infallible in its essential message pertaining to our salvation, but contains \_\_\_\_\_ in its details. If the Bible is merely human, arising from myths and legends, it has no \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives and should be granted no greater honor than any other ancient literature. On the other hand, if the Bible is from the one \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God as it claims, then it possesses unconditional, divine authority over us.

Since the Bible is from God and accurately transmitted to us, then we may surely \_\_\_\_\_ every letter of every word, every word of every sentence, every sentence of every verse, every verse of every chapter, and every chapter of every book. We regard its promises to be \_\_\_\_\_, its commands to us to be \_\_\_\_\_, its approved examples as a \_\_\_\_\_ to our path, its implications to be truth indeed, and its warnings and admonitions to be taken to heart. This is no \_\_\_\_\_ book, the Bible; there is none like it in all history. It is God's Word!

Why do I believe the Bible? Because it accurately predicts the \_\_\_\_\_ in the most specific terms. The prophecies of the Messiah, the Lord's prediction of His own death and resurrection, and the Lord's prediction of the fall of Jerusalem provide unquestionable \_\_\_\_\_ that the words of Scripture come from God Himself. No other book in all history has so many specific prophecies that have come to be \_\_\_\_\_. Only God can see the future, and only God could give us this book. Oh, give me the Bible, because it is inspired of God!



## Trustworthy Psalm 1

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

Are the \_\_\_\_\_ we have today in Scripture really what came from the prophets and the apostles? Can we \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible to tell us the truth? Today we'll explore the trustworthy \_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures. From the days of \_\_\_\_\_, more than 3000 years ago, we have copies of the sacred Scriptures given to us by God. No \_\_\_\_\_ in all of ancient literature has been as preserved, as revered, or as translated as has the Holy Bible. Moses wrote, "The \_\_\_\_\_ things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are \_\_\_\_\_ belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). The Bible is a book of truth, wisdom, commandments, and promises. When God gave us this book He knew just what we needed to live as His children and to have \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Jesus promised, "If you abide in my \_\_\_\_\_, you are truly disciples of mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you \_\_\_\_\_" (John 8:31-32). By saying this Jesus assured us that we could truly know what the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is for our lives and those truths would set us free from sin and from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. His insistence that freedom came from abiding in His word causes us to ask if we can \_\_\_\_\_ on the texts of the Old Testament and the New Testament as we have them today.

Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavens." We can trust the Scriptures because we can trust God and the Lord Jesus. God loves us and has always \_\_\_\_\_ us the spiritual guidance and wisdom that we need. We \_\_\_\_\_ His truth, His wisdom, His laws, and His promises. We are utterly \_\_\_\_\_ for the Bible.

### **Our reading today comes from Psalm 1.**

We can have confidence that both the Old and the New Testaments are God's \_\_\_\_\_ writings. We can be confident that what we possess \_\_\_\_\_ is what the prophets and the apostles wrote by inspiration thousands of years ago. Those who copied the sacred Scriptures with great \_\_\_\_\_ gave us what was originally written through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The greatest \_\_\_\_\_ that we can trust the Old Testament comes from the Lord Jesus Himself. He trusted the sacred writings as the authoritative and unbreakable \_\_\_\_\_ of God. In Matthew 4 the Lord Jesus faced down the \_\_\_\_\_ three times with quotations from the Old Testament, from the book of Deuteronomy, saying, "It is written" (Matthew 4:4-7, and also in verse 10). Jesus regarded what was written by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God as true and binding. He trusted its truths so strongly that He refused to \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture and yield to temptation. Again, the Lord Jesus said, "For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (Matthew 5:18). When challenged by the Jews, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to the Scriptures

written hundreds of years before. He said, “You \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ to me that you may have life” (John 5:39-40) . Because Jesus regarded the Scriptures as the sole standard of spiritual truth, He told the Sadducees, “You are wrong, because you \_\_\_\_\_ neither the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). Jesus implied that the Scriptures are inerrant and authoritative.

He placed Scripture \_\_\_\_\_ the traditions of men in Matthew 15 and Mark 7. There was nothing more important than the need for men to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the written Word of God. In every instance where Jesus cited the Old Testament, He regarded it as utterly \_\_\_\_\_. For these reasons we can \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus and hold to the accuracy and the unchanging character of the Old Testament.

In his book, *Can I Trust My Bible*, Old Testament scholar R. Laird Harris affirmed that, “We can now be \_\_\_\_\_ that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament, even back to 225 BC ... indeed, it would be rash skepticism now to \_\_\_\_\_ that we have our Old Testament in a form that’s very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the word of the Lord to those who had returned from the Babylonian captivity.” Again, Sir Frederic Kenyon said, “the Christian can take the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that what he holds in it is the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries.”

Some are \_\_\_\_\_ whether we’ll ever be able to know what the Lord Jesus said or what any biblical author actually wrote. In the book *Five Gospels*, skeptic Robert Funk said, “Even careful copyists make \_\_\_\_\_, as every proofreader knows. So we will never be able to claim certain knowledge of exactly what the \_\_\_\_\_ text of any biblical writing was.” Bart Ehrman, a skeptic, challenged our ability to \_\_\_\_\_ what the Scriptures actually are. In his book, *Misquoting Jesus*, he argued that the textual variants make knowing what the Bible actually says \_\_\_\_\_. But these skeptics are not looking at \_\_\_\_\_ the facts. We can know what the New Testament says. In fact, we have a trustworthy New Testament. It is the most well-attested book of all ancient literature; there is \_\_\_\_\_ like it!

Sir Frederic Kenyon, an authority on ancient manuscripts, summed up the status of the New Testament this way, "It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_: Especially is this the case with the New Testament. The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically \_\_\_\_\_ that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities.” This scholar said, “this can be said of \_\_\_\_\_ other ancient book in the world.”

Daniel Wallace, a biblical scholar noted, “If someone were to \_\_\_\_\_ all those manuscripts, we would not be left without a \_\_\_\_\_ because the church fathers wrote commentaries on the New Testament. To date, more than one \_\_\_\_\_ quotations of the New Testament by the fathers have been recorded.” Bruce Metzger and Bart Ehrman agree. They said, “If all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the New Testament were destroyed, [the patristic quotations, that is of the early church fathers] would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament.”

Wallace reflected on how many manuscripts we have from the first few centuries after the completion of the New Testament. He looked at the \_\_\_\_\_ and his conclusion is truly startling! Today we have as many as 12 manuscripts from the second century, 64 from the third, and 48 from the fourth—a total of 124 manuscripts within 300 years of the completion of the New Testament. Most of these are fragmentary, but the \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament text is found in this collection multiple times. If you add all the other manuscripts of the New Testament from later days we now have over 5800 manuscripts! We also have thousands of Latin, Coptic and Syriac versions of the New Testament.

How does the average Greek or Latin author \_\_\_\_\_ up? If we are comparing the same time period—300 years after it was first composed—the average classical Latin or Greek author has \_\_\_\_\_ literary remains. More than that, if we \_\_\_\_\_ all the manuscripts of a particular classical author, regardless of when they were written, the total would still average at less than 20 and probably less than a dozen—and they would all be coming much more than three centuries later. In terms of existing manuscripts, the New Testament textual critic is confronted with an embarrassment of \_\_\_\_\_. If we have doubts about what the autographic New Testament said, those doubts would have to be multiplied a hundredfold for the \_\_\_\_\_ classical Latin or Greek author. When we compare the New Testament manuscripts to the very best that the classical world has to offer, the New Testament manuscripts still stand \_\_\_\_\_ above the rest. The New Testament is by far the best attested work of Greek or Latin literature from the ancient world!

Someone asks, “Well what about \_\_\_\_\_ those textual variants?” You may have read where someone says there are \_\_\_\_\_ of variants in the New Testament. Scholars count as a textual variant any place that there is a variation in spelling, wording, word order, or the omitting or adding of words. Scholars count even the most \_\_\_\_\_ changes. Even when all the manuscripts \_\_\_\_\_, if one manuscript differs in the slightest way, this counts as a textual variant.

### **Read Notes 1 and 2 in the text.**

Let’s say that we had fifty people in a room and we asked them to \_\_\_\_\_ one book of the Bible, Matthew, by hand. Could you write out by hand the whole book without any \_\_\_\_\_ of any kind? But if we have fifty people copying the same book, they wouldn’t likely make the same mistake at the same place, unless one of them \_\_\_\_\_ that mistake from the other. If we compared all the fifty copies, we could easily spot where someone \_\_\_\_\_ from all the others in spelling, or whether they varied in word order, or in omitting or in adding something. In such a case we would know the 49 copies were \_\_\_\_\_ and the one made a \_\_\_\_\_.

Professor Jack Lewis of Harding University, one of my own teachers, said, “While recognizing variants in manuscripts, scholars are reasonably well \_\_\_\_\_ on what the reading of the bulk of the New Testament should be. The major \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament about God, Christ, and the church are not based on textually disputed passages. The major \_\_\_\_\_ of man toward God and his fellowman are not solely laid out in textually disputed passages. The questions of which we speak are not new in the church; they have been under debate for centuries; they need not be disturbing to \_\_\_\_\_.” You can trust the Bible to be the words that God intended for us to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_.

New Testament specialist Daniel Wallace, notes that although there are about 300,000 individual variations of the text of the New Testament, this number is very \_\_\_\_\_. Most of the differences are \_\_\_\_\_ inconsequential—spelling I errors, inverted phrases and the like. A side by side comparison between the two main text families (the Majority Text and the modern critical text) shows agreement in a full \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the time. Of the remaining differences, virtually all yield to vigorous textual criticism. That means that our New Testament is 99.5% textually \_\_\_\_\_. In the entire text of 20,000 lines, only 40 lines are in \_\_\_\_\_. That’s about 400 words, and none of those affects any significant \_\_\_\_\_.

Greek scholar, D. A. Carson, sums it up: “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the text is of such a substantial nature that nothing we believe to be true, and nothing that we are commanded to do, is in any way jeopardized by the variants.” Even a skeptic like Bart Ehrman has had to admit that, “most scribes, no doubt, tried to do a faithful job in making \_\_\_\_\_ that the text they reproduced was the same text that they inherited.”

Someone may ask, “Well Phil, why are you discussing this?” Occasionally some article comes out in a major magazine that suggests the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ of mistakes. This information misleads many to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible as if it weren’t true. But, there simply is \_\_\_\_\_ other book in all of ancient literature that is as copied, as correct, and as trustworthy as the Bible! Because the Bible is God’s sacred word, those who copied it revered it as the very word of God. They copied it because they knew how important it was for us all to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. You can \_\_\_\_\_ your Bible to be from God and to teach what God wills for you to know about life and about eternity. Since the Bible is trustworthy, shouldn’t you \_\_\_\_\_ its teaching, follow its commands, and accept its promises?

From the beginning God has always provided for us what we \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus knew how badly we needed to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father. The Lord said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). God has kept this \_\_\_\_\_. We have the Bible more abundantly \_\_\_\_\_ today than ever. Through the centuries authorities have tried burning manuscripts, but the Bible \_\_\_\_\_. Some have done everything in their \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the Bible from being translated, but the Bible survives and is now completely translated into 531 languages; there’s another 2,883 languages that have at least some portion of the Bible. Americans especially have access to the Bible. Eighty-eight percent of the American households own at least one copy, with most owning multiple copies. The average is 4.4. The words of Jesus have not \_\_\_\_\_ away, and they will stand longer than heaven or earth.

The Word of God is available and trustworthy; now what will you do with it? Will you \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word or ignore it? Will you \_\_\_\_\_ its precious promises or close your ears? The Bible will only \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you when you study and meditate on its teaching, and its instructions, and its promises.

To become a Christian, \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of Jesus Christ found in the New Testament, \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God, \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins, and be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ Jesus. One is baptized into Christ by being immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Do it today!

June 21, 2015

## All Sufficient Galatians 1:6-9

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

God gave us \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual truth in the Scriptures that we \_\_\_\_\_ to live godly lives and get to heaven. Today we'll study the all-sufficiency of the Bible. Because God is holy, we can regard every \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from God as sacred. Because our holy God knows everything and is all wise, we can consider the Word of God as \_\_\_\_\_ than anything that comes from man. Because God is holy, wise, and loving, we know that every word that comes from God is for our \_\_\_\_\_ interest. Because God has the Words of eternal life, and because we love Him, we must \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ His words carefully.

Many in the world do not like what the Bible \_\_\_\_\_. Some in the religious world imagine that they can \_\_\_\_\_ on Biblical faith and provide a Christianity that is more \_\_\_\_\_ to the world, so they \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures to make them say what they want rather than listen to what God actually says. Others believe that Christians ought to \_\_\_\_\_ their moral standards so that the world can, without shame, feel free to practice things that the Bible calls \_\_\_\_\_. But the idea of changing God's eternal teaching in any way must \_\_\_\_\_ God and disturb anyone who loves Him.

The Lord Jesus said "It's written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by \_\_\_\_\_ word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). We need to pay much closer attention to the Word of God because we \_\_\_\_\_ every word that comes from His mouth. God hasn't forgotten anything or neglected to tell us anything that we need to know to live holy lives, to function as the church, or to get to heaven. We aren't \_\_\_\_\_ anything; and our Bible can guide us into all the truth! Are you reading your Bible?

### **Our reading today comes from Galatians 1:6-9.**

The Bible clearly reveals that from the time of Moses, God wanted His wisdom, His instructions, and His promises to be \_\_\_\_\_ down and preserved for later generations. Exodus 24:4 says, "Moses then wrote down all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord," and this book was preserved in the Ark of the Covenant according to Deuteronomy 31:26. God commanded Moses that every seven years "you shall \_\_\_\_\_ this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 31:11-13).

This law was vitally important to the Lord. God commanded, "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ to the word that I command you, nor shall you \_\_\_\_\_ from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). Again, Moses wrote, "You shall be \_\_\_\_\_ therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or

to the left” (Deuteronomy 5:32). A third time God said, “Everything that I command you, you shall be \_\_\_\_\_ to do. You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ to it or \_\_\_\_\_ from it. (Deuteronomy 12:32). God wanted His instructions to be \_\_\_\_\_ just as He gave them without any changes at all. Solomon said, “Do not add to his words, lest he \_\_\_\_\_ you and you be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:6).

We know that Joshua “made a \_\_\_\_\_ with the people... And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God” according to Joshua 24:25-26. We know that “Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and \_\_\_\_\_ them in a book and placed it before the LORD” (1 Samuel 10:25). God told Isaiah to “go, write it on a tablet before them, And inscribe it on a scroll, That it may serve in the time to come, As a \_\_\_\_\_ forever” (Isaiah 30:8). We know that Ezra “set his heart to \_\_\_\_\_ the Law of the Lord, and to \_\_\_\_\_ it and to \_\_\_\_\_ his statutes and rules in Israel” (Ezra 7:20).

The New Testament uses the phrase “It is written” over \_\_\_\_\_ times. They stressed the \_\_\_\_\_ of the written Word of God. In Matthew 22:29 Jesus rebuked the Sadducees because they did not know “the Scriptures nor the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” God undoubtedly intended from the very beginning that His Words and deeds should be \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture. What God writes is not just written on \_\_\_\_\_ with ink, but stands written for all people in all places for all time.

God has never allowed men to tamper with or to edit His \_\_\_\_\_ words. Paul told the Corinthians that they “were not to go \_\_\_\_\_ what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6). Later, Paul said it’s disgraceful and underhanded “to practice cunning or to \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s word” (2 Corinthians 4:2). When some Jewish leaders tried to pervert the gospel, Paul said they were accursed (Galatians 1:8-9). When some false teachers tried to change the doctrine that Christ came in the flesh, John said, “Anyone who goes too far and does not \_\_\_\_\_ in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who \_\_\_\_\_ in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9). When people tamper with or edit the teaching of God, they cannot expect to \_\_\_\_\_ in the favor or grace of God.

At the end of the book of Revelation, John \_\_\_\_\_ against anyone tampering with that particular book. Read the warning in Revelation 22:18-19. Of course, what is true of the book of Revelation is also true of \_\_\_\_\_ book of the New Testament. We must not add to or take away anything from what God has caused to be \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible doesn’t need to be re-written or edited; it needs to be reread!

Why would God \_\_\_\_\_ adding to or taking away from His Scriptures? It is because God’s message is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It says \_\_\_\_\_ that God intended to say; and so to change Scripture in any way challenges God’s wisdom and His authority. Changing God’s Word to suit our \_\_\_\_\_, or rewriting God’s laws to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, is an act of utter rebellion and it dishonors God. Changing God’s teaching or His moral laws says men are \_\_\_\_\_ and wiser than God, that they know better than He knows. That’s presumptuous.

The Lord Jesus promised the apostles, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). They not only had the privilege of \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of Jesus, they also had the Holy Spirit to \_\_\_\_\_ them of the Lord’s teaching.

**Read what Jesus said in John 16:12-13.** The Lord Jesus knew the apostles would face many \_\_\_\_\_ and would need guidance into all the truth. Jesus didn’t withhold any truth; the Spirit guided them into \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. If they received all the truth, then no \_\_\_\_\_ truth would come in other centuries. They received every truth needed by the \_\_\_\_\_ to live as God would have them live and to have eternal life.

The apostle Peter said, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the \_\_\_\_\_ of him who has called us to his own glory and excellence” (2 Peter 1:3). Peter never imagined that they were \_\_\_\_\_ out of some spiritual truth that they could only find outside the Scriptures in some human tradition or in some feeling that they think came directly from the Holy Spirit. He never taught that our culture’s values \_\_\_\_\_ whatever God said long ago. No, he saw that everything that we need can be found in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul also understood the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. **Read what he wrote to the young preacher Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** Paul didn’t point Timothy to later-day prophets, to church councils, or to cultural trends that would \_\_\_\_\_ the teaching of the Lord. He told Timothy to look to \_\_\_\_\_. We must do the same. The Scriptures can make us \_\_\_\_\_ to salvation; they are God-breathed and profitable. We aren’t \_\_\_\_\_ anything when we possess the Scriptures. Acts 17:11 says, “Now these [Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the \_\_\_\_\_ with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.” They wanted to know what was \_\_\_\_\_!

Paul said the Scriptures are profitable for \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a \_\_\_\_\_ to my feet, And a \_\_\_\_\_ to my path.” Christianity is \_\_\_\_\_ on teaching or doctrine. The Lord Jesus said, “If you \_\_\_\_\_ in my word, then you are truly disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32). Only the \_\_\_\_\_ can set us free. Acts 2:42 says that the early church “\_\_\_\_\_ themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” That teaching is \_\_\_\_\_ for us in the New Testament. Paul urged Timothy, “and what you have \_\_\_\_\_ from me in the presence of many witnesses, you \_\_\_\_\_ to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul was interested in perpetuating what had \_\_\_\_\_ been taught, not in looking to some later day church canon or supposed prophecy.

Second, the Scriptures are profitable for \_\_\_\_\_. Scripture teaches us convincingly what is right and wrong and it rebukes us for our \_\_\_\_\_. The psalmist cried out, “How can a young man keep his way \_\_\_\_\_?” The answer is, “by guarding it according to your \_\_\_\_\_. With my whole heart, I seek you; let me not \_\_\_\_\_ from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my

\_\_\_\_\_, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:9-11). Reproof leads to repentance. Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of \_\_\_\_\_.

Reproof gives a need for the third thing that is to be profitable in Scripture, and that is \_\_\_\_\_. The Scriptures move us to repent and correct our wrongs and to leave \_\_\_\_\_ teachings for the truth. Acts, chapter 18 introduces us to a Jew named Apollos who was an eloquent \_\_\_\_\_, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of John and did not know about baptism into Christ. Acts 18:26 says “and he began to speak out \_\_\_\_\_ in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and \_\_\_\_\_ to him the way of God more accurately.” When Apollos learned the truth, he didn’t get \_\_\_\_\_ at Priscilla and Aquila for their correction. When we’re corrected, we shouldn’t get angry but should humbly \_\_\_\_\_ and thank God for the truth. Repentance brings healing to our \_\_\_\_\_, and that is why repentance is so very important.

Fourth, Scripture is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness. The instructions of the New Testament and the \_\_\_\_\_ found in Scripture train us how to love and care for others, to serve and worship God, to evangelize, to restore the fallen, and to be the church that Jesus loves. It teaches us how to live godly lives and how to go to heaven. It teaches us to be like Jesus. We need the examples of the New Testament to \_\_\_\_\_ us in doing good to others. In Scripture we \_\_\_\_\_ how to forgive, how to be patient, how to endure hardship, and how to serve.

The gospel \_\_\_\_\_ is all-sufficient for all time. We must preach the gospel that the \_\_\_\_\_ preached in the first century. **Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.** Psalm 119:160 says, “The sum of your \_\_\_\_\_ is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.” We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God, that it is sufficient and teaches us all we need to know.

The same \_\_\_\_\_ that purified souls in the first century will purify souls today. There’s only one imperishable \_\_\_\_\_ planted in the hearts of people causing them to be born again into Christ. That seed existed in the first century and will \_\_\_\_\_ until the end of time. If we corrupt or change that seed, it won’t produce a truly \_\_\_\_\_ person. It will produce something else outside the truth. Our souls are purified by \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth of the Lord’s gospel, not by obedience to a gospel that’s reconfigured to suit some human tradition or our culture.

**Read Hebrews 2:1-3.** God hasn’t called us to follow our \_\_\_\_\_ or to be like those who surround us; He has called us to \_\_\_\_\_ to His inspired and all-sufficient word. Second Corinthians 10:18 says, “For it’s not the one who commends himself who is \_\_\_\_\_, but the one whom the Lord commends.” Are you paying close attention to God’s Holy Word?

The New Testament teaches us \_\_\_\_\_ that we need to know to become a Christian and to live the Christian life. We can know the truth and be \_\_\_\_\_. To become a Christian \_\_\_\_\_ with all your heart that Jesus Christ is God’s Son. Repent of every \_\_\_\_\_; turn to what is \_\_\_\_\_. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ, immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you’re baptized, God forgives your sins; He adds you to His church, and you become a child of God. After you become a Christian, stay close to God by living faithfully and by \_\_\_\_\_ in the words of Jesus.

**Authoritative**  
**Matthew 7:24-27**

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

When God gave us the Bible, did He \_\_\_\_\_ with authority over our lives? We're going to explore the authoritative \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible. We look to God, our Creator, for life and for every \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:17). We \_\_\_\_\_ God our love, our respect, our obedience for all that He's done for us. That's why we must take the \_\_\_\_\_ seriously. From the beginning of our lives, we're accountable for our \_\_\_\_\_. Children are accountable to their parents, students to their teachers, and citizens to the civil authority. When we broke the \_\_\_\_\_, we faced the consequences whether we liked it or not. Human nature seems to have this rebellious streak that doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ rules or laws. We don't want anyone \_\_\_\_\_ us what to do. All of \_\_\_\_\_ tells of man's relentless rebellion to authority. From the beginning, people have craved their \_\_\_\_\_ way and set aside the will of God. We all \_\_\_\_\_ in the war between our desires and our duties, between right and wrong.

The Bible provides God's \_\_\_\_\_ commandments. In words that were passed down through the centuries, we find His spiritual and moral \_\_\_\_\_. God spoke with authority when they were written, and they still have God's authority behind them \_\_\_\_\_. What God said, He said to all \_\_\_\_\_ in all \_\_\_\_\_ for all \_\_\_\_\_. Time cannot \_\_\_\_\_ them; our culture can \_\_\_\_\_ them but cannot \_\_\_\_\_ them. People can rebel and refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ God's commandments, but God will have the last say in the matter. God is still God, still Creator, and still Judge.

**Today's reading is from the Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-27.**

Jesus spoke these words to be \_\_\_\_\_. God is the authority! He has \_\_\_\_\_ authority and is the ultimate authority \_\_\_\_\_ all others. When God speaks, no one can \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Without His \_\_\_\_\_ no one has any authority. He has all authority because He is our Maker, our Creator. He gave us life and provides every \_\_\_\_\_ that we enjoy. As our Maker He has every \_\_\_\_\_ to have complete control over our lives and our souls.

God gave all authority to Jesus Christ. John 3:35 says, "The Father \_\_\_\_\_ the Son and has given all things into his hand." The authority of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ be removed, edited, or annulled. No one can overrule the Lord Jesus. He is our Creator; He is "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16). In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All authority in \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_ has been given to me." **Read what Paul said in Ephesians 1:20-23.** Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ head of His church, and there can be no other.

People can ignore and rebel against the Lord Jesus in the present, but the time will come when no one can \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. **Read Philippians 2:9-11.** Regardless of what we think today, one day we will \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus, and that will be on Judgment Day (2 Corinthians 5:10). You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ this appointment; you can't \_\_\_\_\_ it, no matter who you are. Those who are right with God will \_\_\_\_\_ for the judgment, and those who are not right with God will \_\_\_\_\_ it.

The Lord Jesus, on Judgment Day, will judge us all by His \_\_\_\_\_. He said, "The one who \_\_\_\_\_ me and does not receive my words has a judge; the \_\_\_\_\_ that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (John 12:48). There is a last day, a day of reckoning and judgment, on which the Lord, the righteous judge, will \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous, but He'll \_\_\_\_\_ the unrighteous. **Read Hebrews 4:12-13.**

On the last day, the Lord will judge us by His \_\_\_\_\_ (John 12:48). According to Matthew 23:34, Jesus sent forth prophets, wise men, and scribes with His \_\_\_\_\_, with His Words. The scribes were there to \_\_\_\_\_ down the teaching of Jesus that it might be preserved for all time. At the great white throne on Judgment Day, the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ what the Holy Spirit moved men to write in the Scriptures. We will be judged by what is written in God's \_\_\_\_\_. **Read Revelation 20:12.** What the Lord said in the first century, His words, will \_\_\_\_\_ us on the last day. God will have the \_\_\_\_\_ word on every spiritual and moral matter. Only God will \_\_\_\_\_ what is right and wrong, and He will judge us by His written words, found in the books.

We won't be judged by what people \_\_\_\_\_, by oral traditions of the early church fathers, by opinion \_\_\_\_\_, by the councils or the ancient creeds of men, or by some man-made document. The last and final words that judge our souls and decide our \_\_\_\_\_ destiny are the same words that Jesus spoke in the first century. We will be judged by the words of Jesus found in the New Testament that the scribes \_\_\_\_\_ down. For this reason we need to know what the \_\_\_\_\_ says, don't we?

Wouldn't it be sad to \_\_\_\_\_ judgment and not know what God said, or not know about the \_\_\_\_\_ of God? Wouldn't it be sad to face judgment and never know the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ that could have saved us and given us eternal life? **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 9:25-26.** If the Lord Jesus has the \_\_\_\_\_ say about your soul and your destiny, shouldn't you focus your attention on Him? If His words are going to judge you on the last day, what advantage would you have by being ashamed of what He \_\_\_\_\_?

Some think challenging the authority of God in large matters is rebellious, but we shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ to challenge the Lord in smaller things. The Lord Jesus wants us to "observe \_\_\_\_\_

that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). **Read what James argued in James 2:10-12.** We can’t pick and choose which commandments of God \_\_\_\_\_ and which don’t. We’re not \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s commandments; God’s commandments are judges of us!

**Read how Martin Luther understood this and recognized that every commandment of God mattered.**

Some think the Bible is too \_\_\_\_\_ or too \_\_\_\_\_ or needs changing. Some politicians think Christians ought to \_\_\_\_\_ our religion to permit their political agendas. But there is no changing of the Bible. What it said when it was written is what it will say on the \_\_\_\_\_ day! The Lord Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my \_\_\_\_\_ will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). It’s foolish to think that we can \_\_\_\_\_ out God’s moral law or \_\_\_\_\_ His doctrine. **Read what Paul said about the one gospel in Galatians 1:8-9.** God will not permit anyone to change what He’s taught; and our task is to \_\_\_\_\_ in the words Jesus spoke.

**Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23.** It’s not talking religion or doing religious things that make us \_\_\_\_\_ with God. A true Christian is one that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the will of the Father who is in heaven.

The many people who said, “Lord, Lord,” truly \_\_\_\_\_ they were right with God. When He rejected them, they \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. They thought they were \_\_\_\_\_ in His name. You can imagine how \_\_\_\_\_ they were to find out that they were rejected and lost. These were religious people who talked and acted like good, religious people; but Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to let them enter heaven because they did not follow God’s teaching. They were lawless and ignored what God \_\_\_\_\_. They did what they \_\_\_\_\_ and taught what they \_\_\_\_\_. They followed what they thought was popular; but they didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ the will of God. They were never \_\_\_\_\_ with God to begin with. They were \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_! They were \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_. Lawless people are not interested in \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord by keeping His commandments; they’re interested in their own ways.

What about you? How do you \_\_\_\_\_ up with the written word of God? Even if you think you’re \_\_\_\_\_ than somebody else, how do you measure up with the Scriptures, with the authentic, true, genuine teaching of Jesus? We might justify ourselves, but will \_\_\_\_\_ justify us? **Read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:4-5.** The Pharisees thought they were righteous, but stood condemned! They \_\_\_\_\_ many oral traditions to the Law of God. When people change the gospel or any of God’s instructions to the church, they too will find themselves at \_\_\_\_\_ with God. They may \_\_\_\_\_ they’re right with God, but find that they’re really in spiritual jeopardy.

Why does all this matter? It's simple and clear: when people challenge God by disobeying His commandments, they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. When they \_\_\_\_\_ God, they enjoy His \_\_\_\_\_. God told a rebellious Israel, "Come now, let's reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. And if you're willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 1:18-20). This principle, from Isaiah's words, is still \_\_\_\_\_. You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ in rebellion to God and expect God to \_\_\_\_\_ you eternally. You cannot ignore or rewrite His \_\_\_\_\_ to suit yourself and imagine that God approves of it. God's Word is settled in heaven; it's God's \_\_\_\_\_ authority and cannot be broken or undone. Isn't it better to obey the Lord than to \_\_\_\_\_ that you can do what you want and everything is okay? Obey the Lord!

God is the Creator, and we are the created. Occasionally people contradict God's Word and say, "I don't believe ... (then they'll mention some sinful behavior)... I don't believe that's wrong." They're expressing their \_\_\_\_\_. But in matters spiritual and moral, people's \_\_\_\_\_ aren't the final authority. We will be judged by what God has \_\_\_\_\_ in His books. What God has said matters. So we ask, "What \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures?" Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one \_\_\_\_\_, that will he also \_\_\_\_\_. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." You are indeed \_\_\_\_\_ for your actions, your words, your thoughts, and your choices. God will have the \_\_\_\_\_ say and really the \_\_\_\_\_ say about matters of right and wrong.

If you love God, you want to \_\_\_\_\_ His commandments. You want to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. You'll pay attention to God's Words so you know the \_\_\_\_\_. You would rather follow God's truth, even if it's difficult and unpopular, and go to \_\_\_\_\_ than to join the world in sin and lose your \_\_\_\_\_. It's better to \_\_\_\_\_ out God's will from the Scriptures than presume what somebody thinks is so. Respecting God means being careful and diligent to \_\_\_\_\_ His Words.

To become a Christian, put your \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins, \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ. What Peter told the people at Pentecost is what we need to \_\_\_\_\_. He said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Why not do what God says today to become a Christian. Don't assume that you're saved; be sure of it by hearing what the Scripture says.