

Salvation and the Cross**Titus 3:3-7**

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

Do you know someone that needs the saving blood of Jesus Christ to _____ them? Do you need the _____ of Jesus? **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.** Our salvation is of “first importance” to _____, and it should be to us. Have you responded to the _____, and are you saved by the blood of Jesus?

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was no _____ matter. Revelation 13:8 in many versions calls Jesus the “Lamb that was _____ from the foundation (or creation) of the world.” The Lord Jesus himself _____ His suffering and death. Matthew 16:21-23 says, “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and _____ many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be _____, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to _____ Him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.’ But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your _____ on God’s interests, but man’s.’” Peter loved Jesus. He didn’t want Him to die, but Peter didn’t understand God’s _____ in sending Jesus to the cross.

Our reading today comes from Paul’s Letter to Titus 3:3-7.

Like Peter, I sometimes wonder how this suffering and cruelty and crucifixion could happen to the Son of God who was so good and so loving. I want to say, “NO, this shall never happen to you!” But God had a bigger _____ than Peter could see. I criticized Pilate for compromising with the Jews over Jesus until I remembered that I’ve compromised. I became angry at the Sanhedrin for their jealousy and hatred until I remember my _____ jealousies and ill-will. I grieved at those who hit Him and scourged Him until I remembered how _____ my sins must be. I spoke against the ones who mocked Him and wagged their heads until I remembered my own _____ words. I despised the self-righteous priests and Pharisees who thought they had overcome Jesus by sending Him to the cross until I remembered my own _____. Isaac Watts wrote in 1707, “When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gains I count but _____ and pour contempt on all my pride.”

Our society has become willing to _____ God and His teaching about sin. They easily excuse and justify even the _____ of sins. While many people play fast and loose with sin, thinking they can set aside God’s values in the Bible for worldly values, God _____. We shouldn’t expect, however, that His love means that He will _____ our sins forever, even if we tolerate them. The prophet said about God, “Your eyes are too _____ to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor” (Habakkuk 1:13).

Many have forgotten the cross and have forgotten sin. Two preachers, postmodern preachers, were discussing their evangelistic _____ on television. One was being congratulated that he did not _____ about sin any more. The assumption was that everyone knows they are in sin and

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

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

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

don't need to be _____. Then came this advice: "When a man is drowning, you don't describe the water to him. You throw him a _____!" The audience clapped their hands and cheered their _____. That sounds good, doesn't it? But sin destroys and we need a _____. Of course, the response of the postmodern preacher was for people to stand during the invitation and say a brief, salvation _____ with the preacher. They asked people to stay and say a prayer and that's all they asked. Nobody ever did that in the New Testament.

No, the process of salvation, for them, is often cast in this drowning man analogy, but analogies are often inadequate. First of all, sin in the _____ of most people isn't what it used to be. A recent Ellison Research survey showed that thirteen percent of Americans did not _____ there was any such thing as sin. Recent polls now reveal that many people no longer think a variety of sinful behaviors are even a _____ issue.

According to the Ellison report, "People under age 35 are less likely than Americans in other age groups to believe that adultery, or getting drunk, or not reporting income on taxes, or homosexual activity, pornography, and gossip are sin. At the same time, younger people are more likely than others to say using tobacco and working on the Sabbath are _____." They found that only 35 percent of Americans (who are not evangelicals) thought _____ before marriage was sinful.

A Gallup Poll last year found that 77 percent of Americans believed that the moral values of our nation are getting _____. They found more people believed wearing clothing made of animal fur was more wrong than sex between an unmarried man and woman, or having a baby outside of marriage, or homosexual relations. Clearly, many people are no longer willing to accept God's _____ of sin. While moral values change in our society, God's morals do not change. Sin takes place when people break God's _____. First John 3:4 says, "Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness." When people have no _____ for God or His teaching and do as they _____, they sin against God. They offend Him, and He takes notice.

Many folks don't think about salvation from sin because they don't know they're _____. They don't know the serious _____ of being lost. Others who don't know about Jesus don't want to _____ about salvation from sin or heaven and hell. Among those who are not aligned with any religion, as many as 32 percent say sin doesn't even _____. The Bible, however, clearly says that sin exists and points out that "all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God" (Romans 3:23). First John 1:8 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the _____ is not in us." Then verse 10 says, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him (Jesus) a _____ and His word is not in us." Sin is real; and without the forgiveness found in the blood of Jesus, sinners will bear the consequences of their sin.

A LifeWay study in 2016 found that 65 percent of Americans said that everyone sins a little, but most people are _____ by nature. A great number of people recognize they sin but don't _____ sin a big deal. They don't believe a few sins will cause them to be _____. The Word of God says, "For the wages of sin is _____, but the free gift of God is eternal _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Sin is a big deal to God, even if it's not to us. Why? Sin's a big deal because sin is an _____ to God. The offended see things differently than the

offender. The one hurt sees things differently than the one who caused the hurt. The one who breaks the law sees things differently than the One who made the law.

Sin is real and devastating to our _____, and we will never understand the magnitude of God's grace or salvation until we see the terrible effects of sin on our souls. Jesus didn't go to the cross for _____ reasons. He suffered because sin _____ everything good. Adam and Eve's sin caused the ground to be cursed. Before their sin, they lived in a paradise and could have lived forever in communion with God. But, afterward, they brought pain and suffering into the world. "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have _____ from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In _____ you will eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the _____ of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:17-19). We _____ today because sin came into the world. It is a big deal.

The desire to sin leaves us doing many things that harm ourselves and harm _____. We all face these problems, but there is a solution in the grace of God! **Read the text again, Titus 3:3-7.**

Because of Jesus on the cross paying the _____ for our sins, a door of salvation has been opened to cleanse us from sin and to give us new birth in Christ. This new birth takes place when we put our _____ in Christ, turn from that sin, and are _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptism takes us to the cross so that we can be _____.

God's Word says, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His _____? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in _____ of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be _____ to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin" (Romans 6:3-7).

In baptism, we _____ with Christ in His death and resurrection. We're baptized into His death; we're crucified with Him in baptism. We're _____ with Him and _____ with Him in baptism. Just as Christ had new life when God raised Him from the dead, so God _____ us newness of life when He raises us up with Christ. Baptism is no empty _____; it is how God chose to unite us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. God works through the cross and through baptism to put the old man of sin to death so that we may be _____ to live in righteousness. God saves us and gives us newness of life by the _____ of regeneration. The washing that regenerates is baptism!

God actively _____ on us by uniting us with Christ in His death and resurrection. Colossians 2:12-13 explains, "having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the _____ of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were _____ in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you _____

together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.” Baptism is not some meritorious work on our part; it’s how we put our _____ in the working of God. Because God raised up Jesus after His death on the cross, we _____ God to bury and raise us up with Christ in baptism. God buries us with Christ and makes us alive together with Him, having _____ us all our transgressions. Though we were dead in our transgressions and sins, He made us alive. He _____ us and raised us up to walk a new life just as He did Jesus Christ.

One day we’ll stand before the great white throne to be _____ by the Lord Jesus Christ. Revelation 20:11-12 says, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were _____ from the things which were written in the books, according to their _____.” Everyone will be there from every nation from every century. We cannot _____ because there’s no place we can go.

The righteous will enter the _____ of God, while the unbelievers and disobedient will be _____ from God and His blessing. Salvation means living _____ God’s blessing forever; being lost means an eternity of anguish _____ God. Being with God is so much _____ than being without Him. I wouldn’t want anyone to _____ the opportunity to have their sins forgiven. Come to the cross; find forgiveness and find life. That’s what we all _____ to do. Some young people came to a wise older man and asked, “When should we _____?” The older man answered, “Repent the day before you _____.” The young people asked, “But we don’t know _____ we will die!” The older man responded, “Then repent _____!” If you take God and your sin seriously, then repent. You know you can _____ sin and act like it doesn’t matter, but one day you’ll have to face God and give an _____ for your sins. Romans 14:12 says, “So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.” First Corinthians 6:9 simply says, “the unrighteous will not _____ the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived.” How often people _____ themselves and they lie to themselves saying, “Oh I can do anything I want to do and it won’t make any difference.” My friend, it does to God and one day you’ll have to face God.

Hebrews 4:12-13 reminds us, “For the _____ of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to _____ the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature _____ from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” God will judge us all one day. Christ is the only one who is _____ to save you. Why would you ignore the most important decision that you’ll ever make?

Today, is the best day to _____ that old man of sin behind and to _____ Christ to a new life of righteousness, freed from the devastating effects of sin. The blood of Christ can cleanse your soul and cleanse your conscience. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus in Acts 22:16, “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ, and the time when the blood of Jesus cleanses you from sin. Oh, respond to Jesus today!