

Where Could I Go?

When life falls _____ and you have to pick up the pieces, where do you go? Today, we're exploring our need to _____ to the Lord. The apostle Paul wrote, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the LORD, or who became his counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:33-36). Since God's wisdom and knowledge is far _____ than our own, we'd be wise to listen to Him and go to Him.

I suspect that all of us at some time have fallen _____ to a scam, listened to a false report, or believed a lie because we _____ the wrong person. You might think this isn't important, but the Lord Jesus said that the devil "is a _____ and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Paul remarked that "Satan disguises himself as an angel of _____" (2 Corinthians 11:14). Trusting in the devil's lies will cost you your soul.

Some years back my friend had a _____ problem that led his soul to be troubled. Where could he go? Another friend worried greatly about his _____, worrying whether not he was old enough to know what he was doing when he became a Christian. There was a husband who was having trouble getting along with his wife. There was an _____ woman who wondered how she could forgive her abuser. Then there's a guilty sinner who wondered how he could _____ himself. A Christian facing a great dilemma was looking for a solution that didn't involve sin. Where could they go to find the _____ to their spiritual needs?

Our reading today comes from The Gospel of John 6:66-69.

When people face a serious problem and become desperate they often reach out to _____ solution they think will work. Sadly, people have many devices and sometimes think they can find answers on their _____. Solomon wrote, "Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they've _____ out many devices" (Ecclesiastes 7:29). People put their trust sometimes in the things that are _____. Some love the wrong things _____ than they love the wisdom of God and find all their pursuits worthless.

The book of Ecclesiastes speaks of Solomon's _____ to find satisfaction in life. He explored human wisdom, pleasure, possessions, entertainment, wives and concubines, madness and folly. He said, "All that my _____ desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any _____, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. And thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no _____ under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). Later he noted, "So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind" (verse 17).

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

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Perhaps you've felt like Solomon. Life didn't provide for you the satisfaction that you _____. You consider your achievements and wonder what _____ did they bring. You look inside your heart and soul and _____ emptiness, futility, and a striving after wind. You may wonder what can you do, where can you go to find contentment. If you let your passions _____ your life, you'll never achieve enough or get enough.

I've heard people say, "You know if I had lots of _____, I could be happy"; but you probably wouldn't. Some think, "If I had.... (and you fill in the blank), I could be content"; but you probably wouldn't. Some think if they could fulfill their _____, they'd be happy; but those who seem to be the most successful often are the most miserable. Success, money, and fame often bring great _____ and problems. There are things money cannot _____. Money cannot buy love, cannot buy time, cannot buy peace, cannot buy forgiveness, cannot buy manners, cannot buy true friends, and cannot buy God's grace (which is a gift).

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12 says, "He who loves money will not be _____ with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what's the advantage to their owners except to look on? The sleep of the working man is _____, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep." Many people have an abundance, but not contentment.

When a man came to Him and asked Jesus to _____ his inheritance with his brother, the Lord Jesus said, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of _____; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a _____ man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I'll tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many _____ laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your _____ is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, but is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:16-21).

Abundant life, true contentment, can be yours when you become rich toward God rather than becoming rich only with the _____ things of this world! You don't know when the God of heaven may say to you, "This very night your soul is required of you." All the things you thought were important, all the things you've accumulated, all the success you've achieved, all the money in your bank account won't mean as much as whether you soul was _____ with the living God. The Lord Jesus said, "For what will it _____ a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

The apostle Paul found his contentment in Jesus Christ. He said, "for I've _____ to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I've learned the _____ of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13). Paul had enough of God in his heart that his circumstances could not _____ his happiness and contentment. Proverbs 3:5-8 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your _____, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be _____ in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your

bones.” You may regret many things in your life, but you’ll never regret following the Lord Jesus with all your heart. Many people are miserable because they sometimes follow the Lord and then sometimes follow the world. They seem like Solomon to try everything but fully give themselves to God, they want everything else but not Him, and they want to find joy, they want to find contentment, but they end up being disappointed and saying, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”

Psalm 118:8 says, “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in _____.” Some people think the popular advice “oh, follow your heart” is the _____ way, but they realize that their hearts may not lead them to what’s truly best. People can deceive themselves into believing what they _____ to believe. Their hearts may cause them to make horrible decisions that bring them a lot of misery. **Read Jeremiah 17:9-10 quoting what God said.** If the Lord were listening to your justification and looking into your heart, would He be pleased with what you’re thinking?

You’ve probably seen people spin the _____ in order to justify their ways. “One time won’t hurt.” “I can quit anytime!” “No one’s perfect!” “Why, God is too good to condemn anyone.” “Love makes our sins okay.” I’m amazed how _____ people will go and contradict what God has declared! They think they can _____ things. They say sin really isn’t sin or sin isn’t any big deal. Our culture seems to think because they have turned God’s _____ upside down, that God won’t mind and will still bless them.

Read Psalm 50:16-21. God isn’t naïve or blind. “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping _____ on the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3). We can’t _____ from God or presume that God doesn’t care or notice.

The rebellious spirit of this generation isn’t _____; we can’t ignore biblical history. Other generations thought they could set God’s ways and God’s morals aside and do as they _____. They thought they could get away with changing God’s laws and God’s morals and make their _____ rules. Our culture thinks we’re no longer accountable to God. They presume they can make their own rules, and God won’t _____. They will one day have a _____ awakening. Folks talk about being “woke”; but the real awakening will come when we all stand before Jesus Christ on Judgment Day! Isaiah 5:20 says, “Woe to those who _____ evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are _____ in their own eyes, And clever in their own sight!”

Wouldn’t you hate to hear your Creator and Judge pronounce a “_____” upon you? Wouldn’t you hate to hear Matthew 7:21-23 where the Lord said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the _____ of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; _____ from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’” If you seek the Lord’s blessing, then _____ the will of the Father rather than practice lawlessness. Ignoring and dismissing, or rewriting God’s laws, is lawlessness, and the kind of lawlessness that Jesus will never _____!

You don’t have to _____ to popular thinking. You can find the contentment and joy that you’re looking for by following the Lord Jesus and doing the _____ of the Father. If you want to find life, Jesus came to give us an abundant life and eternal life. In Christ we have _____ spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). If you want to find true love, turn to the love of God. If you want

the spiritual truth that matters to your soul in eternity, turn to the Word of God! Jesus is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

People search the world trying to “find themselves” and forget God made them. Revelation 4:11 says “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” God created you to seek and find Him. **Read Isaiah 55:6-9.**

Seeking the Lord matters. Throughout Scripture God distinguishes those who _____ Him from those who go their _____ way. Psalm 119:118 says about God, “You spurn all who go _____ from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain.” God’s ways are righteous and good; they _____ to eternal life. The ways of the world will only lead you to confusion, chaos, and misery. Won’t you seek the Lord?

The Lord Jesus calls us, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you _____. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). We need hearts that say, “Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will _____ it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole _____” (Psalm 119:33-34). We should follow the Lord’s teaching carefully and lovingly.

Love moves us to _____ with God’s instructions. This means paying close attention and carefully _____ God’s Word. We must not only seek the Lord, we must fully _____ ourselves to Him. Whatever He says, we _____. Whatever He instructs, we will _____. Whatever example He sets, we’ll _____. The Lord Jesus is worthy of our trust and commitment. No one can bless you with eternal life but Jesus; there’s no place else to go.

The Lord Jesus did not leave us ignorant about His marvelous grace and the need to trust and to obey Him. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you will not argue with Him or correct Him. Faith and love will lead to repentance, giving up our sinful thoughts and behaviors. Faith and love will lead us to confess our faith in Jesus Christ. Faith and love will lead us to be baptized into Christ, immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins, just as Acts 2:38 teaches. Faith and love will lead us to remain faithful and committed to worshiping and serving for the rest of our lives. Will you believe and serve the Lord?