You Can Have Eternal Life

Many worry they can _______ live the Christian life and have eternal life in heaven. Today, our message is this: you _______ come to Christ and have eternal life. The Lord’s Way is not only the way to heaven, not only the right way, it’s the _______ way to live. God will _______ us with an abundant life when we follow Him. He’s made His way available to every person through the ___________. His grace is _______ to all.

Hope is to the _____ what breath is to the body. You simply can’t live without hope. Many years ago, while knocking doors seeking people to study the Bible with me, I met a woman who believed that God would not ______ any of her prayers. “They don’t go _______ the ceiling,” she said. “God just doesn’t _______ about me and isn’t interested in me. Do you think there is _______ hope for me?” I told her there was hope for her then, and I’m saying to you there’s hope for _______ now. You can ______ God and you can go to heaven! That’s the greatest _______ you or I will ever hear. There is hope!

G. K. Chesterton said, “There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as the expectation of something ________ tomorrow.” We all _______ in hope. Life here on this earth may be good, but it’s not _______. We wish for something better, something purer, kinder, stronger, and more _________. Man is desperate for something better for many ________,. We live in an imperfect world and know one day we’re going to _______. This imperfect world is filled with sin, disease, ignorance, poverty, and prejudice. We all _______ for peace and love and security! We hope life will be better than what we have _______. We want an abundant, eternal life with God!

Our reading today comes from Peter’s first letter, chapter 1, verses 17 through 21.

Job asked the question “If a man dies, will he live ________?” (Job 14:14). Is there anything ________ this life? Is heaven ________? Is there any hope that life beyond this life will be _______ better than what we already know? The answer is yes, a thousand times yes! God’s plan for us all is to _______ us richly. Jesus died on the cross so that you could go to _________! He lived His life on this earth so that you might know _________ to live the very best kind of life, free from the destructive things that arise from _________. Everything about Jesus Christ breathes hope and life and good and love. The _______ of Christianity is found in the hope that it brings.

The problem for many is not whether God is willing to ________ them but whether they can live the life of a Christian. More than a few times, I’ve met people who believed they could never live up to Christian ___________. They believe their past is so _______ that they have no hope of salvation. If that’s not enough, some churches teach the ________ idea that God arbitrarily selects those He wants to save and He rejects all others. They actually teach that no one can _________ his eternal destiny; that God has already ________ who is saved and who is lost. If that’s the case, why did Jesus ________ to this earth preaching repentance? Why did He _________ to all?

Jesus Himself said, “For God so _______ the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have _________ life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be _______ through Him” John 3:16-17). This

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.
passage has a “whoever” in it. Whoever believes can have eternal life. Jesus came to save not to ________. The reason Jesus commanded his disciples to preach the gospel to all is because God wants all people to be ________. They can be saved if they’re ________ to come to Him penitently in faith and obey the gospel! There is hope for every person, everyone!

The Hebrew writer said, “But we do _____ Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death, and how He was crowned with glory and honor, so that by the ______ of God He might taste death for everyone” Hebrews 2:9). Jesus died for every single individual, every man, every woman, every boy, and every girl. The idea that Jesus died for some but not for others ______ what the Scriptures say and it ______ what Jesus did on the cross. The apostle John, in 1 John 2:1-2, agrees with the Hebrew writer. He states in very clear terms that Jesus died for ______ person in the world. “My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you may not ______. And if anyone sins, we have an ________ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the ______ world.” The word “propitiation” refers to Jesus as our “atonigh ________.” His death on the cross atoned for our sins. God __________ Jesus for your sins. Jesus took the punishment that was _____ to you and me for the evil things that we’ve done. We didn’t have to _____ an unwilling God to provide the way of salvation. God, in his grace and love, gives us ______ from sin through the blood of Jesus.

Jesus’ death came at a very high ______ for the Father and for Jesus himself. One can only imagine the ______ in the heart of the Father to watch his Son Jesus die cruelly upon the cross. The Father observed every ______ thing done to His Son. He was ______ when Jesus was beaten and mocked. He heard the slander and the way they laughed at an ________ Jesus. He heard the ______ shout “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” He was there when Jesus was scourged. He ______ the wagging heads and the nails pierce his hands and feet. He watched as they suspended Jesus between heaven and earth on the cross. He watched as they gambled over his clothes.

God ______ Jesus’ cry, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” The Father did not ______ His Son but put the punishment upon this perfect sacrifice. Paul said, “He made Him who knew _____ sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might ______ the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus died so that _____ could become righteous. He was innocent, and we are ______. But God put your sins and mine on that righteous One, so that we might ______ our guilt and become righteous. Such ______ is far beyond what any of us deserve or even understand. God has given us a great gift—the most precious gift—His Son.

The gift that Jesus gave was a very ________ one. He gave his ______ to a crown of thorns, his ______ to the scarring whip, his hands and feet to the nails, and his ______ to a spear. He gave up his _____ at the young age of 33, so that you could ______ forever. Jesus was nailed to a cross to _______. He would not be taken down ________. His last words were, “Father, into Your hands I ______ my _______” (Luke 23:46). God would never have sacrificed His Son Jesus if there were no ______ for you. He sacrificed his Son Jesus to give the ______ hope that you could imagine, a hope for life, for righteousness, for forgiveness, and for heaven itself with eternal life.

At this point someone says, “Well Phil, you don’t understand. I’ve been a very wicked person. I’ve done terrible things and don’t ______ to go to heaven.” Sin is a terrible thing, and none of us deserves to go to heaven for our goodness. But I would say to you, no matter what you’ve done, no matter how you’ve lived, and no matter how you feel about yourself, “God ______ loves you and sent His Son to die for your sins too. There is hope for every ______ who will believe in the Lord Jesus.
and come to Him penitently and obediently. The blood of Jesus is greater than ______ our sin. You can go to heaven, whoever you are.”

Paul writes to the church at Corinth a __________ that we all need to hear. This was a ________ church, when he wrote to them. Many of them came from a very sinful _______. He wrote them, however, with ________. The sins they committed were terrible, but the grace of God gave them an opportunity to ________, and gave them hope. Paul said, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will _______ inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, (none of these) will inherit the _______ of God. (Then he looked at them and said) Such were some of you” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

If this passage had stopped here there would be ________ hope to tell you about, but the passage doesn’t stop there. Even though some of these people had committed terrible ________, there’s hope for them. At this point it says, “but,” which means there is more ________ to be told: “but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the _______ of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” God washed them, sanctified them (made them holy), and justified them (declared them righteous or judged them as innocent). He did this in the name of Jesus Christ, because of the _______ of the blood of Jesus to change lives and destinies.

If the Father could _______ the penitent prodigal son, if the God of heaven could _______ wicked King Manasseh’s prayer, if God could _______ penitent David’s murder and adultery, if God could save the ________ of sinners Saul of Tarsus, God can forgive and save you. You’re not worse than they were. Jesus, the _______ of God, came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Make no mistake, both the Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus knew how sinful this ________ was and is still. They’re not naïve. While God _______ sin, God _______ you. While God hates evil, God loves the people that He created enough to send Jesus to die for those sins.

As we’ve mentioned, Paul says “For while we were _______ helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were ____ sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8). The Father and the Lord Jesus wanted to demonstrate their ________ to us. Forgiveness is not just ________ to them. They acted in love to ________ those who are helpless, ungodly and sinners. They wanted you to know their ________. They love you even when you have not loved them. Jesus paid a price for his enemies.

God’s love ought to _______ us up. God wants to _______ all of us go to heaven. He’s paid the ________ for our sins by crucifying His Son. He’s given us the ________ to tell the story that Jesus has given His life, and has built His ________, and given its members the responsibility of telling the gospel story again and again, to every person. But God’s not going to twist our arms, making us ________ to Him. He’s going to open the ________ but not force us to go through. We must decide to ________ to His love and grace by loving Him, by trusting in Him, by repenting of our sins, and by taking up our crosses to follow Jesus each day. God has made His commitment to you. Will you make a commitment to Him?

Put the Lord _______ in your life. If you _______ the hope of heaven, don’t keep the Lord at arm’s length. Many people become ashamed of themselves and rather than draw near to God in penitence and obedience act like Adam and Eve and _______ themselves from God. Then they wonder why God seems so _______ away. God has taken the first _______ in offering His Son on your behalf.
He’s holding out His hand for you to take it and come to Him in obedience to the _______. Don’t turn the Lord away. He is your hope. He is your salvation. He is your life. That’s why getting _______ to Him is so very, very important.

The Lord Jesus said, “Come unto Me, ______ ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you _______. Take My yoke upon you and _______ from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find _______ for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus _______ us to come to Him and promises us an easy yoke and a light burden. Christianity is not an impossible faith. One can live the Christian life, and in fact millions have followed Christ!

You can go to _______. You can be the Christian that you _______ to be. You can live victoriously, faithfully, lovingly, and positively _______ God and loving every minute of it! You were created to be a _______ of God who loves God! You were created in Christ Jesus for good _______ not evil. The Lord Jesus believed in you enough to _______ for your sins, so that you could become a servant of God. Don’t sell yourself short. You can, you can, you can go to heaven!

Don’t let Satan _______ you by thinking, “I can’t live the Christian life.” Satan is not interested in your going to heaven. He wants to discourage you from _______ Christ. Of course, you can become a Christian! Don’t let anyone _______ you it’s impossible. You can be God’s child with God’s _______. You can go to heaven, and you can go for an eternity! You can find all the _______ of living close to God, the hope of heaven, and the love of God in Christ Jesus, if you draw_______ to Him and obey Him as His child.

Drawing close to God begins with _______. Trust Him enough to do what He _______ of you in the Word. Trust Him enough to let go of your _______—to give them up completely and begin living as Christ _______ us. You can’t hang on to the world with one hand and try to _______ the Lord with the other. The message of Jesus to a lost and dying world is trust in Him and _______ of your sins. You cannot have access to the _______ of Christ that cleanses you until you’re united with Him in baptism. Ananias told Saul, “Arise and be baptized, and _______ away your sins, calling on His name.” (Acts 22:16).

If you wish to have newness of life, be baptized into Christ. Paul said, “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? And therefore we’ve 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 have newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4). If you want the newness of life, trust the Lord, repent of your sins, and be baptized into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

We do ask that you focus your heart on God today by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. There’s probably a church of Christ that’s in your area. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll be happy to help you find one.