



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

*Program
Study Guides*

**For
November 2020**

Citizenship as Christians**1 Peter 2:13-17**

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

When it's time to _____ government officials, should Christians get involved? Does the Bible have anything to say to the Christian _____? God reveals Himself and His will for our _____ through His written Word. The Bible tells us of God's _____ and His _____ for redeeming man. It reveals what's _____ and what's _____. God's Word reveals what will _____ us and what will _____ us. The Bible teaches us the truth, and that truth gives us _____ and purpose. The Bible is more than an ancient book; it lives and it _____ to every aspect of our lives. We need the Bible, because we need God's _____ and His guidance. That's why we study.

The founding fathers of the United States recognized God's _____ in establishing and providing for the prosperity of this country, America. George Washington, said, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible _____ which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the _____ of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential agency."

Can we suppose this nation with all its struggles has outgrown the _____ for God's help? Can we have peace and security while we reject the _____ of the Lord? Do we imagine that we can prosper while we ignore the Source of all blessings? Can we assume that we have justice while we reject the _____ of the God of all righteousness? When nations _____ the Lord and live by human standards, they deprive themselves of the blessing and the righteousness that the Lord's way provides. Pushing God out of our lives is a disastrous decision. William Penn wrote in 1681, "If you are not governed by God, you will be _____ by tyrants."

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter 2:13-17.

Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked _____, the people groan." We shouldn't imagine that all people are _____. There's an important difference between one who sets his heart to live _____ but sometimes does evil and one who sets his heart on _____ but sometimes does what is right. Wicked rulers _____ cities and nations, while righteous rulers _____ them. Wicked people are not content simply to be wicked; they want everyone else to _____ them in their wickedness. Psalm 125:3 says, "For the wicked shall not rule the godly, lest the godly be _____ to do wrong."

When wicked people rule, they open the _____ for all kinds of evil. Corrupt rulers abuse their _____ by making laws that oppress the righteous and use public funds to do things that no righteous person could approve. How can anyone who loves what is good _____ rulers who make laws promoting evil? If I believe a practice is morally wrong, I will not _____ legalizing that practice. If I believe a practice is morally wrong, I won't _____ for or use my influence to support a candidate that will do what God says is evil. If I support an ungodly candidate, I'm giving my _____ to his ungodly ways. How can I _____ God and support what is sinful? How can I _____ for righteousness and then support wickedness?

True Christians _____ to the Lord. They belong to Him in _____ aspect of their lives. It's inconceivable that a Christian citizen could vote for someone who supports a platform that contradicts the moral _____ that they hold. If we elect people who have no regard for God, we'll have to live with their ungodly decisions and ways. Tertullian encouraged the Christian minority in the pagan Roman Empire of the second century to be the "soul" of their culture. God _____ Christians today to be the soul and conscience of our culture. We can bring about moral _____ if we're willing to speak out against evil. The best way to defeat the devil is to expose his wickedness. Christians have too often retreated into silence and let evil go unchallenged.

Edmund Burke, the 18th century politician said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do _____." Many Christians have so silenced their voices that all one can _____ is the ungodly calling for more ungodliness. We are fast destroying ourselves by letting the ungodly go unchallenged. We don't speak this way out of hate for anyone but out of love for God, love for our children, and love for our neighbors. It's not bigoted to _____ for righteousness; it's not bigoted to love the truth. It's _____ to want what is right and good.

Have we forgotten God is the _____ of all nations? Every nation is accountable to Him. **Read what the Lord said in Jeremiah 18:6-10.**

The Lord has witnessed our country's ungodly disrespect for the sanctity of _____, for the sanctity of _____, and the sanctity of moral _____. Our language has become profane, and our nation is _____ with the children of unmarried parents. The more we push God and His way _____, the more empty, and hopeless, and depraved we become. God's Word still says, "Righteousness _____ a nation, but sin is a _____ to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Our national sins are disgraceful, and we have no _____. We've forgotten how to blush, and our consciences have become _____.

God's grace should _____ us to live godly and righteous lives, not remove all standards of Christian morality. Titus 2:11-12 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age." Should we not be so _____ for what Jesus did on the cross for us that we would turn from sin?

Today, our laws _____ some evil practices to fill this land. We no longer _____ the sanctity of life or the sanctity of marriage, as defined in God's Holy Word. We've replaced these with _____ values that are destined to corrupt the morality of our homes. We've made being tolerant of everything, whether it's good or evil, into some form of _____. In tolerating evil, our society has simply become more evil, and it's become more intolerant of God and what He teaches. Many have become intolerant of God's values found in the Word of God. They won't tolerate God's regard for the unborn as viable persons. God speaks of the unborn as people in Psalm 139; Jeremiah 1; and Galatians 1. Nor will they tolerate 1 Corinthians 7:2 that says every man should have his own female wife, and every woman should have her own male husband.

Many live today as they did in the days of the Judges of Israel. Judges 21:25 says, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own _____." Today, people have pushed God out of their thinking and _____ by their own standards. Believing we can live by our own rules is _____, but it's also destructive morally and spiritually. If what people think determines

right and wrong, then truth, peace, and morality are _____ in confusion.

Human _____, left to follow its own path, leads society to do unspeakably horrible things. Wicked men will find ways to _____ and justify themselves with every evil desire and every sin. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?” Some people demand the _____ to do as they please, and they don’t care who they _____. When evil men with no conscience or fear of God _____ in society, they will lead people away from hope and from righteousness.

Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems _____ to a man, but its end is the way to _____.” God’s prophet Jeremiah wrote, “I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it’s not in man who walks to _____ his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). We need God’s wisdom and guidance. People may think they’re _____ enough to choose their own way; but any path without God will inevitably end in _____. People who _____ God’s wisdom hurt themselves and they hurt their children.

God said through the prophet Hosea, “My people are destroyed for _____ of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children” (Hosea 4:6). When we turn against God, we _____ our children of the opportunity to know God, to know His holiness, and His righteousness. We leave them in spiritual _____.

The books of Kings and Chronicles in the Old Testament provide a commentary on the spiritual lives of the kings of Israel and Judah for hundreds of years. God tied the prosperity of that nation directly to the _____ of the king and the people. When the king and the people _____ God, God prospered them. When the king and the people _____ God, they brought hardships and captivity upon themselves. If we, today, push God out of our lives, how can we think God will _____ us? How can we imagine that God will _____ us?

Character and devotion to God matter in our _____. Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, and priest of Midian, gave Moses some valuable _____. Moses was wearing himself out with his duties and needed _____ to govern the people. Jethro instructed him to “look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens” (Exodus 18:21). Jethro knew that Moses would need men of good _____ to govern the people. These men had to be people that _____ would respect and follow. They must “fear God.” Fearing God meant that they took God and His laws _____. They drew their _____ of right and wrong from God, not from opinion polls. These men of integrity refused to be bought with bribes. Moses needed such men to help him _____ the people justly and honestly. We still need capable officials today who _____ God and have integrity.

Proverbs 25:19 says, “Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of _____.” We’ve all been disappointed by _____ officials who’ve brought shame to our cities, states, and nation. You can’t count on a man of _____ character. A man who shows low character in _____ will have low character in _____. The Lord Jesus said, “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much” (Luke 16:10).

Some say a godly man or a Christian should never serve in the government. Joseph served as second

to Pharaoh, and David served as King of Israel. God used Moses to lead His people out of bondage and to build a new nation. The Ten Commandments are both religious and social laws on which the nation of Israel was founded. Ezra was a Jew in the Persian government and Nehemiah served as an authority for the king to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Daniel as a ruler over the whole province of Babylon and a chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel also served as a commissioner to King Darius for all of Persia. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius were pagan kings, but Daniel lived a righteous life and was respected for his faith. Queen Esther laid her life on the line to influence King Ahasuerus of Persia, who reigned from India to Ethiopia. Paul mentions Erastus, the city treasurer of Corinth, in Romans 16:23. Godly people through the years have served as public officials.

The Old Testament prophets called nations and cities to _____ of their wickedness. When people refused God and abused their fellow-citizens, God noticed and He _____ the wicked. God said through Amos, “But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24). Oh, we need to turn away from evil and turn to righteousness!

Why does all this matter? When people _____ and support the wicked, they’re actually taking a stand against God. Second Chronicles 18 tells how a good king, Jehoshaphat, made an alliance with a wicked king, Ahab, in fighting an enemy. God sent a prophet who said, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?” (2 Chronicles 19:2).

If I vote and support an evil person who won’t stand against sin, haven’t I also said by my _____ that I won’t stand against sin? If I don’t cast my _____ for god-fearing people, wicked ones will take office. My failure to vote for what is right may _____ a wicked person to rule. “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do _____.”

Some Christians don’t vote because they believe their vote won’t make any _____. But, in 1839, one vote elected Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts. In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment. In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States. In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler the leadership of the Nazi party. I tell you, one vote _____ matter greatly. We must exercise our privileges wisely to _____ what is right and good. We must let our lights shine through wise and godly _____. We have the privilege to choose godly leaders. Let’s use that privilege.

Christians are first and foremost _____ of heaven. We owe our allegiance to the Lord Jesus. Philippians 3:20-21 says, “But our citizenship is in _____, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” Citizenship in heaven is a privilege and a blessing; we must not take it _____. The best decision that you’ll ever make is to follow Jesus Christ. Do it today!

To become a citizen of heaven, _____ in Jesus Christ with all your heart. Repent of your sins; you can’t _____ with God and the devil at the same time. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Confession is a public declaration of your decision to _____ Jesus. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your _____. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in _____. It’s the time that we have our sins _____ away and become a Christian. When we’re baptized, the Lord adds us to His _____; He makes us His child. Everyone needs to be a citizen of heaven. Don’t wait another day! Come to the Lord!



Why I am a Member

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

People ask, “Why are you asking us to be members of the church of Christ?” I would like to give you five reasons that matter!

First, I’m a member because Jesus loves the church and died for it. His _____ should shape our attitudes. (Ephesians 5:25–30)

The New Testament describes the church as God’s _____ (1 Timothy 3:15). Jesus regards the church as His _____.

Second, I’m a member of the church of Christ, because Jesus is my _____ and I serve Him. Only Jesus has the words of _____. The only way to the Father, to heaven, is through Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12 says, “And there is _____ in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

According to Matthew 7:24 a wise person is one who hears His words and does _____. The foolish person hears His words but does not do _____. Jesus asked, “Why do you call Me, ‘_____, _____’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Jesus obeyed His Father out of love and wants us to obey out of love too! “If you keep My commandments, you will _____ in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and _____ in His love” (John 15:10).

This is why in churches of Christ we _____ penitent believers for the forgiveness of their sins rather than sprinkle infants who don’t know what’s happening.

Third, I’m a member because the Lord adds the _____ to His church (Acts 2:41, 47). The phrase “_____” is a reference to the “church.” We need the strength of each other’s faith to keep us spiritually _____. We also need each other when we fail (Galatians 6:1–2). 1 Peter 2:9–10 describes who we are as Christians and _____ of the church.

Fourth, I’m a member because being “in Christ” means being in His _____, the church (Galatians 3:26–27). The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of _____ and the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

What is this birth of water and spirit? It's _____. What is the kingdom of God? It's the _____, the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). We know the body of Christ is the _____, because the apostle Paul said so in Ephesians 1:22–23.

If I'm not in the church, I'm not "in _____." If I'm not "in Christ," I have no _____ and no hope (Ephesians 2:12). According to Ephesians 2:1, outside of Christ we are _____ in our trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:19 describes what it means to be "_____ Christ."

Fifth, I'm a member of the church of Christ, because membership means being a _____ of heaven (Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Peter 1:3–5). The way to heaven is through Jesus and His _____!

The grace of God matters! I wouldn't want to live _____ day outside the grace of God, not one hour, not one minute, and not even one second without the promises of God! I wish everyone was a member of the church Jesus built. Please don't think you can _____ the Lord Jesus and at the same time reject His church. You can't have one without the other. To enter the Lord's church, the Lord must _____ you. He will add you when you place your trust in Him and firmly believe in Him and His teaching. Believing the gospel means believing in His death on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection. It means believing you are accountable to Him and that He will one day come again from heaven to judge the world. Your faith in Christ means you must change your heart to turn away from sin and turn to righteousness; that is _____. It means you'll have to deny yourself so you can take up your cross daily to follow Jesus.

When faith, love, and repentance unite, it will move you to _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God and to be _____ into Christ. When you are baptized the Lord will wash away your sins, cause you to be born again, and add you to His church. You will enter the kingdom of heaven and clothe yourself with Christ. God will consider you as one of His children. Baptism is the time God acts upon you and makes you one of His own. I hope and pray you will be baptized and become a member of the church today.



Meant for Good

Heartaches come to _____ of us, and we wonder how God fits in all this. God is just and His purpose is good, even when we don't understand _____. Today we're exploring how God uses our heartaches for _____. The Scriptures tell us all that we _____ to know to be saved and to live righteously. They reveal God's grace and love, how God watches over us and helps us _____ the struggles and disappointments of life. God is good and He will not put more on us than we can _____. God often uses things we consider _____ to bring about _____. Even when we don't understand, we can _____ God.

When Joseph was just seventeen years old, his father _____ him more than his brothers and made him a coat of many colors. Joseph made a bad report about his brothers, and his brothers _____ him and couldn't speak peaceably to him. God revealed to Joseph some miraculous _____ that showed Joseph in an exalted position and his brothers and parents bowing down to him. These dreams led his brothers to hate Joseph even _____. They wanted to _____ Joseph; but due to Reuben's interference the brothers sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Joseph served Potiphar until Potiphar's scheming wife _____ charged him with trying to rape her. Potiphar punished Joseph by placing him in Pharaoh's _____. The hand of the Lord was always with Joseph, and God put him next to Pharaoh in order to save Israel during the famine. Even in the harshest times, God never forsook Joseph.

When their father Jacob died the brothers _____ Joseph might take vengeance on them. But Joseph spoke _____ to his brothers. He explained, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to _____ many people alive" (Genesis 50:20). What the brothers meant for evil, God meant for good. God works His good _____, even when men are at their worst.

Our reading today comes from one of the most beloved Psalms of all time, Psalm 23.

Evil and painful things happen to all of us, and we don't always know the _____ why. Why do the young die? Why are there earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes? Why do the evil men rule over nations? If God is completely good and all powerful, why does He _____ suffering? Is there some reason _____ all these bad things happen? It's not what we know that causes us the greatest _____; it's what we don't know.

God sees what we cannot see and He knows what we cannot know. Some things He _____ in His Word, but other things are secret. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may _____ all the words of this law." God reveals what is good for us and what we need in order to do His will, but He doesn't _____ everything to us.

Just because we don't know God's _____ for allowing some hurtful event doesn't mean that there isn't one. We're limited in knowledge, but we may understand many things in the _____ that we can't see in the _____. For instance, we didn't understand much of what took place in our childhood _____ we became parents and had children of our own. Our parents didn't explain

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

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

everything. We couldn't understand everything, even if they had explained. Later in life we _____ that our strict, rule-making parents loved and cared for us far more than we imagined. We can comprehend many things today that we couldn't explain earlier. Loving parents discipline their children because they can see what their children can't see. So it is with God.

Hebrews 12:10-11 says of our earthly parents, "For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed _____ to them, but he [that is, God] disciplines us for our _____, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems _____ rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful _____ of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." We can see that later in life, when the discipline we received early in life became a great _____ for us, but not until later. Because they disciplined us, we learned to discipline ourselves.

When God disciplines us we should _____ it positively and not negatively. Hebrews 12:5-7 says, "'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by him; for those whom the lord _____ he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives.' It is for discipline that you _____; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" God doesn't discipline us because He's evil or wants to hurt us; He disciplines us to strengthen our character so we might endure.

God can see down the road much farther than we can, and He often allows today's struggles to happen in order to _____ us for the future. David faced a lion and a bear _____ he faced Goliath. Joseph managed a household and a prison _____ he managed Egypt. The _____ that you face today may be preparing you for some greater task tomorrow. Paul confidently told the Philippians in chapter 1, verse 6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a _____ work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." God is indeed working in our lives and through our lives to bring to completion what He wills.

Paul later urges the church, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good _____" (Philippians 2:12-13). Whatever God does, He does to bring about what is good and right. When we serve God's good pleasure, we know that it _____ to our eternal good.

Not everything that happens to us is _____. We've all had our heartaches and disappointments. We've all faced callous people who unjustly abused us. God has this amazing ability to _____ what is painful at one point in our lives into something that _____ us at another point. The apostle Paul endured as much abuse as any Christian in ancient times, but never once does he engage in a pity party or entertain the notion that God doesn't _____ him. Paul said, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who _____ God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Paul spoke this at a time when he knew many Christians would suffer and Rome would bring charges against the church.

God causes all things, good and bad, to _____ together for good. God uses even our heartaches to _____ some good blessing. We may not know what or how or when, but we know _____ can cause good. We know this by _____, because we know the God who makes the promise keeps the promise. Paul denied that their suffering separated them from the love or the blessing of God. Paul said, "Who will _____ us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we're being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' But in all these

things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who _____ us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be _____ to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

Far from separating us from the love of God, suffering may _____ us to a greater love for God. Paul gives us a little insight into _____ God uses our struggles and heartaches to bless us. “Not only that, but we _____ in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s _____ has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5). Christian suffering produces the ability to endure, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Suffering is the means by which we _____ in our faith and love for God. Suffering may not be pleasant, but it is for our eternal good. It provides a necessary _____ ground to build us up.

First Peter 5:8-10 says, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the _____ prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of _____ are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you’ve suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal _____ in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” God permits suffering, but He’s also the God of all grace who both tests and restores us.

We all face suffering, but we don’t all _____ to suffering the same way. No one likes to suffer, but _____ we react to it determines our relationship with God. Some learn love and compassion from their suffering, while others harden their hearts or become _____. We can’t always control what happens to us, but we can _____ how we will respond to what happens. James 1:2-4 says, “Consider it all _____, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in _____.” That struggle or heartache that you face may be just the _____ that matures you in Christ and equips you for greater _____. God may be blessing you through this struggle. Consider what God is doing for you and in you as something joyful. See the good.

God may be fitting you for a service to _____ the lives of many. Paul said, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and that God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the _____ of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our _____ is abundant through Christ” (2 Corinthians 1:3-5). We all need someone who has “been there” to _____ us through our struggles. Your heartache and God’s comfort may be equipping you to _____ others who’re going through the same heartache that you’re facing. You understand your heartache in ways that others don’t, and that understanding helps to comfort others in their affliction. You can let your _____ make you bitter or make you better; which will it be.

Can God be both loving and yet _____ suffering? How can a loving Father permit suffering? Many people _____ that love and suffering are mutually exclusive. That if God permits suffering, some _____ that God could not possibly love us. We have to pause here and ask, “What if that suffering demonstrates _____? What if someone chooses to suffer in order to demonstrate his love?” What if a loving person in order to achieve good for others is willing to suffer?

What if loving people are willing to sacrifice now in order to bring about something better in the future?

Suffering is not simply a _____ matter; God also knows what it means to suffer. The God who permits us to suffer also permitted His _____ to suffer. Jesus was willing to suffer the cross as a means to _____ His love. On the cross He demonstrated His love for His _____. Speaking of His death on the cross Jesus said, “so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do _____ as the Father commanded Me” (John 14:31). Jesus earnestly prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my _____, but yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus despised the shame of the cross but was willing to endure the suffering and _____ the will of the Father because He loved the Father.

God our Father loved mankind enough to sacrifice His Son Jesus, so that He could _____ for our sins. God said through the prophet, “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own _____; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall upon Him” (Isaiah 53:5-6). God sent His Son to this earth to sacrifice Himself, so that He might bear the punishment for our _____ and we might be forgiven. By His scourging we are healed. He took the chastening for our well-being.

Love acts and sacrifices out of a determination to do what is _____ for somebody else. Real _____ includes sacrifice and puts the needs of others before its own needs and desires. Far from being mutually exclusive, true love always has some _____ of sacrifice or suffering! A loving person is willing to give of himself in order to _____ the greater good for someone else. The Lord Jesus demonstrates His undeniable love for you in His death on the cross.

You may be going through a really rough _____. Please don't give up on God; don't let your heartache make you _____. There's hope for something better. The last chapter of your life hasn't yet been written, and there is a life to come. One day God will right every wrong, make good prevail, and dry every tear. God has a _____ for you in heaven, if you'll put your trust in Him and obey Him.

The apostle Paul, speaking about his troubled life wrote, “We're afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our _____” (2 Corinthians 4:8-10). He knew that whatever happened to him in this life could not take away the _____ of God in the next life. He said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth _____ with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18). We need the hope of Christ in our lives!

How do we get that hope? We get it through trusting and obeying the Lord. Believe in the Lord Jesus with all your heart, repent and forsake your sins, confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and be baptized into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ so that God may wash away your sins. When you're baptized the Lord will add you to His church and make you His child. Christ suffered greatly to bless you and to show you just how much He loves you. Show your love by serving Him.

Give Thanks

This coming Thursday, many will _____ what they're thankful for. Today, we're going to see how counting your _____ will make a difference in your life. We're here to _____ the Scriptures for God's will. Psalm 19:9 says "The judgments of the Lord are _____; they are righteous altogether." Because God is good and righteous, we can turn to His Word and be assured that it will _____ us the truths that we most need to hear and to be His people and then also to prosper. I'm thankful that God _____ us so much and blesses us every single day.

Psalm 92:1-2 says, "It is good to give _____ to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your loving kindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night." During the Thanksgiving holiday, we _____ our blessings and express our thanks to God for them. But thanks should be on our lips _____ day. We can never _____ thank you enough to family, friends, and especially to God. Thanksgiving is not just something that we do to be kind; it also _____ us. When thanksgiving becomes an integral part of your life, you'll find that your attitude and your life _____. You'll become more positive, more gracious, more loving, and more humble.

We are utterly dependent upon God who _____ us for life. He provides all our _____. The fine-tuning of our universe which allows us to breathe, to have fresh water, to have food, and to have night and day is not an _____. God made this world for our blessing. We need to _____ God for all He has done and to be thankful. The act of giving thanks leads us to _____ hearts, minds and lives. Giving thanks will also lead us to take God and His way seriously. Nothing is more important!

Our reading today comes from Psalm 100, all five verses.

God has always _____ His people to be thankful. Paul urged the church in Colossians 4:2, "Devote yourselves to _____, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving." He had already given the _____ for this; it's because of what the Lord Jesus has done. He said, "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so _____ in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" (Colossians 2:6-7). Do this and it will make your _____ brighter and better. You'll be right with God and will fill your life with _____.

The Christian life should _____ with gratitude. How do we do this? Colossians 3:15-17 says, "Let the peace of Christ _____ in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the _____ of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your _____ to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the _____ of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." Let Christ's peace be your _____, sing with thankfulness in your heart, and do everything in His name while giving thanks. These changes will lift your spirits and encourage your heart. Your focus determines your

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

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

_____ and your destiny. Hebrews 13:15 says, “Through Him [Jesus] then , let us continually offer up a _____ of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”

It takes discipline to keep focusing your _____ on God. Life is ever changing, distracting, and often _____. Our changing _____ is declining fast in morality and faith. We may even think all is _____. We can’t predict what misfortunes may lie ahead, but we can _____ on the blessings that we now enjoy with confidence. We can remember that we are victorious in _____. We can be certain that we keep His promises, for He Himself has said , “I will _____ desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

So, we must _____ God’s teaching. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 he says “pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s _____ for you in Christ Jesus.” In everything? Yes, in everything. In good times and in bad, give _____. When life is unfair, give thanks for what you have in Christ. Even if you _____ for the name of Christ, give thanks! First Peter 4:12-14 says, “Beloved, don’t be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your _____, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on _____, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are _____, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” The “here and now” isn’t everything; the Lord will _____ those who love and serve Him.

Our struggles in this life _____ us for something better, so be thankful even for struggles. James 1:2-4 counsels us, “Consider it all _____ my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your _____ produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” God is shaping and molding us for eternity, so don’t despair when you face a _____. Learn to be thankful for everything.

Why? First, when you are thankful, you’ll _____ complaining and grumbling. Throughout their journey in the wilderness, the Israelites _____ against God. God counted their grumbling as a lack of _____; First Corinthians 10 regards grumbling as a _____ as bad as idolatry or even immorality. Philippians 2:14-16 says, “Do all things without grumbling [complaining] or disputing; so that you will _____ yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as _____ in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I’ll have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.” When you complain, you take your focus off of what is _____ that the Lord has done for you, and put it on the _____.

Second, when you’re thankful, you’ll stop _____ so much. Philippians 4:4-7 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing[that is, stop worrying about anything], but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your _____ be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will _____ your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” When we rejoice in the Lord and take our burdens and cares to Him, He blesses us with _____. He’ll put a guard around our hearts and minds! The Lord truly, truly gives us an abundant life.

Start rejoicing over the things that God has _____ for you, and your life will grow more positive and joyful. Proverbs 15:30 says, “Bright eyes gladden the heart; and Good news puts fat on

the bones.” Count your blessings, and focus on the good, and _____ in Christ! Put away the _____ and focus on the good. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, _____ on these things.”

Third, when you’re thankful, you’ll become more _____ and less prideful. Remember God is the _____ of every blessing. James 1:17 says, “Every good thing given and every perfect _____ is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” This is why the Lord, in Matthew 6:11, asks us to _____ to God, “Give us this day our daily bread.” You may work a job and think it all _____ on you, but remember God is the source of every blessing.

Moses reminded the Israelites, as they were about to enter the promised land. **Read Deuteronomy 8:11-14.** Pride leads to forgetfulness. So Moses urged them in verse 18, “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may _____ His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” God is the source of _____ we possess, all we are, and all we hope to be. First Corinthians 4:7 asks some arrogant people, “For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you didn’t _____? And if you did receive it, why do you _____t as if you hadn’t received it?”

Some folks _____ on themselves, and their own abilities, and their own righteousness. When a person gives thanks to God merely for what he himself possesses within himself, he’s actually _____ about himself more than he is thanking God. The Lord Jesus contrasted the arrogant person with the person who recognizes his great _____ for God. Luke 18:11-14 says, “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to _____ [not to God, but too himself]: ‘God, I thank You that I’m not _____ other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the _____!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Gratitude to God, our great need for God, removes our _____.

Fourth, when you’re thankful, you’ll be willing to be more _____ to other people. The Lord Jesus taught us to pray, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). Giving thanks for God’s grace leads us to be willing to _____ other people. Ephesians 4:31-32 says, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all _____. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Fifth, when you’re thankful, you’ll express your _____. We’re thankful the Lord Jesus willingly and lovingly sacrificed Himself upon the _____. First John 4:19 says, “We love, because He _____ loved us.” Giving thanks _____ us keep our focus on the Lord and on what really matters. Gratitude for what Jesus did is at the _____ of our conversion. Gratitude leads us to be committed disciples who want to _____ the Lord in all that we do. We can’t look deeply at the cross and then walk away as if nothing matters. Our thankfulness will not let us.

Does the cross _____ to you? Surprisingly, some people _____ as if the cross didn’t matter. **Read Luke 17:12-16, when Jesus healed the ten lepers.**

When people fail to remember God, fail to honor Him, or thank Him, they lose _____ of the blessings of living as God's people. An ungrateful person will _____ apathetic and callous toward God. When people lose sight of God, they also lose sight of morality and _____. They don't realize that when they stop honoring God, they start honoring themselves.

Read how Romans 1:21-24 describes the pagan Gentiles.

Giving thanks matters. When you love God, you want to _____ Him with all your heart. Psalm 50:23 says, "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving _____ Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God." Truly, giving thanks comes from our hearts and _____ in our lives. Thanksgiving should lead to thanks-living. Are you thankful?

I look forward to going to heaven and seeing Jesus, my Savior and Lord. One thing I want to do is to look into His eyes and _____ to Him "Thank you, thank you for dying for me. Thank you for shedding your blood to cleanse me from all my terrible sins, thank you for loving me and allowing me to live with you forever." But I don't want to _____ until I go to heaven to express my thanks to God. I can do it _____ by getting right with Him and by worshiping Him. I don't want to miss a _____ Lord's Day, the first day of the week, without prayer and singing and praise to Him. I don't want to miss a single Lord's Day without gathering around the Lord's table to partake of the Lord's Supper, remembering the Lord's body and blood which were given for me.

The word "thankful" actually comes from an old English word "think-ful." Being thankful comes from being think-ful. When we realize how blessed we are, we should _____ to the love and goodness of God. I think how often people today want and want and want from God, but never _____ to give their praise, and their thanks, or their hearts to Him. Have you?

Are you following Jesus and are you serving the One who loves you? God's goodness leads us to repent and obey the gospel. If I love God and am thankful to Him for His grace, I'll gladly follow and obey Him. God's love makes us want to trust in Him, to repent of all our sins, to confess His name, and to be baptized into Christ. According to Romans 6:3-7, we die with Christ in baptism, we're buried with Him in baptism, and we're raised with Him to walk in newness of life in baptism. This is so true. God wants you, He wants your heart, He wants your life, and He wants your soul. So, won't you serve Him and follow Him always. Thankfulness begins when people keep the Lord Jesus in their hearts everyday and serve Him. We hope you'll not wait another day to put your Lord on in baptism.

Walking By Faith

The apostle Paul said, “We walk by faith and not by _____.” What does he mean? Today we’re going to explore what it means to look at life through the _____ of faith. Romans 10:17 says that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the _____ of Christ.” We build our faith by _____ the Bible. God’s inspired Word demonstrates His holiness, His love, and His wisdom. We know the Bible is _____ because of its prophetic nature, its scientific foreknowledge, and its Divine character. The Bible is certainly _____ in its influence, its accuracy, and its beauty. The Bible is truly God’s Holy Word.

Hebrews 11:1-2 says, “Now faith is the assurance of things _____ for, the conviction of things not _____. For by it the people of old received their commendation.” This describes the _____ of faith that God desires from us. Faith is an assurance. The word “assurance” appeared in Greek business documents with the meaning “title deed.” Faith assures us that what we will _____ is what we hope for. Faith is a conviction. It’s the conviction or proof of things not _____. When saints of old had this assurance and conviction, God commended them, He vouched for them.

God would give “testimony” that they were faithful on the day of judgment. True faith is not a _____ in the dark with the absence of evidence. True faith isn’t a _____ optimism. It’s not a manufactured “hope so” _____. We demonstrate or live or walk our faith by _____ with a conviction based on evidence. The evidence for what we know gives us a _____ to act, even when there are things that we don’t know. Because we know God and His Word, and that they’re _____, we have the assurance of what we hope for and the evidence for things not seen. What we know to be true gives us ample evidence and reason to demonstrate our faith.

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to John 20:26-29. It talks about Thomas, who had shown his doubt for Jesus that He had resurrected from the dead, and had to see for himself. Then he sees Jesus.

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, and the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

Yes, there’s a _____ for those of us who can’t see Him today, but we still believe.

God sets the standard that distinguishes those who _____ Him from those who don’t; that standard is faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it’s _____ to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Through the ages when people trusted God for their strength, He stood by them and _____ them.

Consider Abraham. Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham _____ when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not _____ where he was going.” Because Abraham believed God, He willingly obeyed even when he didn’t know where God was _____ him. Verse 11 says, “By faith Sarah herself received _____ to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.” God blessed her because of her faith.

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

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

Man thinks seeing is believing, but _____ says believing is seeing. Faith works quite simply: God speaks and we _____ His Word. We trust Him and His Word completely and _____ on it. We act even when we don't fully _____ what or why. We act even when things seem impossible or very frightening. We act even when acting is _____. We do this because we believe God will _____ what is right and what is best. We know that God will keep His _____. Faith means we trust in God's wisdom rather than our own.

Solomon said, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not _____ on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your _____. Be not _____ in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from _____. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:5-8). God expects us to respect and honor what He _____. We may imagine that we're wise and know what's best; but when acting on our own wisdom goes _____ the will of God, we end up hurting ourselves spiritually.

Let me illustrate from 2 Kings 5. The captain of the Syrian army, Naaman the leper, came to Elisha, the man of God, to be _____ of leprosy. Elisha sent a messenger who told him to go and _____ in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed. Naaman left in a _____. He explained, "Behold, I _____ that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, _____ than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" Naaman thought the prophet would make a _____ and cure the leper. He simply _____ out a messenger. Some wise _____ urged Naaman to do what the prophet urged, and Naaman did. Second Kings 5:14 says, "So he went down and he dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was _____ like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." It wasn't until Naaman trusted and _____ the prophet that his flesh was restored. We must _____ to trust the Lord and not lean on our own understanding.

Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the universe was _____ by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible." Because God only speaks the truth, we understand that God created the universe just as He _____. Because God speaks the truth, we _____ what He says. We come to understand what is true, because we _____ the One who said it. We know that He only speaks the _____. Titus 1:2 describes God as the God who _____ lies, who cannot lie. Christian faith isn't wishful thinking; it's an inner conviction _____ on the truthfulness of God.

What can we know about God? We know He _____ us. He sent Jesus to _____ for our sins, so that we could _____ with Him forever. We know that He provides for us. Paul said, "And my God will supply every _____ of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We know, thirdly, He hears our _____, because He heard them many times before. The Lord Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8). We know, fourth, that God is _____ us. God said, "I will _____ leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5). We know He'll protect us because He promised, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted _____ your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of _____, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Time and again, I've found these promises to be true.

You can trust God in the _____ moments, because God keeps His promises. Faith isn't a fair-weather friend; God's truths are still true in _____ circumstance. In his last days in prison, Paul said, "for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to _____ what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul could place His soul in the hands of the Father, knowing the Father would take _____ of Him. Someone wrote:

Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I commit my spirit into Your hands.
All I am and have I yield to You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You know what's best and what I should do, So I leave my soul within Your hands.
Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I cast all my burdens into Your hands,
All my stress and pain I give to You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You know what's best and what I should do, So I cast my cares into Your hands.
Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I cast all my sins into Your hands,
All I've said and done I bring to You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You have told me what I must do, So I cast my sins into Your hands.
Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I commit my spirit into Your hands.
My life on earth I leave for You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You have a place I'm going to, So I leave my soul within Your hands.

We can trust God's Word, because the truth found in the Bible arises from the _____ of God Himself. God is entirely reliable, completely trustworthy, and utterly honest. So, whatever God says is truly trustworthy. Whatever God commands should be _____. Whatever God promises He will fulfill. Whatever God condemns, you can believe is _____; and whatever God teaches is _____. Faith is not simply believing that God can—it's knowing that God will.

You can trust God because God is always _____. Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should _____ his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" God doesn't tease or joke, and He means what He says. We must take God seriously at all times.

You can trust God because He _____ you. Everything He says and does is for your _____ interest. First John 4:9-10 says, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might _____ through him. And in this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and _____ his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." When we go through something painful, we want a loved one around to _____ us and help us. We trust the people that we have come to know that they love us. God is _____ of our trust.

God wants us to have an _____ faith. The Lord Jesus said, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Some older versions use "believe" in both places, but the words are _____. The phrase "does not obey" actually reflects what the passage _____ in the original language.

Abraham is the "father of all who believe" and he demonstrated his faith with obedience. First, Abraham believed God when he didn't know _____ God wanted him to go. By faith Abraham lived in the land of promise and he _____ "for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

Second, Abraham and Sarah obeyed when he didn't know how God would _____ his promise. Hebrews 11:11-12 says, "By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him _____ who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

Third, Abraham obeyed when he didn't know _____ God would fulfill His promise. Hebrews 11:13-16 says, "These all _____ in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from _____, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak [such things] make it clear that they're _____ a homeland. And if they'd been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is,

they desire a _____ country, that is, a heavenly one. And therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has _____ for them a city.”

Fourth, Abraham obeyed even when he didn't know _____ God gave the commandment. Hebrews 11:17-19 says, “By faith Abraham, when he was _____, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’ He considered that God was _____ even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”

When we believe God, we _____ on our faith. That's why we're speaking about these matters. “Faith keeps the man who keeps the faith.” Faith keeps us as we keep it. We _____ by faith. We're _____ by an active faith, not a dead one. Faith, to be any good, must demonstrate itself.

The Bible says, “But prove yourselves _____ of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does” (James 1:22-25). Are you a doer? Are you somebody who shows his faith? Who shows what you are, and how you love the Lord? Do you serve Him? Do you walk by faith?

We need to possess _____ than a simple faith in the Lord; we need an obedient faith that possesses us. Many play with _____ but never give themselves to the Lord. We must make the Lord the _____ and focus of our hearts and lives. We must recognize God's Word is true and has _____ over us. Paul said, “I've been _____ with Christ. It's no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Do you have that kind of faith that leads you to die to your desires and live for the Lord? Are you crucified with Christ?

Faith will lead you to forsake your _____ and live righteously. If you believe, you'll _____ Jesus as the Christ and be _____. The Lord Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Believe and obey today.

Hebrews 3:12-14 warns Christians, “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For if we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.” Yes, you can stop believing in Christ if you allow sin to harden your heart against God. Don't be deceived by sin. Have faith; there's hope! Don't quit trusting the Lord, and don't fall away. Build up your faith and never let it go.