Program Study Guides

For

December 2021
Thy Will Be Done

At the hardest _______ of His life, the Lord Jesus said, “Thy Will Be Done.” We want to say “Thy Will Be Done” in our _______ too. We’re here to search God’s Word for the Lord’s Way to salvation and to _______ the Christian life. God’s Word always gives us the _______ that we need to know the truth and to draw close to God.

One lesson we must _______ is that God is God, and we are human. God _______ our lives, and we should live according to His will. When the Lord Jesus came into this world He ____________ He was here to do the will of His Father in heaven. We too must do His will. Every facet of our lives _______ to God our Father. Troubles and evils arise when people _______ His will. We must learn to _______ and to live a life that proclaims, “Thy will be done.”

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the Sermon on the Mount, He said, “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your king________ your kingdom come. Your will be done on _______ as it is in _________’ (Matthew 6:9-10). What if the will of God were done on earth like it is in heaven? What if people were _______ to set their sins aside and give their lives to the will of God? What if we all stopped setting our hearts on _______ and started setting our hearts on righteousness?

Struggles and problems come at the expense of people doing their _______ will and ignoring the will of the Father. The selfishness, the greed, the lust, and the arrogant pride of our time cause our lives, our homes, and our society untold _______ and ruin. We desperately _______ God’s will in our lives. “Thy will be done” is not only a prayer; it’s a _______ of life.

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to Mark 14:32-36, and Jesus is on His way to the cross, but first He goes to the Garden of Gethsemane, to spend hours in prayer.

Let’s pray together. “Heavenly Father, we pray that we may do Your will always, that whatever the cost we may be willing to give up ourselves and to follow You, to take up our cross. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”

“Thy will be done.” Jesus must have found it both difficult and yet fulfilling to _______ that the Father’s will will be done. While Jesus hated the thought of a scourging and an agonizing death, He knew that it was necessary to fulfill His _______ in life. While He hated the thought of bearing the punishment for the sins of the world, He loved the world and wanted it to be ________ from sin.

The Bible presents a number of paradoxes about the Lord on the _______. A paradox is a situation that seems to be absurd or contradictory, in yet it is in fact _______. For instance, the Bible says, “For our sake he made him [that is, Jesus] to be sin who _______ no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Or 1 Peter 2:24, which says “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [the cross], that we might _____ to sin and live to righteousness. For by his wounds you have been healed.” The holy Lord Jesus bore our sins at the cross so that we could become _______.

Hebrews 12:2 says that the Lord Jesus “for the _____ that was set before him endured the cross, despising the ______, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Yes, He despised the pain and the shame but He loved the _______ of what He did on the cross. He looked to the joy set before Him, the joy of people finding _______ in His sacrifice. He didn’t want to die, but His desire for our eternal salvation was _______ than His desire to live in the flesh. He rejoiced in the _______ not the temporary, and He was glad to do the Father’s will.

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.
Doing the Father’s will was not a ______ concept or behavior to Jesus. From the time He was born, He realized that He had ______ into this world to do the Father’s will. At age 12, Jesus was in the Temple ______ His Father’s business. Later on, when the devil tempted Him at age 30, Jesus said, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall ______ the Lord your God and him only shall you serve’” (Matthew 4:10)

In John, chapter 4, Jesus passed through Samaria. Stopping at a ______ near the town of Sychar, Jesus sent his disciples into town for some ______ while He rested. At the well Jesus had a remarkable conversation with a woman who had been married five times and was living with a man. When she learned Jesus was the Messiah, she ______ into town and told all the men of the town and the disciples returned with the food.

Then John 4:31-34 says: “Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, ____.’ But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you don’t ______ about.’ So the disciples were saying to one another, ‘No one ______ Him anything to eat, did he?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His ______.’” The Lord Jesus ______ to do the will of His Father in heaven.

In John 5:30, Jesus explained, “I can do nothing on My ______ initiative. As I ______, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not ______ My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” Jesus regarded the will of the Father as the ______ standard of right and wrong. He didn’t want to ______ from His Father’s will in any way, so He listened to the Father. He made judgments of right and wrong ______ as the will of the Father instructed. He didn’t ______ on His own initiative.

In Jesus’ heart and mind, keeping the will of the Father, was how He remained in a ______ relationship with His Father. The Lord said to His disciples on the night before He died, “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; ______ in My love. If you ______ My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have ______ My Father's commandments and abide in His love” (John 15:9-10). Abiding in the Father’s will was an ______ of love and devotion. Keeping the Lord’s commandments is ______ we demonstrate our love to the Lord and remain in His love.

First John 2:3-5 says, “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we ______ His commandments. The one who says, ‘I’ve come to know Him,’ and doesn’t keep His commandments, is a ______, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the ______ of God has truly been perfected.” Our love for God ______ us to be obedient to His will and to keep His commandments.

When Jesus was told that family was outside and had come to speak to Him, the Lord Jesus asked, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And stretching out His hand toward His ______, He said, ‘Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever ______ the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother’” (Matthew 12:48-50). Jesus claimed a close ______ to anyone who does the will of His Father in heaven, and He wants to be close to us.

On the other hand, Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount with these words, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who ______ the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will ______ 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 ______ knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

The Lord knew people would ______ to have a relationship with Him, while they lived lawlessly. They wanted the blessing of Christianity but they didn’t ______ to the will of the Father in heaven. The Lord Jesus never knew them. He never had a relationship with them. They never belonged to Him, because they lived life on their ______ lawless terms and would not ______ the will of the Father. You can’t live by your own will and expect to ______ the Lord.
You can’t draw close to God while you turn your back on what the Father ________. You obey God by obeying what He teaches, not by ________ you love Him while living the way that you desire. A person who lives in lawlessness says to the Lord, “Not Your will be done but ________.” He lives by his own ________ and ignores God’s law. He hasn’t set his______ on the Father’s will but on pleasing himself.

A person who plays by his own will ________ he is the exception. He thinks his sins aren’t as _____ as other people’s sins. He does as he ________ and presumes the Lord will still consider that as obedience. He counts on his own ________, not God’s will, to assure him a place in heaven. The Lord’s rejection is going to ________ him.

We should strive to _________ the will of the Lord. It will not only bless us, it will ________ bless everyone around us. The Bible says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your ________, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). Doing God’s will shows everyone the ________ of the Lord’s way! It is good and acceptable and perfect.

Jesus taught us to ________, “Thy will be done.” Have you thought about how radically different and better our world would be if people ________ did the will of God? God’s will for our lives is no small matter. If people did God’s will, crime would disappear, the moral climate of this country would drastically change, and people would be more loving and less selfish. We’d ________ the golden rule. The Lord Jesus taught that “In everything, therefore, treat people the ________ way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

If we did God’s will on earth, as it is in heaven, God’s Word would have a place of ________ in our lives and decisions. We’d be asking the question, “What does God’s Word have to ________ about this matter or that?” We’d realize that the God who created us knows us better than we know ourselves and teaches us what is ________. We’d make our life choices and think of right and wrong on the basis of God’s ________ not our opinions or our culture.

If we did God’s will on earth, we’d begin to pray as a people again. We’d realize that nothing ________ can happen without God’s blessing and favor. We’d seek His face. What does that mean, “seek His face”? It means we’d look to God for help and for the ________ of life. When Solomon became king, he asked God for ________ to know how to lead the people of Israel. He worried about what might happen if Israel ________ the Lord and faced famine and were defeated in battle. Solomon asked God to be willing to ________ His people.

The Lord God answered Solomon’s prayer with this ________ found in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, “If … My people who are called by My name ________ themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will ________ from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” God wants to draw close to His people, when they pray to Him with humble hearts, turning from wickedness, and then God will hear and heal them.

If God’s will were truly done on earth, we’d stop ________ God’s name being taken in vain and in filthy talk. Ephesians 4:29 says, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is ________ for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” Words are important; and our speech would be gracious, seasoned with salt, as we ought to speak.

If God’s will were done on earth, we’d set our hearts on things that ________ rather than concentrate on things that corrupt. The Bible says, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there’s anything worthy of praise, ________ about these things” (Philippians 4:8). What we think about shapes our _________. When our minds concentrate on the good, we see good all around.
us; and we become ________ people. The Bible says, “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals’” (1 Corinthians 15:33). When what is bad fills our minds, evil fills our lives.

If God’s will were done on earth, we’d think more about the Lord and about _________. The Bible says, “If then you have been raised with Christ, _______ the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your ________ on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is ________ with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in ________” (Colossians 3:1-4).

Where are you going with your life? Does your life _______ that the will of God is good and acceptable and perfect? Are you doing the will of the Father? Are you living in such a way that by your words, by your deeds, by your attitudes, you are a ________. Or are you a hurt to those who are around you? Doing the will of God is not simply something that we do to _______ God, it also makes this world so much better. Oh, we ought to all say, “Thy will be done.”

Let us pray. “Father, we’re thankful for the example of Jesus who did Your will, by dying upon the cross for our sines. Help us Father to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses and to follow You. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus unless he was _______ of water and the Spirit, he could not enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5). Jesus was emphatic and said in verse seven, “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘that you _______ be born again.’” Some think the will of God is flexible and doesn’t matter, but nothing could be farther from the truth.

John wrote, “Jesus came to His own, and those who were His own did not _______ Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the _______ to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were _______, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:11-13). You can’t be saved by substituting some human _____ for God’s will. God is God, and we are human. We can’t edit or overrule the will of God. If we are saved by God’s ________, it will only be by His will. To know His will we _______ read and study the New Testament.

What does God will for us to do to be ________? Upon hearing the gospel of Jesus, we must _______ Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. We must _______ of our sins and turn to righteousness. We must be willing to confess our faith in Christ Jesus and to be _________. Baptism is that new _______ in water and the Spirit. The Bible teaches that we must be born again. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ so that our sins will be forgiven. When we are baptized, God washes away our sins (Acts 22:16). I pray that you, today, will do the will of God.

We do ask that you focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everyone needs a church family. There’s probably a church of Christ that’s near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll gladly help you find one.
God Has Spoken
2 Peter 1:16-21

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

When Jesus spoke in the first century, scribes took down His words, and these words are in the New Testament. We search the Scriptures because they _______ from God. No other book contains the wisdom, the prophecies, and the righteous commandments found in the Holy Bible. The Bible is the only book in the _______ that offers objective evidence to be the Word of God. Only the Bible gives real ______ of its divine inspiration through its fulfillment of prophecy. No other book can give us the _______ about the beginning or the end of time. The Scriptures _______ us to Jesus Christ, providing testimony from witnesses of His death, burial, and resurrection. The more you _______ the Bible, the clearer your knowledge of God will become.

Read how Hugo McCord explained the concept of inspiration.

Our reading today comes from 2 Peter 1:16-21. Peter is describing how prophetic utterances, the Scriptures, came about through inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Have you considered the _______ of God’s Words? God speaks and things _______. “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). God spoke _______ into existence. Psalm 33:6 says, “By the word of the LORD the heavens were _______, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.” Verse 9 says, “For He spoke, and it was _______; He commanded, and it stood _______.” If God could speak creation into existence, then He has far greater _______ than we can imagine or understand.

The Words of Jesus are likewise powerful and authoritative. Colossians 1:16-17 reminds us, “For by him _____ things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” When Jesus spoke, _______ happened.

Jesus taught with _______ in the synagogue in Capernaum. Read Mark 1:23-27.

Jesus not only had authority over unclean spirits, He also had authority over _______. This power is shown frequently in the New Testament. Read Matthew 8:23-27.

God speaks with great power and authority, and all of nature and the universe _______. Man is the only creature that can _______ what God says and ignore or disobey Him. When people _______ the Word of the Lord they face great consequences. Some people don’t take God seriously, but God has shown through time that He _______ what He says. Some think God will not _______ anyone no matter what that person does.

When you hear the words of the Lord Jesus, remember that He _______ you and sustains your existence. Without His power over creation, you couldn’t _______. He deserves to be
heard! One day the words that He has spoken will be the standard for your _________. The Lord Jesus said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the _______ I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48), Since the words of Jesus will judge you, you should ________ what He said and take it seriously. The words of Jesus will not disappear, and Jesus will not ________ what He said. What Jesus said is just as ________ today as it was in the first century. Changes in time and culture do not ________ what the Lord said. No one can ________ the words of Jesus on the Day of Judgment. The Lord said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

The Lord Jesus said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He ________ in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26). Many people regard Jesus as a great moral teacher, but then they feel ________ to disagree with Him or ignore Him. What Jesus says about moral issues ________ some Christians. They imagine that Jesus doesn’t ________ whether they live righteously or not. They listen to what He says about salvation, but ________ what He says about repentance. They want Jesus as their Savior, but not as their _______ and Master. They want all of His _________, but they dismiss His commandments.

How we ________ to the Lord matters, and what we teach and practice will affect how the Lord judges us. Second Peter 2:3 speaks about some disobedient _______ teachers. The apostle Peter said, “and in their greed they will exploit you with _______ words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” The Lord is not asleep or idle; He sees and knows what the righteous and the wicked are doing. He will ________ us all.

Peter explains, “For if God did not ________ angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to ________ the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:4-9). Since the Lord has a record of how He ________ with sin, we should take Him seriously.

When we become Christians, we ___________ Jesus as Lord. Jesus built the ________ and purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). When we were forgiven, He redeemed us with His precious blood and ________ us to the church. The word Lord describes Jesus as ________, as the One who created us. Philippians 2:9-11 says, “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is ________ every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every
tongue will _________ that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Because He is Lord, everyone will be _________ to His authority. He is our Lord and Master, and there is no other. As Lord, He has _________ authority over our lives on earth and in the hereafter. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all _________ before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Because Jesus is Lord, His Words will judge our souls and determine our _________ in the hereafter. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, “For the word 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 knows all about you and me; He knows the good and the bad. He knows our thought and our intentions. We cannot _________ anything from the Lord; He already knows all our _________. We ought to listen to the Lord!

I’m thankful the Lord Jesus spoke because He not only _________ right and wrong but also gives us the words of eternal life. He gives us great and precious ________. Paul said, “For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shown in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Without the Scriptures, without the Bible, we would not _________ many things. We wouldn’t know about where we came from, why we’re here, or what will happen to us after this life is over. The Scriptures give us _________ of eternal life with our Creator, who loves us and wants to bless us eternally.

The Scriptures _________ us about God’s grace and forgiveness. When we realize the extent to which God has gone to _________ our sins, we love Him more and more. We are all sinners saved by the grace of God through the gospel message by the blood of Jesus Christ when we _________ Him. The message of that salvation is found in Scripture and it’s crucial. Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the _________ of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). God powerfully uses His Word to reach into our _________ with the gospel. First Corinthians 1:21 says, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to _________ those who believe.” God saves people today through that message preached.

Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be _________ of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me” (John 6:44-45). God works in and through the preaching and teaching of the word to _________ men of sin and to bring about faith. Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” When we _________ God’s Word, we come to believe in Jesus Christ and in His
teaching. This is why James says, “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in __________ receive the word implanted, which is able to ________ your souls” (James 1:21).

The Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, causes us to be _____ again. First Peter 1:23-25 says, “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring ________ of God. For, ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures __________.’ And this is the word which was ________ to you.” When a person ________ the preaching of the gospel and ________ it, God causes him to be born again. The gospel story is filled with God’s love for mankind and His willingness to send Jesus to atone for our sins and grant us forgiveness. This true story comes from God and has all of His qualities. His goodness and kindness lead us to __________. His love causes us to love Him!

Because the gospel is good news, it brings about a ______ unspeakable! Sin is bad news, but forgiveness from sin that condemns us, is good news! Hope for eternal life is good news! The Lord Jesus preparing a ______ for us in heaven is good news! God has spoken through His Son Jesus and in the gospel message. What a blessing!

Peter, James, and John were on the holy mountain with Jesus when He was transfigured. Moses and Elijah were there as well. Matthew 17:4-5 says Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is ______ that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; __________ to him.” God, the Father, was well pleased with Jesus His Son, so He distinguished Him from Moses, the great lawgiver, and Elijah, the prophet. God said, “listen to Him.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has __________ to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” God is now speaking to us through Jesus Christ. If we want to know God’s ________, we must go to the words of Jesus and His apostles and prophets that He commissioned to speak for Him. That’s found in the New Testament. Jesus is Lord, and there is no other!

If you wish to _______ the Lord, then listen to Him. Hear what He says and __________ Him. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it is impossible to ________ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Repent of your sins and turn to righteousness. Confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Be baptized into Christ, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. God has spoken; let’s ________ what He says and ________ Him. Nothing is so important!
The Greatest Gift

Today, we’re discussing the greatest gift to the greatest number at the greatest _____ for the greatest benefit. We’re looking at the ______ of Jesus Christ. We want to focus on the one thing on which we can ________, the written Word of God. The Scriptures have stood the _____ of time as God’s holy and true message. It contains God’s truth, God’s love, God’s commandments, God’s promises, and God’s warnings. We can get what God desires and what He’s doing by _________ into His Word. This is why we continually go to the Scriptures. We want to _____ what God has to say.

We may receive many gifts, but we have no gift as _______ as the gift of Jesus Christ Himself. Everything He is and did profoundly affects us all. Because of Him, our _____ are more blessed, richer, purer, and kinder. From Him we have faith, hope, and love. Jesus was indeed unique and _______ to us what no one else could give. He opened the ______ to forgiveness, to the church, and to hope beyond the grave. The Lord gave us God’s Word, paid for our sins with His blood, rose from the dead, and built His church kingdom.

Second Corinthians 8:9 says, “For you know the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.” Because of His ________, we’re spiritually rich indeed. Every spiritual gift in the heavenly places can be found in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). Where would be without Jesus? We’d be immeasurably _______ spiritually and any other way. No one has impacted this ________ with greater morals and values than the Son of God, Christ Jesus. This world cannot do without Him, and you cannot do without Him either.


I love beautiful hymns sung with hearts filled with love and praise. I’m grateful to the church at Edmond for decades of singing lovely hymns that encourage our souls.

Jesus Christ challenges us to _______ ourselves, to take up our crosses daily and follow Him. We realize this is a great, and life-changing commitment. Christ wants you to ________ your heart and change your life. The blessings He offers to those who ________ Him, however, is greater than we can ask or imagine. Yes, we must count the cost of following Christ; but we must also look to the _____ of our high calling. Why should we follow Jesus? Let’s examine these reasons.

First, we should follow Him because of His great ______. Though you and I have been loved by family and friends, we can’t find a greater love than the love shown to us by the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our _____ on the cruel cross. No one else has died for our sins, and no one else could. He showed us the love of God and _____ we should love God. First Peter 3:18 says, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might _______ us to God.” Our sins separated us from God, but the love of Christ opened the door for us to be _________ with God, so that we could live with Him forever.

Though we were once in sin, He lovingly and sacrificially made it possible for us to be at ______ with God through the blood of the cross. Colossians 1:21-22 describes what He did: “And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his
___, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.” Through love and sacrifice, He brought us to God holy and blameless.

Second, we should follow Him because He brought us the _______. John 1:17 says that “grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” Jesus described the blessing of the truth in John 8:32, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _____.” The truth gives us the standard by which we can ______ what is right and wrong, what is moral and immoral, what is good and evil. We need this standard to ______ what we should be and what we should do rather than to fall for lies and wickedness. The Lord Jesus told Pilate, “You say correctly that I am a _______. For this I have been born, and for this I’ve come into the world, to testify to the truth. And everyone who is of the _______ hears My voice” (John 18:37). Are you listening to the voice of Jesus?

Peter explains how the truth purifies us and causes us to be born again, “Having purified your _____ by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you’ve been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding ______ of God; for ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains ________.’ And this word is the good news that was _________ to you” (1 Peter 1:23-25). If we want to know the truth, then we must ________ to the words of Jesus found in Scripture.

Third, He is the One who can give us the ______________ of sins. Few things in life are as troublesome as a _______ conscience. A guilty conscience punishes us and pierces our ________. It shames us to know that we’ve done something _______. We regret what we’ve done, we feel dirty inside, and we long for a _____ conscience. First Peter 2:24 says, “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” The wounds of Christ _______ our souls and spirits through forgiveness. Forgiveness means God no longer counts our sins against us; that we’re _____ from the guilt and consequences of our sins.

When God through Christ forgives us, God no longer sees us as we _____ were. Before our forgiveness we couldn’t inherit the _________ of God or live in heaven with God. In forgiveness, however, “you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11). Through Christ God washed us and made us clean; God sanctified us and made us _____; God justified us and declared us righteous. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, “For our sake he [that is, God] made him [that is, Christ] to be sin who knew no sin [Christ knew no sin], so that in him [in Christ] we might _______ the righteousness of God.” What a blessing it is to be forgiven! What a blessing to be free from sin!

Fourth, He opened the door to the ________, the family of God. Jesus built the church (Matthew 16:18); He purchased it with His own _______ (Acts 20:28). Paul described the church as “the household of God” and “the pillar and support of the _______” (1 Timothy 3:15). While the church is made up of fallible humans, it is perfectly and infallibly designed by the ________ of God. It is God’s household or family. As God’s family, it’s filled with people who _______ God and want to live holy and loving lives. I’ve seen lives changed, hearts softened, and great sacrifices from those who call themselves Christians. They love, because Christ loved them. They give, because Christ gave to them. They serve, because Christ served them. There’s no greater privilege than to _____ in the family of God.

Sadly, not everyone who calls himself a Christian lives the _____ a Christian should live. Some never _________ to love, or to forgive, or to serve as Christ did. Some fall victim to every kind of ___________. Yes, some lust after the flesh, lust after the eye, and fall to the pride of life. If we see ___
the weaknesses in the church however, we’ll miss the good, the service, and the love found in so many others. If you call yourself a Christian and then act like you never knew Christ, you need to examine yourself and ________.

Fifth, Christ has given us a righteous way of life that is filled with _________. First Peter 2:21-23 says, “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an _________, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no _____, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he didn’t revile in return; when he suffered, he didn’t threaten, but he continued entrusting himself to him who judges righteously.” As Christians, we are called to ________ in the steps of Jesus Christ. Jesus never sinned and never deceived others.

While we can’t be perfectly sinless as He was, we should ______ to live godly lives and to speak the truth. We must keep our eyes focused on Jesus and doing the _____ of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which _______ so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the ______ that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Jesus led the way in doing the will of God, and we must not allow circumstances and sin to keep us from ________ with endurance in our journey to do the will of God.

Sixth, we should follow Him because He is the Way to ________ life. The Lord Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. And no one _______ to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). The Lord Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well of the great _________ of eternal life. He said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will ______ be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a _______ of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14). If we wish to have eternal life, then we must not only believe in but also ______ the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:36 clearly says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; and whoever does not ______ the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” John 5:12 says, “Whoever has the Son has life; and whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

What does it mean to have eternal life? It means that there will be ______ beyond that will last forever and ever. The words of Jesus are the words of eternal life, and this is why we must _______ in Him and in what He says. Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they ______ you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3). Eternal life means we have a relationship with the only true God and His Son Jesus. He is our Father in heaven, and we become His children.

Seventh, He promised us a place in the heavenly Father’s _______. The Lord Jesus encouraged the apostles on the night before His death, “Let not your ______ be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s ______ are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come ______ and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I’m going” (John 14:1-3).

The Lord Jesus is now in heaven preparing a ______ for those who believe in Him, who love Him, and who follow Him. That place is in the Father’s ______. He prepared a place for each one who _______ in Him. Peter described that place, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he’s caused us to be born again to a ________ hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by
God’s ________ are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5). Just think of it, a place prepared for us and kept in heaven that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading! What a blessing!

This great gift is yours, if you’ll take ______ of Jesus Christ. This gift is free, but it isn’t _______. It’s not a gift to be taken lightly, to be forgotten, or to be forsaken. God won’t bargain with you; He offers life according to His own _______. He’s God, and we aren’t. He gives His gift as He wills, and we can’t expect to receive it by following our ______ will and ignoring His teaching and commandments. We can’t substitute our way of salvation for His way. We must be wise to hear Him and act according to His words.

God is the greatest giver; Jesus Christ is the greatest gift; that gift is offered to all, the greatest number; and eternal life is the greatest blessing for the greatest amount of time. No gift can ________. Amazingly, God offers this gift for _______. Romans 6:23 says “the wages of sin is ________, but the free gift of God is eternal ________ in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Revelation 22:17 calls us to take hold: “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires to take the water of life without price.” Jesus Christ paid the great _______ of salvation from sin, so He could offer it to you freely.

Will you accept it? Why wouldn’t you choose eternal life? I’ve known some who thought sinful _______ was a great gift, but the flesh doesn’t last. I’ve known some who thought _______ were the greatest prize, but you can’t take your money with you when you die. I’ve known some who were so _______ of the life they had, they wouldn’t think of following Jesus. They won’t deny themselves, take up their crosses daily, or follow Him.

If you wish to follow Him, then trust in Him and believe what He teaches. Stop trusting in your own ways and turn to the truth. Turn from your sins and from selfishness. Out of love confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be baptized into Christ. When you are baptized, God cleanses you and sets you free. He makes you His child and adds you to His church. When you meet God’s conditions, trusting what God instructs, God blesses you with salvation. Won’t you put your trust in Him and let Him bless you? God is looking to bless you and give you eternal life.

So focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everyone needs a church family. And there’s probably a church of Christ near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll gladly help you find one.
The Second Coming

Many think of the first coming of Jesus, but what about His second coming? Today, we’re exploring what will _______ when Jesus comes again. There’s much ___________ about the second coming, and that’s why we turn to the Scriptures for answers.

Though some are skeptical, we need not _______ that Jesus will come again. We have God’s assurance! Acts 17:31 says that God “has fixed a day on which he will _______ the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to us by raising him from the dead.” The resurrection of Jesus Christ _______ us of the appointed time when Jesus will judge us all.

The Scriptures _______ a second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus promised, “And if I go and prepare a _______ for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3). The angels said to the disciples who were watching Jesus ascend, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into _______? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the _______ way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). First Thessalonians 4:16 assures us, “For the Lord himself will _______ from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.” Hebrews 9:28 agrees: “Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will _______ a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ will appear again in the clouds. Our task is to be _______ for Him. We don’t want to be caught unaware and spiritually unprepared. On that day He will come with all __________ and will judge us all. Are you prepared?


Since the Lord is coming again, it’s only right to ask _______ will happen and _______ will He return. The Scriptures clearly _______ Jesus will come openly, and everyone will know it. He won’t be concealed, secret, or invisible. As we’ve read, Jesus will come again _______ in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11). Just as He was visible and rose up in the clouds, He will come _______ visibly in the clouds.

When Jesus appears, He will not come _______. Matthew 16:27 says, “For the Son of Man is going to come with his _______ in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.” Matthew 25:31-32 explains, “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious _______. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will _______ them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” Not only will Jesus bring angels with Him, He’ll also bring back the _______ in Christ. First Thessalonians 4:14 says, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen _______ in Jesus.” He’s bringing these departed spirits back so that He can _______ them from the dead.

When Jesus appears, He’ll come in flaming _______. Second Thessalonians 1:7-9 says, “the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not _______ the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will
pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

When Jesus appears, _______ will see Him. Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold, he’s coming with the clouds, and every _______ will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” When those who have _______ Jesus see Him, they will wail and mourn. But the Christian who believes and loves Him has a great _______. First John 3:2-3 says, “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears that we shall be _______ him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who has this _______ in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

When Jesus appears, His coming will be unmistakable. First Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the _______ in Christ will rise first. And then we who are _______ and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to _______ the Lord in the air, so we shall always be with the Lord.” Yes, we’ll _______ the voice and the trumpet of God. Each of these will call our attention to what is happening. Did you notice that we will be caught up into the _____ to meet the Lord? The Lord Jesus won’t set _______ on the earth. Instead, He’ll be in the clouds; and we will meet Him there. When He comes again, we have to _______ this earth for a very good reason.

We do need to know, however, that this audible _______ of His appearance will come suddenly and unexpectedly. The Scriptures teach that the Lord’s coming will be “like a _______ in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:2 and we simply don’t know when Jesus will come again; we know that He will come but not _______ (2 Peter 3:10). God has not revealed the _______. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are _______ belong to us and to our children forever.” The Lord Jesus Himself reveals that the day of His second coming at the end of the world is a _______. Only the _______ knows when He will come again.

The Lord said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my _______ will not pass away. But concerning that day and hour _______ knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the _____ of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the _______ they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and _______ them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:35-39). Sadly, some today _______ what the Lord said and imagine they know exactly when this second coming will happen. They imagine they know _______ than Jesus. Many have predicted a _______ time and deceived others in the matter; and when the time passes unchanged, they show themselves to be _______ prophets, they simply don’t know.

Many people apply things found _______ in Matthew 24 to the second coming. People frequently speak of things that actually _______ to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and that includes the destruction of the temple. The passage, Matthew 24, clearly speaks of what is to happen _______ Jerusalem and _____ Jerusalem, and not what’s to happen worldwide. Jesus prior to verse 35 reveals numerous things to happen to people that were alive at that time and the need to _______ Jerusalem. On the other hand verse 36, speaking of the destruction of the heavens and earth begins with the word “but,” and is followed by an uncertainty of time. The destruction of Jerusalem is _______ the destruction of the world.

Three things will happen when Jesus comes again. First, Jesus will resurrect every person, good or evil, from the _______. John 5:28-29 says, “Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when _____ who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done _______ to the resurrection of
life, and those who have done ______ to the resurrection of judgment.” The resurrection mattered to Paul, and he spoke of its importance before the governor Felix. He said, “But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they (that is, the Jews) call a sect I do ______ the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men (that is, the Pharisees) cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of ______ the righteous and the wicked. In view of this, I also do my _____ to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men” (Acts 24:14-16). Paul wanted to be right with God at the resurrection.

Death is the separation of the body from the spirit (James 2:26), but resurrection is when the Lord will ______ the dead, after which He will give them a new body. First Corinthians 15:50-52 explains, “I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the _______ of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a _______. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be _______ in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” At the resurrection, we’ll receive bodies designed for _______.

Second, when Jesus comes again, the earth and its works will be ________ up. We will leave this earth, because God has decided to ________ it. Second Peter 3:7 says, “But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for ________, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.” Again in verse 12 Peter notes, “the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will _______ with intense heat!” As we noted from 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Jesus will come in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those that do not know God and those who do not _______ the gospel. Revelation 21:1 speaks of John’s vision, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had ________ away, and the sea was no more.” All that we know of the present heaven and earth will have vanished, destroyed by fire and intense heat.

Third, when Jesus comes again, He will make a final ________ on all people, the good and the bad. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must ______ appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his _______ in the body, according to what he’s done, whether good or bad.” The Lord Jesus Himself taught, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He’ll sit on His glorious _______. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will ________ them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He’ll put the sheep on His right, and the goats on His left” (Matthew 25:31-32). In verse 46 he clearly shows their ________ destiny: “These (goats who failed to serve the Lord) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Lord Jesus proclaimed, “He who ______ Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the ______ I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). You and I won’t be judged by our culture, by the creeds of men, or by human traditions. We will be judged by the words of Jesus found in the New Testament. Some think the words of Jesus only appear in _____ letters, but we can consider _____ the words of the New Testament as God’s teaching. Paul said, “If anyone thinks he’s a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I _______ to you are the Lord’s commandment” (1 Corinthians 14:37). The written word will be found at the Judgment. Revelation 20:12 says, “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 deeds.”
If our final destiny will be decided at the second coming, shouldn’t we get _______ for that day? Shouldn’t we think about the destruction of the world and of our _______ destiny? Second Peter 3:11 says, “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in _______ conduct and godliness?” Do you look forward to the coming of Jesus or would you mourn at his coming? Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and _______ eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.” People who don’t know Him, people who don’t believe in Him, and people who don’t love Him will _______ at His coming.

I would rather be like Paul who said, “For I am already being poured out (that is, he is close to the time when he would die) as a drink offering, and the _______ of my departure has come. I’ve fought the good _______ (have you), I’ve finished the _______ (have you), I’ve kept the _______ (have you); in the future there is laid up for me the _______ of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have _______ His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Will you love His appearing? Will you receive that crown?

First John 2:28 says, “Now, little children, _______ in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in _______ at His coming.” The Lord Jesus said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My _______, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26). If we wish to _______ the kingdom of heaven we cannot be ashamed of Him or of His words. We must love Him, obey Him, and abide in Him.

There is a difference between being “_____” Christ and “out of” Christ. Many people have rejected or _______ believing in Christ Jesus. Others have bought into a _______ gospel and failed to follow the Scriptures. Such people will be _______ on judgment day when they won’t be allowed to enter heaven. The wise hear the words of Jesus and _____ them; the foolish hear the words of Jesus but _____ to do them. The wise will _______, but the foolish will _______ (Matthew 7:24-27).

So be wise and _______ for the second coming of Christ. You must be holy and blameless at His coming. By God’s grace through the _______ of Jesus Christ you can be right with God. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” To be children of God we must be baptized into Christ, immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins. Then we must be faithful to the Lord till the end. If you’ve quit the Lord, or maybe you’ve quit His church, it’s time to come back, to return.

Focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everyone needs a church family. There’s probably a church of Christ near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll be glad to help you find one.