

Program Transcripts

September 2025



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY [®]

SEARCH PROGRAMS

September 2025

Topics subject to change without notice

SEPTEMBER 7 – LORD JESUS

People say, “Jesus is Lord”; but do they understand what that means? People emphasize the love and grace of our Lord Jesus, but they often overlook that Jesus is to rule and reign in our lives.

SEPTEMBER 14 – THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The kingdom of God is mentioned repeatedly in the New Testament. Though some think the kingdom hasn’t yet come, the Scriptures make it clear that we can and must belong to the kingdom of God at the present time.

SEPTEMBER 21 – WE NEED GOD

One of the greatest days of our lives is the day we realize there truly is a God and we need Him. God created and sustains us. Every good thing comes from God. Spiritual wisdom comes from God. We need God!

SEPTEMBER 28 – MAKE ME A SERVANT

Many people think being a servant or slave is beneath us, but God loves those who serve Him faithfully. Though Jesus was the Son of God, He served others throughout His life. We must serve as He served.

Lord Jesus

Today is a special day for us at SEARCH. Today we celebrate 45 years of broadcasting this program. On September first in 1980, Mack Lyon broadcasted the first SEARCH program on KTEN in Ada, Oklahoma. Because many of the religious programs failed to preach New Testament Christianity, he dreamed of having a program that could reach the whole state of Oklahoma with the truth. As time passed the Lord opened doors throughout the United States. And today we're available in all fifty states and in Canada. We cover the Caribbean by television and the Pacific by radio. Our website, SearchTV.org and our channel on You Tube, "SearchTVMinistry" make this program accessible to most of world. We now have Spanish transcripts available in written form on our website.

And if we search for and intend to follow the Lord's Way, we need not only to know the Way we must also to know the Lord. Many who say "Jesus is Lord" listen not to Jesus but to popular religion, human traditions, and emotional outpourings that lead them to have a false hope for salvation and heaven. Some want a Christianity without a cross, a faith without demands, and a religion without morals. That kind of religion isn't the Christianity of our Lord found in the New Testament. A Christianity without Jesus Christ as Lord is a fantasy developed by Satan.

Our reading today comes from Matthew 17 verses 1 through 5 and it shows the superiority of Jesus Christ.

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

And that's good advice for us today. To listen to Him. Let's pray. Father we're thankful for Your Son Jesus Christ who came and sacrificed Himself for us. Help us to make Him Lord of our lives in every way. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

When Saul of Tarsus was on the road to Damascus and was blinded by a light in Acts 9, he asked the One who spoke to him, "Who are You, Lord?" (Verse 5). We too need to know who the Lord is. When Jesus forgave the woman who washed his feet, the people asked, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" (Luke 7:49). When Jesus stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee, the disciples asked, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4 verse 41). When Jesus healed a man who had been born blind, Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answered "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him (John 9 verses 35 to 38).

We must know who Jesus is and what it means for Him to be Lord. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we come to know Jesus truly is Lord. He said to the Jews in Acts 2 and verse 36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified." Well, we should take time to realize the full significance of calling Jesus Lord. Paul uses the word Lord, 245 times in the New Testament. It's used so frequently that it's a synonym for Jesus.

The Greek word for Lord is the word kurios. It has many uses in the New Testament. This word is often translated "sir" when one is addressing a superior, or maybe a parent, or an older person. For instance, the Samaritan woman addressed Jesus as sir, "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water,

so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw” (John 4 and verse 15). Later the woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet” (chapter 4 verse 19).

Sometimes the word kurios refers to the owner of property. Jesus used the word in this sense when he said that Jesus is owner or “Lord of all” (Galatians 4 and verse 1). Well, He built His church and He owns it (Matthew 16:18). He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20 and verse 28); He owns it. And He calls it “my kingdom” in John 18 verse 36. As the owner of all and the owner of the church, He can rightly be called Lord.

Sometimes the word kurios refers to the head of a household. The church is called a household in 1 Timothy 3 and verse 15. Colossians 1:18 says about Jesus that, “He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” In Ephesians 1:22 to 23 God “put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” So as head of His household, Jesus deserves to be called Lord.

Sometimes the word kurios refers to one in authority who can make decisions and pass judgment on those who are His servants. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 that, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” John 5:22 explains, “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.” That is to Jesus. Acts 17:30 and 31 explains, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

The apostle Paul describes the Lord Jesus Christ in 1 Timothy 6 and verse 15, “He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.” Jesus is indeed our King. John 3 and verse 31 says that, “He who comes from heaven (speaking of Jesus) is above all.” John 3 and verse 35 explains that, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.” There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8 and verse 6). And He certainly deserves to be called Lord.

The word Lord is used also to translate the name Jehovah or Yahweh in the Old Testament. The Septuagint translators translated the term Yahweh with the Greek term “kurios.” Now what they meant by that word was that Jesus was divine. And though He lived in the flesh, He is more than a man. He isn't just another moral teacher. He is Divine. And when Scripture calls Jesus Lord, it isn't talking about one religious teacher or prophet among many. There simply is no other person like Him. He is the Son of God; and Scripture attributes to Him a divine nature.

Isaiah 9 and verse 6 says, “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Yes, this Jesus who was born of a virgin will be called “Mighty God.” In Matthew 1:23 Jesus is called “Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.”

John 1:1 to 3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” Colossians 1:15 to 17 says that, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

Yes, Jesus has a Divine nature. Colossians 2 verses 9 to 10 say, “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.” Jesus is called the “Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end”

(Revelation 22 verse 13). Paul wrote in Titus 2 verses 13 to 14 about “the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.” You see Paul recognized His divine nature.

Now because of this, Jesus has every right in the world to be called Lord! He is the one that we should hear in all things (Acts 3:22 to 23). The word that He spoke will judge us in the last day (John 12 verse 48). 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10 reminds us, “For we must all appear 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.” Peter knew the truth when he said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6 and verse 68).

When Peter, James, and John went up on that high mountain with the Lord Jesus, Jesus was glorified. And Matthew 17:2 to 5 records the event: And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. And you remember Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” And while he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” God Himself proclaimed that Jesus is unique, greater than Moses the lawgiver and greater than Elijah the prophet.

Christians listen to the Lord Jesus! They don't vote on whether they will believe what the Bible says. If you don't believe the words of Jesus, you really don't believe Jesus. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4 and verse 5, “For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord.” It isn't our job to sit in judgment on what the Lord said; it's our place to recognize the authority of the words of our Lord. We don't tell Christ what we believe and then expect Him to agree with our opinions and our culture. We live as Christians who are under the authority of His words. He is Lord and we are servants.

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21 to 23 that, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ (and then Jesus says) “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’” You know it's one thing to call yourself a Christian and call Jesus Lord; it's another to choose to live under His rule in every way and glorify Him by listening to what He has to say. If you call Jesus Lord, stop listening to the world, stop listening to the creeds of men, stop listening to the councils who vote, and stop listening to human traditions. Jesus is Lord; He's the only Lord; and He must be the King of our lives.

Now if you wear a cross on your necklace or maybe have a tattoo with a cross that's on your body but then you live and talk like a pagan, don't call Jesus Lord and shame His name by your behavior. God wants true Christians, not people whose live lawless lives while they claim to be Christians. Jesus could see through their claims to follow Him. And He refused to accept them on “that day,” the Day of Judgment. We must understand that we'll give an account to Him one day. We can boast of all we do in front of people; but if we're lawless before Christ, all our boasting will do no good. We must please the Lord.

Paul prayed in Colossians 1:9 to 10, “For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” To please the Lord, we must know His will and practice it. We must recognize every day of our lives that He is our Lord and we are His servants.

Now we've been calling Jesus Lord. He is Lord whether we believe Him or not. He is Lord whether we serve Him or not. And many choose to believe and serve other things. You remember the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:24 that, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money or wealth." Some people love money more than they love God. Some love themselves more than they love Jesus. Some put their parents, their spouses, their children, or some other person first and ignore what the Lord says.

Some love acceptance and their place among men more than God. You remember John 12:42 to 43 says, "Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God." You can't put people in front of Jesus. The Lord Jesus must be first in everything.

Let's pray. Father help us to put Jesus first in everything in our lives. To do His will and to love You and to love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Philippians 2:8 to 11 says about Jesus, "Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above 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 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Whether you confess Jesus Christ is Lord in this life, you can be sure that the day will come when you will bow the knee and confess Jesus is Lord when He comes again. There'll be many who never acknowledged Him in this life, people who are unprepared to meet the Son of God. People who didn't believe in Him and wouldn't obey Him will wish had bowed the knee in this life rather than finding out the truth in the life to come and then suffering for it.

Are you prepared to meet the Lord? Would He accept or reject you? Have you done the will of the Father? To become a Christian, believe in Jesus Christ. Without faith, you can't please God (Hebrews 11:6). You must with love repent of your sins and confess your faith. You must also be baptized into Christ by an immersion in water for the forgiveness of your sins. And when you are baptized into the death of Christ, the blood of Jesus will wash away your sins (Romans 6 and verse 3). Perhaps you're a member of the church of Christ who has strayed from God, turned to sin, and quit the Lord and His church. Will you return to God? Please do so. Repent of your sins and ask God's forgiveness. And today is the best day to follow the Lord.



Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

The Kingdom of God

The Scriptures proclaim Jesus as king. 1 Timothy 6 verse 15 calls Jesus “the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.” Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 9:6 to 7, “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

The kingdom of God is where God reigns supreme. It's where God is loved and where His Word is taken seriously. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Our reading today comes from the book of Revelation chapter 1 verses 4 to 6. And there John proclaims that God has put us in His kingdom.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and (released) has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Let's pray. Heaven Father we are so grateful that we are in Your kingdom. That we can have the joy and the promise of being able to live close to You. To know that You reign over us. And Father help us to do Your will always and to love You. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, amen.

The Old Testament predicted when God Himself would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed. Daniel revealed to Nebuchadnezzar there would be four great kingdoms in the future, but something divine would happen during the days of the fourth kingdom. First was the Babylonian kingdom and then the Persian kingdom, third is the Greek kingdom, and fourth is the Roman Empire. Now Daniel spoke specifically of what would happen during the fourth kingdom. Daniel 2:44 says, “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

Later Daniel explains in Daniel 7:13 to 14, “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.” Oh I tell you the Lord Jesus was to be given dominion over all things.

The New Testament also predicts the coming of the eternal kingdom. The angel Gabriel told Mary, the mother of Jesus, in Luke 1:31 to 33, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus, the apostles, and the seventy predicted the coming of the kingdom of God. Matthew 3:1 to 2 says: Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of

Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4 and verse 17 says, "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

In Matthew 10:6 to 7 Jesus sent the twelve to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus said, "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" In Luke 10 verse 9 Jesus sent out the seventy and told them to preach, "The kingdom of (heaven) God has come near to you." That it's at hand.

When Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king, He responded in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." The kingdom of God is not like the nations of this world; it's a spiritual kingdom. The kingdom of God doesn't have a capital on earth. It's throne is in heaven.

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 28 and verse 18, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Peter at Pentecost said in Acts 2:36, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ (that is Messiah), this Jesus whom you crucified." As the Christ, He is the promised Messiah, the king of Israel prophesied in the Old Testament. And as Lord, He rules of all people and all powers.

Paul said in Ephesians 1:20 to 23 that God raised Jesus "from the dead and seated Him at (the) His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." The Lord Jesus is indeed over all things in the church, but He's also over all people everywhere. Peter proclaimed in Acts 3:22 to 23, "Moses said, 'The LORD God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

Now all people everywhere are accountable only to the Lord Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10 says, "For we must all appear 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." And whether you believe in Jesus or not, folks you're accountable to Him. Whether you agree with Him or not, you will appear before Him to be judged by His words according to John 12 and verse 48.

Now we need to come to understand the kingdom of God comes about through the church. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 to 19 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give (to) you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you (shall) bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." Now the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection is that key to the kingdom of God. Peter preached this gospel at Pentecost and told the people how to be forgiven. He opened the kingdom to those who obeyed.

Everett Ferguson on page 72 of his book, *The Everlasting Kingdom*, explains the relationship of the kingdom and the church and how they share that relationship. He said, "The church is the present manifestation of the kingdom of God." He states the church is the people who accept the rule or kingdom of God. They are the people of the kingdom. The kingdom today is made up of people "who have been transferred into the kingdom, for God places them there. The church is not the kingdom itself in the primary meaning of the kingdom, but in the secondary sense of a realm the church is the kingdom now."

The church is composed of those who have citizenship in the kingdom and enjoy the grace of the King of kings and Lord of lords. This grace is redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Paul wrote to the church in Colossae in Colossians 1:13 to 14, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and

transferred us (in) to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” When we obey the gospel and are redeemed and forgiven through the blood of Jesus, God transfers us into the kingdom of His beloved Son Jesus. Now forgiveness of sins and the kingdom are closely linked. If you're in the kingdom, you're redeemed and you have the forgiveness of sins.

The blood that purchased the church purchased those in the kingdom. Now Paul urged the elders in Acts 20 and verse 28, “to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Well then, the 24 elders in Revelation 5 verses 9 to 10 declared about Jesus the Lamb, “for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (And) You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

1 Peter 2 and verse 9 proclaims of all Christians, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Christians in Christ's church are a royal priesthood. They is that they belong to the King and are royal, and they are priests to God. We must be in the kingdom of God in order to be priests.

John in Revelation 1 verses 4 to 6 wrote to the seven churches of Asia and said that Jesus Christ, “loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” The church was loved and loosed from the sins by His blood. The people of the church was made to be a kingdom. The apostle John later said in Revelation 1 verse 9, “I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.” You see, John made it clear that he was a partaker in the kingdom of God.

Friends if you're not in the kingdom of God, you're in the domain of darkness. Satan has a kingdom too. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 12:26 that, “If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; (well) how then will his kingdom stand?” And John wrote in 1 John 5 and verse 19, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” Well, do you belong to the Lord? Have you had your sins been forgiven? If not, you're in the power of the evil one.

To come to the Lord and His church is the way you come to kingdom of God. Hebrews 12 verses 22 and 23 says to Christians, “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.” Yes, those who come to God come to the church. They are under the reign of God. Later Hebrews 12:28 to 29 says, “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” The kingdom of God is not something that will one day happen. No. We can receive a place in the kingdom now. Yes.

Paul described the spiritual condition of people outside of Christ in Ephesians 2:1 to 3. He said, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (and he says) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” In verse 12 he told the Gentile Christians in Ephesus to remember their situation before they became Christians, “remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, (you weressss0 excluded from the

commonwealth of Israel, (you were) and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

Oh, these Ephesian Gentiles, though were brought near to God by the blood of Christ. They didn't remain lost in sin without hope and without God. Paul describes them differently when they became Christians. He said in Ephesians 2:19, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, (yes citizens) and are of God's household (His family).” Rather than being lost and outside, now they are citizens in the covenants of promise and in family of God. They are in God's kingdom and in His blessing. Oh how wonderful that is.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have a kingdom in this world today. That You have reigned over all. But Father we're thankful that we can be citizen in Your kingdom through the blood of Jesus Christ. That we can be priests, royal priests, that belong to You. And You are our God and we are Your people. Father bless us and help us to be a part of Your kingdom. To live according to Your will always. And to love You and to love one another. In Jesus name, Amen.

Have you considered what will take place once this life is over? Will you have an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven? 1 Corinthians 6 and verse 9 says, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.” Many people think they can live in sin and still inherit a home in the kingdom of heaven, but they're deceiving themselves. An inheritance in heaven is promised not to evildoers but to the righteous. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5 and verse 10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Are you right with God?

Now our inheritance in heaven matters. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:3 to 4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” An inheritance in heaven means eternal life with God without sorrow, pain, or death. Psalm 16:11 says about God that, “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Heaven offers an inheritance above all else.

To enter the kingdom you must believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. You must turn your heart from sin to righteousness in repentance. You must be willing to confess your faith in Jesus Christ and to be baptized in His name for the forgiveness of your sins. The Lord Jesus said in John 3 and verse 5, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” This rebirth includes both water and the Spirit; and that takes place when we're baptized into Christ.



Date: _____

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We Need God

The church in Laodicea forgot how important God was; they took God for granted. The Lord Jesus rebuked them in Revelation 3:15 to 17. He said, 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.' They couldn't see themselves as God saw them. They didn't realize how much they were blessed and dependent upon God. Oh everyone needs God, whether they realize it or not.

Many people today are just as deceived. They reject God because they see flaws in Christians. And many who criticize Christianity know only bits and pieces about it. Some consider Christians as hypocrites and mean, until they get to know them. Please don't paint all churches with a broad brush, as if all Christians were the same. I've seen the ugly and hurtful in some. But I've also seen the beauty and godliness in others. Whatever faults I find in people, I can't find in God or in my Lord Jesus. In Jesus I see love, grace, hope, peace, and forgiveness. I need what He provides, and so do you. You need God.

Our reading today comes from the book of Acts chapter 17 verses 24 to 28. And they talk about God and His work in our lives. And how He made us.

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

Oh that's a reading from God word. That we can know that we were made by God. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have seen fit to make us and You've provided a world for us to live in. father we're thankful for all Your blessings and help us to serve you and to be close to You and to find You. In Jesus name, amen.

The 24 elders sang to God in heaven in Revelation 4:11, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." If it were not for God, you wouldn't exist. You, my friend, are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139 verse 14) and you're far more complex than you can imagine. Only an all-wise and all-powerful God could have created you. You're no accident or and you're no coincidence. God made you for a purpose. And this world, that often follows the evil one, seeks to bury or contradict God and His teaching. The truth, however, will not go away. Proverbs 21 verse 30 says, "There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the LORD." Oh many people choose to follow ways that hurt them.

But the Lord Jesus described two ways of men go and the paths they take, in Matthew 7:13 to 14. And He said, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Many people have this backward way of thinking that God is pleased with most everyone regardless of how they live or what they do. They think the broad way, where most people are, won't lead them to destruction. And this simply isn't true. Many will enter the eternal life that God has on that narrow path. We need to really pay attention to God and to His teaching. We need to enter that narrow gate where Christ is, if we wish to have eternal life.

And here are some reasons why we need God. First, we need God when we need direction. You see, God gives us the wisdom, in His word, to know how to live, how to treat others, how to treat our families, and how to deal with our failures and sins. Jeremiah confessed in Jeremiah 10:23, "I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps." People can be easily deceived and they think they know what is best for themselves. Proverbs 14:12 states, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." We as humans, even the elite, aren't always as knowledgeable as we think. We need God's teaching.

2 Timothy 3:16 to 17 explains that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." God's word can give us what we need to leave the old life of sin and to become men and women of God who are trained and equipped for every good work. We must remain awake and alert. Colossians 2:18 to 19 says, "Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. Yes.

Second, we need God's help when we're tempted. Oh, the devil will lie to us, make false promises, and trick us into doing things for which we're later ashamed. Psalm 119 verse 9 asked, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" And the verse answers, "By keeping it according to Your word." The Scripture gives us the answers to the challenges of temptation.

Ephesians 6:14 to 18 tells us how to fight the devil. It says, "Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." Oh, we need truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and prayer in our daily lives to face those sudden temptations.

We can draw near Christ in times of temptation. Hebrews 4:15 to 16 says, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." You see, the Lord understands us and will help us in that time of need. James 4:7 to 8 urges us, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

We also have the promise of God to provide a way of escape from temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

Third, we need God when we're in mourning. I've spent much of my life at hospitals, funerals, and cemeteries. I've been with people who were passing away. When death comes to those that we love, it matters whether you believe in God and whether you're right with God. When Lazarus died, Jesus spoke with his sister Martha. John 11:25 and 26 reports what Jesus said to her. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" When our hearts break, we need God.

Jesus later saw Mary, the other sister of Lazarus. John 11:33 says, "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled." What happens in our lives as Christians doesn't go unnoticed by our Lord. When we grieve, He sorrows with us. John 11:35 to 36 simply says, "Jesus wept. So the Jews were saying, 'See how He loved him!'" The Lord Jesus loves and cares for every child of God who is hurting. And our hope in God matters greatly.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 gives us assurance. Paul wrote, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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 dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds (yes) to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Fourth, we need God when we're struggling. Oh we're not alone in our struggles. It's easy to forget that we have a friend in Jesus when it comes to the struggles of this world. We're not alone. Let's recall Psalm 23:4 to 6. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. And Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou anoint my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever." To have God with us when times are tough comforts our hearts and gives us courage to continue on.

People sometimes think believers are weak and depend on a crutch. Some believe and teach relying only on ourselves. Those who rely only on themselves are cheating themselves out of the blessing of God. God cares for us and doesn't always take away our struggles, no; but even when we are struggling, God is with us helping us.

In 2 Corinthians 12 verse 7 to 10 Paul relates his experience of God's goodness. "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, (Paul says) there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." God even uses the afflictions of life to strengthen us and remind us of our need for Him. God knows what we need most, and maturing in faithfulness is vitally important.

Philippians 4:6 to 7 advises us, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Oh, God is ready to hear from us the difficulties we face. And thankfully we can turn them over to Him and request what we need. God will hear, when we put Him first.

Fifth, we need God when we're lost in sin. Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." 1 John 1 and verse 8 says that, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." Oh every person who is mature enough to reason stands accountable to God. Romans 6 and verse 23 states that, "The wages of sin is death." Now this death is a separation from the favor of God. Ephesians 2:1 to 2 speaks clearly. To the people he says, "And you were dead in

your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

When people get old enough to know what sin is and then sin against God, they are lost and need to be forgiven through the blood of Jesus. We learn about salvation through the gospel of Christ. We learn of His death for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead. All of this is described in Scripture, especially the New Testament. In the first gospel sermon, inspired by the Spirit, the guilty people at Pentecost in Acts 2 asked what they needed to do to be forgiven of the sin of crucifying Jesus. Peter responded in Acts 2:38, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” He urged them to “Be saved from this perverse generation” (verse 40); and 3000 people were baptized and added to them. Repenting and being baptized is still how people become Christians today.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You provide what we need as we need it and that You've loved us and watched over us and helped us every day of our lives. Give us strength and courage and faith and love. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:31 to 33, “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” God knows what you need even before you ask. Don't imagine that He's forgotten or ignored you, if indeed you're His child. And if you seek His kingdom and His righteousness first, He will not forsake you.

Sadly, many have allowed God to slip out of their hearts and minds. They've put their focus on the things of this world and ignored God. They haven't let God reign in their lives. They have ignored His commandments and morals. And their way into the kingdom of God today is through the church, but they haven't been in church for a long time. Then they wonder where God is! God hasn't left them; they left God. And I pray that you haven't left God out of your life.

God loves you, but God expects you to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Christianity is a covenant relationship between God and man. And you have responsibilities too! To be right with God you must believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for your sins, and rose again from the dead on the third day. You must repent, turning from your sins to live in righteousness toward God. You must confess Him, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Now being baptized is when God acts upon you, forgiving and making you His child, adding you to His church, and uniting you with Jesus Christ. Oh come to God today and let Him bless you.



Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

Make Me a Servant

When God looks into the hearts of men, His blessing goes out with grace and favor to those who love and serve Him. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:19 to 21, “Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.’ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.” How does God see you?

Now in ancient times, there were three kinds of servants. Some served out of fear, some served for money, but some served like sons because they loved their master. Christians fit into this third category. They serve the Lord and serve others because of their gratitude for what God has done for them. They serve with joy and the promise of eternal life; they serve because they know the Master keeps His word. They know the promises of God are true, and they want to glorify God forever.

Our reading today comes from Matthew chapter 20 verses 25 to 28. The apostle had been kind of arguing among themselves about being great. And Jesus had something to say. Verse 25,

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Yes Jesus served us. And loves us and asks us to be servants too. Let's pray together. Father help us to be good servants. To love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. And to do Your will always. And also to serve others. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The New Testament speaks both of the slaves of Christ and the servants of Christ. Now the word “slave” describes a person who is the property of an owner. They're in a state of being controlled by someone else. In the eyes of the law in the ancient world a slave was not a person but a thing. And a master could do absolutely as he liked; a slave had no rights at all. The master could beat him, sell him, abuse him or her, throw him out, and even kill him. Slaves had no time which they could call their own; every moment belonged to the master.

The New Testament characterizes Christians as “slaves of God” or “slaves of Christ.” We shouldn't think, however, that service to God is filled with chains and misery.¹ Peter 2 and verse 16 urges Christians to, “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants (slaves) of God.” Christ set us free from slavery to sin and slavery to false religion so that we might become slaves of righteousness. We are freed to make this world a better place. A place filled with love and kindness. We're the people of the good news, good news of love, forgiveness, joy, and peace.

In the New Testament, another word for “servant” is also translated as minister or deacon. Now this is one who renders personal service. He isn't afraid to do the lowly things but is willing to do the necessary tasks. I think of Jesus who washed the feet of His disciples. He was a servant. Sometimes people get “too big” for God to use; they're so full of themselves. You know, God cannot use arrogant elites; because they have no room in their hearts for God. Paul wrote in Romans 12 and verse 3, “For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Now a servant is someone who is in some way is bound to serve and perform duties for, another person. The word "slave" conjures up for us many things: slavery, labor, pain and misery. Not very pretty or desirable. But in spite of this, many of the people who served God were called servants and wanted to be. They were not ashamed to be called servants.

Abraham is referred to by God as "My servant" in Genesis 26:24. God asked in Job 1 verse 8, "Have you considered my servant Job?" God called Moses, "My servant Moses" in Numbers 12:7. Joshua 24:29 calls Joshua, "the servant of the Lord." David is called "His servant" in Psalm 144 verse 10. Isaiah could say, "Here I am! Send me" in Isaiah 6 and verse 8 and God calls him "My servant" in Isaiah 20 and verse 3.

Mary, the mother of Jesus said in Luke 1:38, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Paul describes himself as "a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle" in Romans 1 verse 1. James, the brother of Jesus, describes himself as "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" in James 1 verse 1. Simon Peter declares himself as "a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" in 2 Peter 1 verse 1. Jude, another brother of Jesus, also said he was "a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James" in Jude 1 and verse 1. John, who was an apostle, said in Revelation 1 and verse 1, "The revelation of Jesus Christ to his servant John."

Now serving out of love and loyalty is very different from the temptations of pride. The Lord Jesus called the scribes and the Pharisees hypocrites. And He described them in Matthew 23:5 to 7, "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men." Well, these men displayed their religion to be noticed rather than humbled themselves as servants.

The New Testament text never uses or endorses religious titles for Christians, titles like St. Paul or Pope Peter. Such titles as that are forbidden. You remember the Lord Jesus taught in Matthew 23:9 to 12, "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven (the one who is in heaven, yes) Do not be called leaders (or masters); for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

We choose to serve out of faith and love. And our service flows from gratitude for God's grace. We aren't servants out of fear or because we are made to serve. 2 Corinthians 5:14 to 15 reveals why we serve: "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." I know the Lord paid a great price to redeem and forgive us, and Christians want to show love and gratitude for what God has done. Oh they can't earn their salvation, but they want to show their gratitude by giving themselves to the Lord's service.

Exodus 21:2 to 6 provides an example of a person who chose to be a slave. The bible says there, "If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment. "If he comes alone, he shall go out alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him. "If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall belong to her master, and he shall go out alone. "But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,' then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently."

You see, choosing to be a servant arises from the heart and the will. When we love God more than we love ourselves or anything else, we seek to please Him in every way. And choosing to serve transforms us. We have a purpose and we serve the One who made us and gave us life eternal. Serving is how we show our love and loyalty to Jesus Christ. And anyone and everyone can serve the Lord when they deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him.

Just as Jesus met our needs for love, forgiveness, and a purpose, so the Lord gives us opportunity to show love, and to forgive others, and to serve their needs. You see servants do the unseen work, acts of kindness that never get acknowledged but still make a difference. They don't serve to receive the praise of men but to please and show their love for God.

Servants put the Lord first, others second, and themselves last. Paul wrote in Philippians 2 verses 1 to 4, "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." You see servants realize that serving others is one of the ways that we serve the Lord.

The Lord Jesus himself speaks of how serving others will be viewed in the judgment. In Matthew 25:31 to 40 Jesus explains: "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" When we serve others, meeting their needs, we're serving the Lord!

Now good servants listen to what they are asked to do and they want to please the Master in heaven. They don't act on their own authority or change what the Lord said to suit themselves or to please people. They have a zeal for their work and a hunger for righteousness. Romans 12:11 urges us, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

A good servant is faithful and reliable. He shows up even when serving is hard or inconvenient. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 16:10, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much." When people are faithful to serve in small things, they will also serve in things that are more demanding. The Lord expects His people to be present when He needs and calls them. Paul explained in 1 Corinthians 4 verses 1 and 2, "This is how one should regard us, (Paul speaking about himself) as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." Now faithfulness means doing the work that God asks us to do. And it also means doing it the way God asks it to be done. The value of a messenger comes from his ability to transfer the message accurately. Proverbs 25:13 says, "Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters."

A good servant produces fruit. You see he is love in action. 1 John 3:16 to 18 says, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." A good servant shows compassion that makes a difference. He doesn't merely talk about doing good; he does it. The Lord Jesus said in John 15 and verse 8 that, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

Oh if you wish to be a good servant, then "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." Set Him apart as the holy one in your heart and soul. Your master. And let nothing come before Him as Lord or separate you from Him. Make yourself His servant. Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him. If you lose your life for His sake, you will save it. Love and Obey the Lord.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we exalt You as our God our creator and our Lord. Father help us to be good servants who love You. Who will be trustworthy in site. And who will do Your will as we live our lives for Your sake. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Can the Lord Jesus trust you to be His servant? The Lord sacrificed His body and blood on the cross to redeem you. Titus 2:14 says that Jesus "gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." The Lord wants you to be faithful, humble, morally pure, and active in His service. Christians who do nothing are like the fearful slave who buried his talent in the ground. When the Lord called him to account for the talent entrusted to him, the slave could only give back the talent he was given.

Well in response, the Lord said in Matthew 25:26 to 27, "You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest." Ultimately, the Lord said, "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." What are you doing with what the Lord has entrusted to you? Will you hear "Well done, good and faithful servant"; or will you be thrown out?

To begin a life of service you must be born again, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and forgiven of your sins. And this happens when you hear the gospel, believe the gospel, and out of love obey the gospel. You obey the gospel by repenting of your sins, confessing your faith in Jesus, and by being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Through baptism we are baptized into the death of Christ and contact His blood, where God washes away our sins. This is the teaching of Acts 22:16 and Romans 6:3 to 7. Why not be saved today?



Date: _____

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