

Program Transcripts

May 2026



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PROGRAMS

May 2026

Topics subject to change without notice

MAY 3 – NOT ASHAMED

Do you believe in Jesus Christ but are ashamed to be called a Christian? Many people believe and admire Jesus but do not share a positive view of Christianity. They have met people who claim to be Christians but live ungodly lives.

MAY 10 – NO OTHER GOD

There is only one God who made heaven and earth and who gave us life, and there are no other gods. The God of the Bible is indeed unique and worthy of our praise and devotion. How is the God of the Bible different?

MAY 17 – YOUR ENEMY SATAN

You may not realize how Satan tricks and schemes to lead people away from the God of heaven. He is the enemy of God and the church and is truly the evil one. He is not your friend no matter what he may promise.

MAY 24 – GLORIFYING GOD

Isaiah 43:7 reminds us that God created us for His glory. Many live for themselves with little thought of God, not realizing how great God truly is. God's desire is that we truly glorify with our lives, our words, and our deeds.

MAY 31 – YES, WE NEED GOD

Many people turn to other people or money to solve their problems and forget about how God can meet their needs and bless their lives. God's value and help in our lives is so great it cannot be measured.

Not Ashamed

Many who hear the word "Christian" think of evil things like the Crusades, the Inquisition, or the Salem witch trials. History tells of Christians fighting Christians. But these things happened centuries after the Lord Jesus Christ, and the church He built, and His teaching. We must not confuse the Christianity of the New Testament with the abuses of later religion. Nor should we confuse what began in the minds of men with the teaching from Jesus Christ. Jesus was a Savior filled with love and never taught His disciples to convert people with a sword. When Peter drew a sword to protect Jesus, Jesus told Peter in Matthew 26:52, "Put your sword back into its place. For all (those) who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."

Many people equate all religion with Christianity. They assume if someone does something evil for religious reasons, and a Christian does something evil for religious reasons, then Christianity must be evil. But, is everything that calls itself Christianity alike? Could it be that true Christianity is altogether different from corrupted forms? To label all Christianity as evil because of corrupted forms is really both unkind and unfair.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Mark chapter 8 verses 34 to 38. There Jesus is discussing what He's expecting of His disciples.

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father (and) with the holy angels."

That is a reading from God's holy word and it should touch each of us. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we pray that we may never be ashamed of You or of the gospel. We pray that we may always love You and devote our selves to You in service. And to do Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus in Matthew 16:13 asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." What these people said about Jesus wasn't true. Jesus wasn't John the Baptizer or Elijah or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets, no. Just because people think something doesn't make it true. Jesus then asks His disciples in Matthew 16:15 to 17, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." You see Peter learned this from the Father in heaven.

Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God. And the identity of Jesus matters. Now if we think He's simply another prophet or even another religious teacher, we don't know Him. But if He is the Christ or Messiah, if He is the Son of God, then He is the One God has promised all through the ages. He's not merely a man; He is Divine. We can't be ashamed of Jesus and still please God. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 10 verses 32 and 33, "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

Now if you confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, then you must also realize that He is the Lord. Jesus was the Messiah and was willing to humble himself and obey the Father by dying on the cross. And the Bible says in Philippians 2:9 to 11, "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.”

To say “Jesus is Lord” means you’re willing to obey His will. 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us to “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.” Calling Jesus “Lord” is not merely a confession; it means we set apart Christ in our hearts as our one and only Lord and Master. We recognize Him as God’s Son who has all authority in heaven and on earth. It means we recognize that He owns us, body, soul and spirit. We have chosen in our hearts to serve Him and no one else. Ephesians 4 and verse 5 says there is “one Lord.” Now many are confused morally and spiritually because they are enslaved to sin. They aren’t willing to have Jesus as their Lord. You can’t call Jesus “Lord” and live any way you please. Jesus asked in Luke 6:46, “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” Our lives must match our confession. If we call Jesus “Lord,” we must live up to our confession.

However, confessing our faith has challenges. We must live among people who don’t share our faith. The Jews of the first century had a lengthy debate about Jesus. No one denied His ability to work miracles. Why, even His enemies recognized His miraculous power. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, some people ran to tell the high priest. And the high priest and the Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus. John 11:47 to 48 says, “Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, ‘What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.’”

Well some rulers of the first century faced the decision whether to admit publicly their faith or to hide it out of fear. John explained in John 12:42 and 3, “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.” Now these rulers chose their social status over God. They believed but were afraid and ashamed to let anybody know. Now they decided the cost of discipleship was too high. They enjoyed their place in the community for a time but lost the approval of God. You can’t be ashamed of our Lord Jesus and still enjoy the grace of God.

The Lord Jesus said in Luke 9:26, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, 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.” Jesus included His words; did you notice that? The Lord Jesus realized that while some people might value Him, they don’t respect His words. Some people, frankly, are ashamed of what Jesus teaches. They don’t agree with Him, because they don’t want to believe what He teaches. They call Him ‘Lord,’ while they disrespect His teaching. They love Jesus but don’t want to give in to His teaching. In front of the Father and all the angels, Jesus will one day be ashamed of them.

To scoff means to treat people or ideas with contempt or ridicule. Well, many scoff at what the Lord Jesus says these days. They don’t like His definition of marriage; or they don’t like the way He values life before birth or when people are old; and they don’t like what He says about sex, so they scoff at God and the Bible. Our Lord is patient, but we must understand: when we harden our hearts to the point that we scoff at God’s word, the Lord has a limit to His patience.

When Jerusalem had forsaken the Lord and run to idols, the people began scoffing at the prophets. 2 Chronicles 36:15 to 16 says: “The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.” Do we think we can make fun of God and His word, and God won’t notice? God punished the Jews for their sins, and God will punish us for ours. Galatians 6:7 to 8 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows,

this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Our world can be intimidating for a Christian. Christianity has always been at odds with the world. And the world will persecute us for the name of Jesus Christ, but loving and faithful Christians won't ever deny or shame the name of the Lord. You might recall the example of the apostles in Acts 5. You'll remember the High Priest and the Council called the apostles in for preaching Jesus. They wanted to put a stop to it. They had the apostles flogged and ordered them not to preach any more in the name of Jesus. But Acts 5:41 to 42 says, the apostles “went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” They weren't ashamed! They rejoiced that God counted them worthy to suffer!

A disciple named Polycarp was martyred for his faith early in the second century. He was bound and he was to be burned at the stake. According to the Martyrdom of Polycarp, they stabbed him when the fire failed to touch him. He had to decide whether he would embrace Christ or embrace Caesar, whether he would keep his faith or keep his life. Polycarp held his ground and kept his faith. The Martyrdom of Polycarp records these words:

And as he was brought forward, the tumult became great when they heard that Polycarp was taken. And when he came near, the proconsul asked him whether he was Polycarp. On his confessing that he was, the proconsul sought to persuade him to deny Christ, saying, “Have respect to thy old age,” and other similar things, according to their custom, such as,” Swear by the fortune of Caesar; repent, and say, Away with the Atheists.” But Polycarp, gazing with a stern countenance on all the multitude of the wicked heathen then in the stadium, and waving his hand towards them, while with groans he looked up to heaven, said, “Away with the Atheists.” Then, the proconsul urging him, and saying, “Swear, and I will set thee at liberty, reproach Christ;” Polycarp declared, “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”

Polycarp died that day for the name of Jesus Christ. He died because he was a faithful Christian. He wasn't ashamed to call Jesus “Lord” or to follow His teaching. Are you? 1 Peter 4:14 to 16 says, “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.” People have said and done many things for which they should be ashamed of themselves. I too have sinned against God and man; but we can never be ashamed of the name of the Lord Jesus or His words. We must glorify the name of the Lord and wear the name Christian with dignity.

Why do we follow Jesus unashamed? We follow because the Lord Jesus lived a sinless life. 1 Peter 2:21 to 22 reminds us, “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.” He brought peace, hope, love, righteousness, and forgiveness. He's the source of life, He is newness of life, abundant life, and eternal life. And we must go to Him. He's the Great Physician who heals bodies and souls. The life of Jesus defines the word “love.” In all history, no one was so pure, so sacrificial, so loving, and so true as the Lord Jesus Christ!

Our love and loyalty to God find their foundation in Christ's character. The Lord Jesus is completely trustworthy. His actions are pure and good, and He always keeps His promises. Numbers 23:19 says, “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” God is faithful, and we can put our lives into His hands. Paul said in 2 Timothy 1 and verse 12, “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I

am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” Do you know whom you believe? Have you entrusted yourself completely to the Lord? Have you made Him Lord of your life?

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us always to put You first and to never be ashamed of You or anything that You've taught. And help us to love You and to love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus asked His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?” Now I'm asking you, “Who do you say Jesus is?” Now be careful; your answer will determine where you spend eternity. Do you believe in Jesus or do you doubt? Do you think Jesus is awesome but are ashamed to be called a Christian? Do you believe in Jesus but afraid to confess Him? Do you confess faith in Christ but are ashamed of what He teaches? Do you confess Christ as Lord but not do what He says? Do you belong to Jesus? I'm deeply sorry when I see hypocritical and disobedient Christians who shame the name of the Lord. I'm not asking you to follow the disobedient or the hypocrites; I'm asking you to follow Jesus.

Now to come to Jesus means denying yourself, taking up your cross daily, and following Him from now on. You can be unashamed of Him or His words, because you love and trust Him for who He is. If you love and trust Him, put sin away from your life and confess Him before others. With that confession, gladly obey Him by being baptized into Christ. Galatians 3:26 to 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.”

Baptism is an act of faith in His name. Colossians 2:12 to 13 explains, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.” When you're baptized, God forgives your sins and makes you His child. You're born again to a new life in Christ filled with hope and love. Won't you be baptized today?

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?

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No Other God

We serve the God of the Bible, the Father of our Lord Jesus, the God who gave His message to the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit moved men to write His words in Scripture. God's revealed will gives us His promises and His instructions. The New Testament became the one faith by which Christians can live today.

Sometimes people say all religions are alike; but if you study world religions, you'll find such a statement shows a lack of understanding the many differences. Some believe in God, while others don't. Some believe in the Godhead, while others deny it. Some believe in many gods, while others believe in only one. Some believe in animal sacrifice, and others do, 't. Some believe in human philosophies, while others believe in divine revelation. Some believe in converting others with a sword, while others don't. Some hold women in high esteem, while others don't. Some permit slavery, and others don't. We want the will of God to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Our reading today comes from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians chapter 4 verses 4 to 6. And there he's emphasizing the unity that Christians should have. And in fact he would wish the whole world would come to understand the unity that we have in Christ and in our Father in heaven.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

That is the teaching of the scriptures just one, just one. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have shown us the way. That You are the one who made the world and created it. That You are the one who has done every good thing for us. And Father help us to devote our selves to You and to Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

Ephesians 6:10 to 13 speaks of our challenges and our need for the strength of our Lord Jesus. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

The Scriptures are clear as to our spiritual condition outside of Christ. Paul reminded the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 2:1 to 3: "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. 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." Without God men serve their own desires. The desires of the flesh and mind.

This spiritual battle for truth and morality has been from the very beginning of time. When men abandon God, they serve Satan and the flesh. When Eve stopped listening to God and followed her desires, she ate of the forbidden fruit, and gave some to Adam, and sin came into the world. Now sin is not a trivial matter. We must listen to God. Moses told Israel in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other." Moses later confirms in Deuteronomy 6:4 to 5, "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Moses warned Israel in Deuteronomy 4:15 to 19: "So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, so that you do not

act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth. And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.”

God revealed to Moses some of the people of Israel would do the very thing God had forbidden. Moses prophesied with such confidence that he used the past tense as if it had already happened. He said in Deuteronomy 32 verses 16 to 18, “They made Him (that is God) jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons who were not God, To gods whom they have not known, New gods who came lately, Whom your fathers did not dread. You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth.”

Israel, however, didn't listen. Psalm 106:37 to 38 explains, “They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons, And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with the blood.” One wonders how such a horrible thing could ever happen, how people who once knew God could forsake the truth and give in to such sin.

1 Kings 11:1 to 4 helps us understand: When Solomon became king, he married numerous foreign wives who came “from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, ‘You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.’ Now Solomon had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. Solomon clung to these in love.” By failing to listen to God and compromising with his wives, he led other Israelites to compromise.

Because Solomon sinned, God tore the kingdom apart and gave the northern ten tribes to his servant Jeroboam. When Jeroboam became king of Israel, he set up golden calves, two of them, one at Bethel and another at Dan. And the Scriptures call him, “Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin” (1 Kings 22:52). And in later years northern Israel tried to blend their faith in the true God with the false gods surrounding them. And God told them that if they feared and served Him alone that He would protect them from their enemies, but they rebelled. 2 Kings 17:40 to 41 says, “However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner. So these nations feared the LORD, yes, but they also served their carved images.” God will not tolerate or bless those who are double-minded. We must do more than give God first place; He is the only true and living God. He demands all our worship and service.

Isaiah revealed the foolishness of idols. Isaiah 40 verses 18 to 20 says, “To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. He who is too impoverished for such an offering selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman to prepare an idol that will not totter.”

Now people in ancient times manufactured gods and then worshiped the work of their own hands. Sometimes their sculptures represented dead men they admired, sometimes various animals, sometimes the blending of an animal with a man, and sometimes a demon. Their worship, however, was useless. That man-made idol couldn't do anything for them; but the God of heaven can be a great blessing to you.

The difference between God, the God of heaven, and other so-called gods is obvious. Isaiah 41:22 to 24 says, "Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; (that is make predictions) As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. Behold, you (speaking to the idols) are of no account, And your work amounts to nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination." The idol sitting in their place could never prophesy or tell of the past. It was deaf and mute. It couldn't answer a single prayer or do any mighty work. The difference between an idol and the God who created us and does mighty works is unmistakable.

Jeremiah realized the great mistake Judea made in giving into to false gods. He reasoned with them in Jeremiah 2:11 to 13: "Has a nation changed gods When they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory For that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, And shudder, be very desolate," declares the LORD. "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water."

Any so-called religion that forsakes the God of the Bible, the Creator of all, is a useless religion. Don't trade the truth for a lie. Don't trade the God of heaven for a demon or a humanly manufactured faith. Hezekiah prayed to the Lord in Isaiah 37:16, "O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth."

Paul told the Corinthians who lived in a pagan world filled with idolatry and false gods in 1 Corinthians 8 verses 5 to 6, "For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him." Our world is still filled with those who have rejected the God of heaven and embrace a godless lifestyle.

We must turn to what is true and real. God is not like humans who don't know God. They think they can live as they please and don't need the Lord. They are missing out on the life God sent Jesus to give to us. We must look to God's love and His wisdom. God said through Isaiah in Isaiah 55:6 to 7, "Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

John 6:66 to 69 tells of some who left Jesus when they didn't like what He had to say. Is says, "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, 'You do not want to go away also, do you?' Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.'" Who else can give us eternal life? No one. Who else can answer our prayers? No one. Who else can give us the truth? No one.

God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead, and His tomb is empty. Those who claim to be prophets of other religions are in their tombs; other religious leaders and philosophers are in their tombs. They are but fallible men, but the risen Lord Jesus was more than a man. He is the Son of the living God and Lord of all. If you want eternal life, go to the only one who died for your sins and rose again. 1 Corinthians 6:14 says, "Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power." The risen Lord gives us hope of eternal life.

1 John 5:19 to 21 says, "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may

know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, guard yourselves from idols.” We need to guard ourselves from false religions, false gods, and false prophets. 1 John 4:1 warns us, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Let's pray together. Oh Heavenly Father help us to know the truth, that You are the one and true living God and that You made us and that Your son Jesus died for our sins and rose again on our behalf. And Father help us always to devote ourselves to You, to love You. In Jesus name, Amen.

The apostle John wrote in 1 John 4:4 to 6, “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them (that is the false teachers), for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” There's a difference between the one, true religion and worldly religions. Only through Jesus can we find eternal life. Listen to Him.

James 4:7 to 8 says, “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 need to turn whole-heartedly and purely to the God who created us and sustains us. There is no other hope.

To become a Christian you must believe and confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God risen from the dead. You must leave sinful ways and embrace the Lord's way. There is no grace or salvation apart from repentance. When out of love you have repented, obey the Lord by being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Peter told the guilt-stricken people at Pentecost in the first gospel sermon, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2 verse 38). When you're baptized, God washes away your sins by the blood of Christ and adds you to His church. There is but one God and one gospel. Let's obey the truth.

Date: _____

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Your Enemy Satan

From the beginning, Satan intended to steal every person's heart from God. He seduced Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; he was out to win her heart from God. Satan used Eve's disobedience to influence Adam to sin. Satan lied about God and told her "you surely will not die." Then he gave her the impression that God had cheated her. "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3 verse 5).

Because Adam and Eve fell for the devil's schemes, physical and spiritual death entered the world. The devil uses many schemes to move our hearts away from the God that made the world and His Son Jesus. The bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Satan lies, deceives, twists the Scriptures, and teaches myths. He's not your friend or benefactor; all his ways leads to death. We must not be fooled by his deceitful ways. We got to know Satan's schemes, because falling for them will cost our souls.

Our reading today is from John chapter 3 verses 42 to 44 and here Jesus is talking to some Jews who called God their Father but we're rejecting Him. And so here's what he says.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Oh this is something for us to recall. That the devil is the father of lies. Let's pray together. Oh Heavenly Father help us to listen to Your son Jesus that we may know the truth. And help us to reject the lies and the schemes of the devil. Help us to always to follow You and to be close to You in every way. In Jesus name, Amen.

The schemes your enemy, the devil, dreams up can lead you astray and cost you your soul. We must never take them for granted. Make no mistake! The devil will trick you so that he can separate you from our God. How does the devil trick us? Well, first, Satan uses lies and half-truths from the voices surrounding us. The Lord Jesus said in John 8:44 to the Jews He says, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

The best way to distinguish the truth from error is to study Scripture. We should continually remind ourselves of God's truth. Your best defense against Satan's schemes is to know God's Holy Word. The Lord Jesus said in John 8:47 that, "Whoever is of God hears the words of God." The Scriptures contain the answer to every false teaching and every doctrine dreamed up in the heart of men. Some who call themselves prophets "speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord" (Jeremiah 23 and verse 16 says that).

Second, the devil uses other people. The problem of peer pressure is nothing new. Some think if everyone is doing it, it must be okay; others see family or friends sinning and believe that sin must be all right. People, however, are not the standard of right and wrong; God is. People may have no problem with what God calls sin, but God does! God will not overlook what He calls sin. And unless the blood of Jesus cleanses you from sin, you must bear the penalty of it!

Now the law of Moses said in Deuteronomy 13:6 to 8, "If your brother, your mother's son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods' (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), you shall not yield to him or listen to him." While we love people, we must love God even more. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 10:37 that, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

The children of Israel began to grow close to the pagans, they intermarried with them, and slowly began to adopt their ways. When Solomon first became king, he walked in the ways of his father David and was faithful to God, but Solomon married many foreign women from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love (1 Kings 11 verse 2 to 5). His many wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God. And so Solomon did evil in God's eyes and opened the door for Judah to turn the hearts away from God to these idols. When you compromise and leave the Lord, you encourage others to do the same. The apostle Paul warned the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'"

Third, the devil will tempt you. He uses selfishness to steal your heart from God. He wants to drive a wedge between our desires and the God who made us. 1 John 2:15 to 17 reminds us, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

Satan wants people to be jealous, to feel cheated, to be discontent, or to covet what others have. The devil wants us to despise other people's success and rejoice at their failures. The devil frustrates good works and he shames those who won't follow his vices and evil ways. Jeremiah 17 verse 9 says that, "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" The Lord Jesus understood how the heart leads us astray and said in Mark 7:21 to 22, "For from within, (that is) out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness." People with evil hearts do evil things.

Now people grow to love sin when it brings them some pleasure, but they don't realize how sin can ruin their lives and cost their souls. Jeremy Taylor said this about sin, "First it startles him, then it becomes pleasing, then easy, then delightful, then frequent, then habitual, then confirmed. Then the man is impenitent, then obstinate, and then he is condemned." Satan wants you to love your sins, but loving sin causes being lost in sin.

One must never tolerate or condone evil. When people tolerate evil, it's not long before they accept it and practice it. You can't walk through the mud and not get muddy. And as time passes, people celebrate their evil as good. And in the end, they pass laws supporting their evil and persecute those who refuse to practice their evil. David Lipscomb said, "The devil wants to get the wedge of a little sin allowed in your heart, and you'll soon be all his own. Never play with fire—never trifle with little sins."

Fourth, the devil loves to tell people they cannot change. The devil hates it when people repent of their sins. The devil even tries to paint repentance as a punishment, when in reality it's a process of healing. Evil people hate the light and they mock those who leave evil lives to live in the light of righteousness. They're gonna mock them. They don't like being reminded their immoral lifestyle is truly

evil. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:4 to 5, "In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, (that is moral looseness) and they malign you (they put you down); but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead."

I tell you people can change! They can turn their lives around, and I have seen them do it! You can choose what is right and forsake what is evil. You don't have to stay enslaved to sin. Paul spoke of the Corinthians who changed their lives. 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11 says, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." God can wash you, make you holy, and declare you innocent in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Sin enslaves, but the Lord Jesus promised in John 8:36, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." Paul said in Galatians 5:13, "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Christians can be free to do what is right and loving instead of acting in selfishness. God's ways bless everyone. When we follow Jesus, we enjoy the fruit of righteousness. Galatians 5:22 to 23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." My friend, that is real freedom! It's freedom to bless. There is no law against righteousness, no law against love, joy, or peace. No one can blame you for being patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, or self-controlled. God's way is a blessing to everybody!

Fifth, Satan loves to accuse the people of God. Satan likes to turn things upside down and make evil into good and good into evil. Revelation 12:10 says, "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren (that's the devil) has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.'" In ancient times, the accusers said that Christians were cannibals, because they ate Lord's Supper remembering the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The accusers said Christians were incestuous, because a Christian brother would marry a Christian sister. No fleshly kin but religiously kin. They were not kin that way but only in Christ Jesus. The accusers said that Christians were atheists, because they didn't believe in the Roman, Greek, Egyptian, or Babylonian gods, but they did believe in the God of the Bible who created them. You know accusations filled with lies and half-truths led men to become prejudiced against the people of God.

Today Satan still makes accusations against the people of God. If they have the least weakness, Satan labels them as hypocrites. Now a hypocrite is someone who pretends to be what he does not intend to be. There are hypocrites indeed in the world, but struggling with sin and hating one's own sins does not mean one is a hypocrite; it means he's human and has weakness. All Christians struggle with sin and strive daily to fight it. They're not pretenders. Faithful Christians confess their sins and ask God to forgive them; a hypocrite pretends he never sinned. The difference is clear.

Today Satan's people accuse Christians of being mean-spirited and narrow minded. Oh Satan loves to slander and mock God's people. The Lord Jesus said in John 3:19 to 20, "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

Satan wants to justify and glorify sin and error. When God calls something sinful and God's people acknowledge what God says, Satan and his crowd become mean and accuse God's people of being unloving. My friends, it's loving to teach people about God's moral laws, because God's morals are kind

and protect. It's cruel to lie to people about morals and encourage people to practice sinful things. When God's people teach a whatever they teach from God we must obey. Because God is always true. We should never go beyond the teaching, or listen to Satan and his crowd and then accuse God's people and slander them.

God said in Isaiah 5 and verse 20, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" Don't be fooled by Satan's schemes, and lies, and false accusations. Satan is the earliest source of fake news, and he's never stopped trying to blind us to God's truth! When you ignore or refuse to believe God's truth, you fall for Satan's schemes. Please don't do that.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so thankful for Your love and for the good things that You have done for us. For the truth that You teach us and the way You protect us from sin and from the temptations of the devil. Help us Heavenly Father to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. And to love one another. In Jesus name, Amen.

How do you fight the devil? First, fill your heart with God's word so that you'll know the truth and be able to spot the errors and schemes of Satan. God doesn't want us to "be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (according to Ephesians 4 and verse 14). God wants us to know the truth!

Second, we must stand strong and resist the devil. James 4:7 to 8 says, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." God gives us the armor we need to fight the devil. Ephesians 6:10 to 11 says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." Truth, the gospel, faith, hope, salvation, the word of God, and prayer all make up our armor. When we wear God's armor and have Christ's strength, we can defeat Satan to the salvation of our souls.

Third, remain alert. The devil attacks when we're vulnerable. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Keep resisting the devil!

If you want the Lord in your life to strengthen you and win this struggle, then become a Christian! Put your faith in Christ and His teaching. Turn from the sins that wage war against your soul and take up your cross to follow Christ. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, just as Acts 2:38 teaches. Start your Christian life today!

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?

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Glorifying God

Isaiah 43:7 tells us that we were created for the glory of God. Hello, I'm Phil Sanders. This is a Bible study, "In SEARCH of the Lord's Way." And today we're going to explore how God wishes for us to glorify His name. Stay with us.

The Scriptures reveal the glory and majesty of God. Our Father in heaven is so much wiser than we are. He sees things that we can't see and knows things that we'll never know. We must trust in His wisdom. The Lord God said in Isaiah 55:8 to 9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." God will bless us and provide for us, if we trust in Him and stay close to Him. He has prepared a home in heaven for us, and that's why we continue to search the Scriptures to find the Lord's way

We serve a glorious God! Ephesians 1:17 calls "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory"; and 1 Corinthians 2:8 calls Jesus "the Lord of glory." In John 17:24 the Lord Jesus prayed, "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." I can only imagine how marvelous and awesome was the Father and the Son before the foundation of the world. Today we know something of that glory, because Jesus came into the world. Hebrews 1 verse 3 says that Jesus, "is the radiance of His (that is God's) glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power."

Our reading today is from the book of Revelation chapter 4 verses 8 to 11. And these verses help us to see God as He truly is.

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

"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."

That is a wonderful observation about the glory of our Father in heaven. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we glorify Your name, we exalt You we know that You are hallowed. Help us Father to always love You, to do Your will. And Father we know that You have given us all good things. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Solomon said in Proverbs 10 verse 1 that, "A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother." We all would like to please our parents and make them proud of our accomplishments. Being wise is not the same as being smart. In God's eyes the person who is wise pays attention and follows the teaching of the Lord. The fool has his mind on himself and his own pleasures. Because the wise and the foolish have different mindsets and desires, they go in different directions. A wise son follows his father's teaching and pleases him, while a foolish son that follows worldly ways gives sorrow to his mother.

Now it's the same with Christians. Wise Christians pay attention and follow God, while foolish Christians pursue their own pleasures. The Lord Jesus contrasted two very different paths of life in the Sermon on the Mount. He said in Matthew 7:13 to 14, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Don't you want to be wise and choose the path that leads to life. Now you might have only a few who go with you, but it will glorify your Father in heaven and bless you eternally.

The apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:11 to 12, "For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory." Paul both encouraged and challenged the Thessalonians to have lives worthy of God. The Lord called us through the gospel into His kingdom and His glory. God has forgiven us, made us His children, made us citizens of His kingdom and promised us a home in heaven. We must remember who we are and how we live as children of God and heirs of the kingdom of heaven.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Everything we do ought to say thank you to God; it ought to reflect God's love and holiness. It ought to say to the world, "I belong to God and live to serve Him." Well how do we do this? Of course, the most obvious way we glorify God is through our worship. Hebrews 13:15 says, "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." Our songs and prayers, the words of our lips, praise God. We worship to glorify God, to proclaim to the world His greatness!

We also glorify God by bearing fruit. The Lord Jesus said in John 15:8, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." How do we bear fruit? We do it by being as much the Lord Jesus as we can. We too seek to save souls by pointing them to the Lord Jesus and His gospel. We preach and teach to everyone who will listen. And we bear fruit by caring for the needy. The Lord Jesus on the day of judgment will say to those who served Him, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:34 to 36). You see when we serve others, we serve Christ and glorify God as the lover of all people.

We are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world to those who surround us. We are people who make life brighter, purer, more loving and more peaceful. The Lord urges us in Matthew 5:14 to 16, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." When we bless others around us by serving the Lord, they see the good that we do and thank God for us. Serving the Lord as Christians opens the door for people of the world to see God's love and goodness.

Now even when people don't understand us or appreciate us, they know love and kindness when they see it. The early Christians faced great persecution from the pagan nations surrounding them. They had to earn the respect of their neighbors, because people believed that they were evil. Peter encouraged the Christians in 1 Peter 4:12 to 16. He said, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you're blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.” Now we may suffer for our faith, but we never have to be ashamed to wear the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. By holding fast to our faith and values, we glorify the name of Jesus Christ.

Now the best thing you can do as a Christian to win the respect of your neighbors is to show the love of Christ and do what is right. Those who don't understand our faith may insult you, may curse you, and may slander you publicly. Do what is right anyway! Glorify God because you belong to Him and love Him. Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 1:11 to 12, “To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Now the devil will tempt you and make every effort to tear you away from your faith, but stand strong with the Lord. 1 Peter 5:8 to 10 says, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered (for) a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” Now since you have been called to eternal glory, don't lose your blessing over a momentary, sinful pleasure. It's not worth it.

The Lord Jesus purchased the church with His own blood and looks at her as His bride. Ephesians 5:25 to 27 says that, “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” Jesus cleansed and made the church holy. He wants to present His people in splendor on the last day. The Lord Jesus didn't cleanse and make you holy, so that you could return to an unholy and worldly life of sin.

Now because the church is holy, each Christian should be holy. Peter said in 1 Peter 2:11 to 12, “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.” If we allow sin to dominate us, the world will slander us as evildoers and look down upon our God; but if we live morally excellent lives, people will praise and glorify God because of it.

1 Corinthians 6:19 to 20 says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” Corinth was a city known for its sexual immorality of all kinds. They degraded their bodies and spread disease through their lustful acts. A Christian's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Christians stay away from sexual sin, because they know their bodies belong to God. They pursue a virtuous life, because sexual purity glorifies God. They save themselves for marriage as a gift to God and a gift to their spouse.

Sadly, some Christians don't live up to what they believe. They speak out against the very sin that they practice secretly. Romans 2:21 to 24 says, “you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. For, as it is written, ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.’” When people's lives conflict with their message, they cause the Lord to be shamed rather than praised.

Whether we honor God with our lives will determine how God looks at us. 2 Timothy 2:19 to 22 says, "But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.' Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

Now why is this important? Well, it's important because we'll spend eternity somewhere, either in glory or in regret. We're just a vapor that appears for a little while in this life. We must keep our focus on the Lord and on living eternally with Him in glory. 2 Corinthians 4:16 to 18 says, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, (temporary) but the things that are unseen are eternal." Where will you spend eternity? Will it be in the glory of God?

Let's pray. Heavenly Father we're so grateful to be Your children. We know Father that You have sent Your son Jesus to die for our sins. And Father we pray that we may live lives that are worthy of our calling. To love You always and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

One day, in the future, the Lord Jesus will return to this earth. He'll come in great glory. The Lord said in Matthew 16:27, "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds." The second coming of the Lord Jesus will be unmistakable; Revelation 1:7 says that, every eye will see Him. But it's the purpose of His coming that to me is remarkable. 2 Thessalonians 1 and verse 10 reminds us that Jesus is coming "on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed." The Lord Jesus will be "glorified in his saints." Their lives demonstrated faith, and that faith will praise Him. Do you believe? Does your life glorify God?

Peter described himself in 1 Peter 5:1 as "a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed." When Jesus is revealed in glory, we as Christians will get to share in that glory. The Lord Jesus said in John 12:26, "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." If you live so as to glorify God in this life, God will honor you in the life to come.

To honor the Lord Jesus, place your faith in Him. Trusting Him means listening to and following His Word. Trusting the Lord involves loving Him, repenting of sin, turning to what is right, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and being baptized into Jesus Christ. Now just as we must believe and repent, so we must be baptized in order to be saved. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." Won't you obey Him today?

Date: _____

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Yes, We Need God

People who think they can do it on their own often forget God. Do we need God? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." Today we're going to explore our great need for God. Stay tuned.

The Scriptures open up God's history for us, so that we can avoid spiritual pitfalls and live prosperous lives that please God. We find blessing when we seek God, because we realize how much we need Him. We find God today in Scripture.

Asa was a good king in Judah. Early in his reign King Asa saw God defeat the huge army of the Ethiopians and Libyans when he looked to God for help. He put away the sinful idols and humbled his heart. But late in life King Asa relied on the king of Syria rather than turn to God for help. Hanani, the seer or prophet, told King Asa in 2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars." King Asa failed to seek God's help and found his later years filled with misery and frustration. Asa got angry at Hanani and put him in prison, because he didn't want to hear the truth.

Don't make Asa's mistake. The Lord is still looking for people who will seek after Him and His ways. Many today never call on God, seek His will, or feel a need for Him. They assume some other way is better than following God. Like Asa, they're only bringing misery upon themselves. God would love to draw close to you and bless you, but you must let Him. You must seek Him with all your heart. Will you?

Our reading today comes from 2 Chronicles chapter 14 verses 9 to 12. And they talk about Asa's victory by the power of God over the Ethiopians.

Now Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and he came to Mareshah. So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You." So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

We need God and we can trust Him. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for these stories of old that show that You were with Your people. And Father we pray that You will be with us in our time of struggles. Even whenever the people are a multitude against us. Help us Heavenly Father in Jesus name, Amen.

Americans are famous for their belief in "rugged individualism," not needing anything or anyone. They believe in pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps. Even Christians can fall into the trap of feeling self-sufficient, of not realizing how much they need God, His guidance, His morals, and His truth. On every American coin and dollar are the words, "In God we trust." If we trust in God, why has our nation begun thinking that man's wisdom is better, and man's morals are kinder, or man's favor is more important than God's? The more we ignore and forget God, the more miserable our nation will become.

King Asa of Judah had been spiritually strong, and a faithful king for many years, and God gave the land rest and prosperity, but later in life he forgot God. He sought help from the idolatrous king of Syria rather than God. You'd think the great victory God gave him would have made a greater impression, but Asa thought he outgrew his need for God. When he did so, he only ruined himself. He got angry at

hearing the truth, imprisoned Hanani, and oppressed some people. You see war never departed Judah as long as he lived. When people ignore God and follow their own path, they get angry at the truth. They hate the good and seek their own ways. They think they are better off, but they only ruin themselves.

The luke-warm church in Laodicea became so prosperous they didn't need God. Revelation 3:17 to 18 says, 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," (and then he says) and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, (then Jesus said) I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.'" No wonder Jesus was ready to spit them out of His mouth!

The church was spiritually wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. You know people often blind themselves to reality—not seeing how vulnerable and weak they are. Laodicea had banks and were rich, had clothing businesses with purple, and had an eye businesses with salve. But they were spiritually impoverished! You can have all the money, fame, and power of men and yet still be weak and powerless with God. It's easy to feel satisfied with life, that all is okay. Then something happens which opens our eyes to the reality that we don't have all the strings. Some strings belong only to God.

Exodus, chapter one, tells the story of Israel's decline in Egypt from a wealthy and powerful position to one of slavery. It all happened when Egypt changed politically. Exodus 1:6 to 11 says, "Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we.' (well)The new king of Egypt was jealous of the power of Israel. (he said) 'Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land.' So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor."

Time has an amazing way of changing things in life. And no matter how secure you think you are, your whole life can be shattered in a day. At that point, you'll know that your life will never be the same. You can't turn back the clock and recover what you lost. It's presumptuous to think that we'll never need the help of God, never need Him as our friend.

James talked about assuming too much in life in chapter 4:13 to 15. He said, "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You're just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." The fact is, none of us knows the future or what our lives will be like. We act in hope that things will go as we planned; but we don't know what will happen to us in coming days and weeks.

People who trust in their own wisdom and their own senses often become deceived by their wisdom and the assumptions of the world. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:20 to 25, "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Some people want a Savior, but they don't want a "Lord," to whom they are accountable and whose Word they must obey. What they may not realize is that everyone has a "lord." They are enslaved to someone or something. Unfortunately many people are enslaved to sin or to the devil. Jesus said in John 8:34, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." A person commits sin because he thinks it's pleasurable, but after a time the sin begins to control the person, and he is a slave. And instead of being "in control," he's "controlled."

Peter spoke of some false teachers of his day as people enslaved to sin in 2 Pet. 2:17 to 19: "These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved." Now sin is cruel to those who are enslaved to it. It brings nothing but harm and shame and regret. Sin is a terrible master.

Everyone has a Lord, wouldn't it be better to choose a master who will love you and bless you rather than one that curses and enslaves you. If you reject Jesus as Lord, you also reject His promises of blessing and the inheritance He has prepared for you. Some people think they don't need a Savior. They might say, "I am not really so bad as to deserve to be lost." You know it's the tendency of every person to kind of downplay his own sins. To many people "sin" is an outdated word and "hell" is kind of a myth designed to manipulate. But if sin and hell are true concepts, and they are, we need a Savior!

Paul said in Rom. 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." And those wages have never, never, never changed in all these years. In Psalm 14:2 to 3, David wrote, "The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one." Paul said in Rom. 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Sin is a universal problem! You have it, I have it, we all have it.

Someone says, "I can't be all that bad." But the apostle John said in 1 John 1:8 to 10, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." We all need a Savior. We need Him to save us from sin, to give us hope and to lead us to heaven. Without the blood of Jesus, we'd all be lost and without any hope of forgiveness and no hope for heaven. Instead of getting proud, let's humble ourselves.

Peter said of Jesus, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2 verse 24). That matters to me. What Jesus did is personal, very personal. The sins that I committed, the sins that you committed meant that we were guilty and we deserved death. And so, God laid on Christ the penalty that you and I should have suffered. He suffered this penalty personally with his body and by shedding his blood. Jesus died for us so that we could be healed from the terrible stain and harm and shame of sin. We should all be grateful for the great sacrifice the Lord Jesus made.

Paul said in Romans 5:6 to 8, "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows (demonstrates) his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." It's hard to imagine that kind of love. To die for people who were weak, ungodly, and sinners shows the surpassing love of Jesus. We can never forget or ignore that kind of love. You and I can be saved by Him, but at a tremendous cost. Your soul and my soul were not cheap. No.

Peter said in 1 Peter 1:18 to 19, “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” God took you and me seriously enough to sacrifice His Son. Jesus loved us enough to sacrifice His life. Let's never walk away from the cross, acting as if nothing went on there that day. What really happened? He took your punishment because He loved you and wanted to spend an eternity with you. Do we need the Lord? Of course we do!

We need the Lord! We need Him every day! We need Him in every facet of our lives! We need saving from sin. We need forgiveness. We need his counsel and His wisdom. We need his guidance and leadership. We need to know Him and the power of his resurrection. We need the Father's ear to hear our prayers. We need the Father's care and protection every day of our lives. We need the Lord's help to overcome sin. The God of heaven, the God of the Bible is a true and living God— and He's the only God. If we don't have Him in our lives, like Asa, we really have nothing at all.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You are a good God to us, that You want to be a part of our lives. That You have loved us and given Jesus for our sins. Help us Heavenly Father to love You, to let You into our lives and to live in way that we walk worthy of our calling. Help us to love You and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

The apostle Paul in Philippians 3:7 to 8 revealed how much he needed the Lord. He said he'd give up everything to have Jesus in his life. He said, “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.” When we have Christ, we have everything; but when we fail to have Christ, we have nothing of lasting value. The Lord Jesus said in John 17:3, “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” Jesus is the only way to eternity; come to Him and serve Him. “Take the world, but give me Jesus.”

We need Jesus in our personal lives, our homes, our cities, and our nation. We need His teaching and love to fill every corner. The story of the cross and the resurrection is not simply good news; it's the best news and the only news that can save you from sin and lead you to heaven. Draw close to God; make Him a part of your life every day! Become a Christian by placing your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He will never lie to you and He wants to save you. He'll do it out of love. And out of your love repent of your sins by forsaking them and by following the Lord. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ, united with Him. We're crucified with Christ in baptism that our body of sin might be done away with according to Romans 6:3 to 7. God washes away our sins in baptism according to Acts 22:16. Become a Christian today.

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?

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