

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

The Essence of the Christian Life is Spending Time with Jesus

Week of June 21, 2020 A.D.

Jesus promised to be with his disciples (and with us as believers in Christ) until the end of the age. This means that we can spend time with Jesus throughout each day if we choose to do so. In this lesson, we will consider how we can take our relationship with Jesus to a deeper, more personal, and more gratifying level of reality.

Read Matthew 28:20

1. Have you ever felt the presence of Jesus? If so, how does that feel? How often do you have that experience? Are there choices which you can make to enter into the presence of Jesus? If so, what are they? Do they always work? Please explain.

Read John 12:23 – 26

2. Do you agree with this statement: "When a person becomes a Christian, he or she must die to their former lifestyle and their former agenda before you can begin to experience and enjoy the abundant life of Jesus and His agenda"? If not, why not? If so, how has your lifestyle and your agenda changed now that you are a Christian? Please explain.
3. Do you ever serve Jesus? If so, how often and how? When you are serving Jesus, do you feel (a) His presence? and/or (b) His pleasure? Please explain your answers.

Read John 14:1 – 3

4. Do you think that most Christians are excited about spending eternity with Jesus? If so, what evidence of that excitement do you see each day: (a) in your life? and (b) in the lives of other Christians? Be specific. If that excitement is missing, why do you think that it is missing? Please explain.
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus died a sacrificial death on a cross because: He created me; He knows me personally; He personally loves me beyond my own comprehension; and, He wants me to be with Him for eternity."

6. Is the quoted statement in number 5 above a true statement? If so, how has it changed your life? Please be specific.
7. Is this statement true in your personal life: "When I get to heaven, all I really want to do is to be close to Jesus, to spend time with Jesus, and to affirm to Jesus my love and devotion to Him"? If it is not true, why not? If it is true, please explain what are you currently doing in your life to allow that statement to become a true description of the relationship which you will have with Jesus in heaven? Please be specific.

Read John 14:23 – 24

8. Is it possible to spend time with Jesus now, here on earth, even before we get to heaven? Is there a connection between obeying the teaching of Jesus and experiencing the presence of Jesus here and now? Please explain.
9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If I truly love Jesus, I will diligently study the Bible so that I will know more of Jesus' teaching, so that I can love Jesus more, and so that I can obey Jesus more."

Read Colossians 3:1 – 4

10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If I am a Christian, then money, power, retirement accounts, houses, cars, prestige, vacations, recreation, and other earthly things should have a low priority in my daily life." (Remember: "critique" means that you have the freedom to disagree with this statement.)
11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If Christ is my life, then I should focus my time and attention on only those personal events and circumstances which matter to Christ."
12. Please state your objections to (and/or any struggles which you have with) this statement: "If my life is hidden with Christ in God, then pleasing Jesus will be the highest priority in my life." If you have no objections to this statement, please describe if and how the truth of this statement is evident in your lifestyle and behavior.

Consider: Jesus wants me to be with Him in heaven. Jesus also wants me to spend time with Him now. Jesus is asking me to devote my life to Him now. Jesus wants His life to be present within me and through me. Jesus is waiting for me to allow Him to do so.