

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

The Essence of the Christian Life is Spending Time with Jesus

Week of August 1, 2021

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 Hebrews 13:5-6

1. Please explain what God means when he says “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
2. Have you ever felt the presence of God? If so, how does that feel? How often do you have that experience? Are there actions which you can initiate to enter into the presence of God? If so, what are they? Do they always work? Please explain.
3. Please explain the meaning and personal application of verse 5. Is there a connection between the teaching and application of verse 5 and the teaching and application of verse 6? If so, please explain that connection.

Read John 12:23-26

4. Did Jesus die so that the seed of his life can come alive and grow within you? If so, what are you doing to enable the life of Jesus to grow within you? Please explain.
5. Do you agree with this statement: “A Christian must die to his own chosen lifestyle and his own chosen agenda in order to live the abundant life of Jesus and His agenda”? If not, why not? If so, how have you personally done so? Please explain.
6. Do you agree with this statement: “When I am serving Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, I can actually feel his presence and his pleasure”? If not, why not? If so, how often do you personally do so and how? Please explain.

Read John 14:1-3

7. 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.

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus died a brutal sacrificial death on a cross because he loves me and he wants to be with me for eternity." Is this statement true? If so, how has it changed your life? Please be specific.

9. 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 not, why not? If so, what are you doing in your life now to make that statement become possible for your life in heaven? Please be specific. (Consider Matthew 20:23-28)

Read John 14:23-24

10. 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.

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If I love Jesus, I will study the Bible so that I will know more of Jesus' teaching, so that I can love Jesus more, so that I can obey Jesus more."

Read Colossians 3:1-3

12. 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.)

13. Please state your objections to (and/or any struggles which you have with) this statement: "If Christ is my life, then I should care only about those things in this world which matter to Christ."

14. 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."

Consider: Jesus wants to spend time with me in eternity. But, even more so, Jesus wants to spend time with me now. Jesus is always ready to live his life within me and through me. Jesus is waiting for me to allow him to do so.