

# Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Week of April 3, 2022 A.D.

## The Essence of the Christian Life is Spending Time with Jesus

Jesus promised to be with his original disciples (and with us as current disciples of 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. And, the more time that we spend with Jesus, the more that we experience the abundant life of Jesus himself.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

### **Read Hebrews 13:5-6**

1. Please explain what God means when he says, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Do you ever feel the presence of God? If so, how does that feel? How often do you have that experience?
2. Please explain the connection between the teaching and application of verse 5 and the teaching and application of verse 6. Why is that connection being expressed by the writer of Hebrews?

### **Read John 12:23-26**

3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus died so that the seed of his life could come alive and grow within me."
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "A Christian must put to death his personal desires and personal agenda in order to experience the abundant life of Jesus and Jesus' agenda."
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "When I am serving Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, I can actually feel his presence and his pleasure."

### **Read John 14:1-3**

6. Do you think that most Christians are eager and/or excited to spend eternity with Jesus? If so, what evidence of that eagerness and/or excitement do you see in Christians each day? If not, what evidence do you offer for a lack of that eagerness and/or excitement?
7. 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."
8. Which of the following statements better describes your attitude about heaven: (a) "I am looking forward to heaven so that I can experience all of the activities which excite me the most." or (b) "When I get to heaven, all I want to do is to be close to Jesus, to spend time with Jesus, and to express to Jesus my love and devotion to Him."

### **Read John 14:23-24**

9. Is it possible to spend time with Jesus now, here on earth, even before we get to heaven? Is there a connection between our daily obedience to the teaching of Jesus and our ability to enjoy the presence of Jesus here and now?
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If I love Jesus, I will faithfully and diligently study the Bible so that I will have a better understanding of the teachings of Jesus, so that I will be more in love with Jesus, and so that I will become more obedient to Jesus."

### **Read Colossians 3:1-3**

11. 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."
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If Christ is my life, then I should care only about those things in this world which matter to Christ."

**Consider:** Jesus wants me to experience His presence during every moment of every day. Jesus is always ready to live his life with me and through me. Jesus is waiting for me to allow him to do so. "You think about that." Amen.