

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of July 31, 2022 A.D.

Living for Eternity

Salvation is a free gift from God for those who are willing to accept and receive it. Discipleship always has a cost. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

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

Read Philippians 3:7-9

1. Please state in your words how well you know Jesus as: (a) a person; (b) a friend; and (c) the God and Creator of all that exists. In each instance, please state how you have acquired and/or experienced that knowledge.
2. For what purpose did Jesus leave heaven and become a man on earth? Please describe if and how (a) Jesus has accomplished that purpose, (b) Jesus continues to accomplish that purpose, and (c) you are partnering with Jesus to accomplish His purpose.
3. What has it cost you (materially, physically, relationally, and/or spiritually) to know Christ as your Lord? Is or was it worth the cost? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. Have you "gained Christ"? If so, how? If so, why? If so, what does that "gain" mean to you and how has that gain changed your life?

Read Matthew 4:18-22

5. What did it cost Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Jesus? In your opinion, why were they willing to pay that cost? Do you follow Jesus? If not, why not? If so, what cost has Jesus asked you to pay to follow Him? Have you paid that cost? If so, how and why? If not, why not?

Read Matthew 8:18-22

6. By making the statement found in verse 20, what message was Jesus expressing to the "teacher of the law" who is mentioned here? Do you think that Jesus continues to express the same message of verse 20 to each and every person who chooses to become a Christian in our day and age?

Read Matthew 10:32-33

7. What does it mean to acknowledge Jesus before men?
8. What does it mean to disown Jesus before men? Will a person who disowns Jesus (a) go to heaven or (b) go to hell?

Read Matthew 10:34-36

9. Does Jesus expect and/or want the "members of His church" to (a) be politically correct, (b) always avoid conflict; and/or (c) never express an opinion on socially controversial matters?

Read Matthew 10:37-39

10. When it comes to choosing the church family in which you will regularly worship and serve God, which is more important: (a) the influence of your parents, your spouse, and your other family members or (b) the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit and of the New Testament writings?
11. What does it mean to "take up your cross and follow" Jesus? Is this a requirement of every person who wants to go to heaven? What is the meaning of verse 39? Must a person "lose his life for the sake of Jesus" in order to go to heaven?

Read Mathew 19:28-30

12. Will every Christian receive the same rewards in heaven? How long will the rewards in heaven last? Will a person be able to "better himself" and/or "move up the ladder" and/or "improve his station in (eternal) life" after he has arrived in heaven? What do you want to receive, enjoy, and/or accomplish during your life in eternity? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Conclusion: Jesus does not show favoritism. Jesus is an equal opportunity Savior for all of mankind. Jesus is also an equal opportunity master and Lord. Each of us will be judged and rewarded fairly and impartially when Jesus assigns to us our rank, position, wealth, and authority in His eternal kingdom. "You think about that."
Amen