

## The Lord's Must List John 3:5-7

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** The word “must” is the strongest word in the English language.
2. The word is an *imperative* (*Dictionary.com*):
  - A. A “must” is absolutely necessary; it is unavoidable.
  - B. A “must” is a way to express a command.
  - C. A “must” is not an option; it is required.
  - D. Examples:
    - ☛ “We must learn to walk before we run.”
    - ☛ “All good things must end.”
    - ☛ “What goes up must come down.”
    - ☛ “When you come to a stop sign you must come to a full and complete stop.”
3. The word “must” is used 91 times in the New Testament (NKJV).
  - A. Most often “must” is translated from the Greek word *dei*; but *dei* is a “little big word.”
  - B. Vine very simply defines *dei* as: “it is necessary” or “one must.”
4. **3** Let’s look at “*The Lord’s Must List*”; and examine things we “must” do to be pleasing to Him.

### II. DISCUSSION:

#### One item on the Lord’s “must list” is...

1. **4** *New birth*:
  - A. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Ye **must** be born again” (John 3:7).
  - B. The new birth is a spiritual birth: “*born of water and of the Spirit*” (John 3:4-6).
    - (1) Doesn’t really matter whether you use a capital “S” or lower case “s.”
    - (2) Both our spirit and the Holy Spirit are involved in our new birth:
      - ☛ *Holy Spirit: Jn. 16:8: “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”*
      - ☛ *Our spirit: Eph. 4:22-24: “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the **spirit of your mind**, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*
  - C. This spiritual birth is accomplished by the word of God as one obeys the truth: **I Pet. 1:23:** “*having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*”
  - D. The second birth is necessary for kingdom entrance as the Lord said, “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*” (Jn. 3:5).
  - E. Have you been “born again”? “born of the water and of the Spirit”? It’s a “must”!

#### Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...

2. **5** Worship:

A. Remember what Jesus told the Samaritan women at Jacob's well?

**Jn. 4:24:** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

B. These words destroy the idea it doesn't make a difference how one worships.

C. \*\* There are two vital elements of acceptable worship: spirit and truth.

(1) Spirit:

(a) To worship in "spirit" is to worship from the heart, in sincerity.

**Isa. 29:13:** "Therefore the Lord said: 'Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,' (cf. Matt. 15:7-9)

**Mal. 1:13:** "You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it,' Says the LORD of hosts. 'And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?' Says the LORD."

**Mal. 1:10:** "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? 'I have no pleasure in you,' Says the LORD of hosts,"

(b) What attitude do you bring to worship? Only you know for sure.

(c) Does the fact of who you worship impact your "spirit"?

**Psa. 72:18-19:** "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! I 9 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."

**Psa. 106:48:** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, 'Amen!' Praise the Lord!"

**Rev. 4:8-11:** "The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

'Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come!'

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

11 'You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created.'"

(d) Like the Israelites of old it's easy to get in a rut; we need to pump ourselves up!

(e) Does the anticipation of Sunday rolling around excite you? Fire you up?

(2) Truth:

(a) To worship in truth is to worship according to the word of God as God's word "is truth" (Jn. 17:17).

- (b) \*\* There are five “channels” of worship: simple, but powerful!
- ⑤ Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-29; Acts 20:7),
  - ⑤ Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2),
  - ⑤ Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16),
  - ⑤ Preaching/teaching (Acts 2:42; 20:7),
  - ⑤ Prayer (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:8).
- (c) \*\* Many believe there is no “pattern” when it comes to worship:
- (i) If so, why would Jesus tell us we **must** worship “*in spirit and truth*”?
  - (ii) Make no mistake...there is a pattern for our worship!  
**Heb. 8:5:** “...Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’”
  - (iii) For us to substitute/add/subtract, etc. from God’s pattern for worship puts us in dreadful company (Lev. 10:1-2).
- D. We need to be ever on guard we don’t take either aspect of worship for granted!

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...**

3. **6** Baptism:

- A. Many boldly claim baptism is optional; it’s not really necessary to be saved.
- B. Consider this from biblical-christianity.com:  
**Do I have to be baptized to go to heaven – The Conclusion**  
 Baptism is a rite of identification and not salvation and therefore is not a requirement for entrance into heaven. ...Although there are some verses that seem to indicate the necessity of water baptism in salvation, the Bible clearly tells us that salvation is a gift that is received by grace through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ...To require anything else in addition to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is a works-based salvation...(biblical-christianity.com)
- C. Rather than taking biblical-christianity.com’s word for it; let see what the apostle Paul says about being saved “*through faith in Christ Jesus*” (Gal. 3:26).
  - (1) First, brother Paul; how does one become a child of God?  
**Gal. 3:26:** “*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*”
  - (2) How, brother Paul, did these people become “*sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus*”?  
**Gal. 3:27:** “*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*”
  - (3) If one can be saved without baptism, one can be saved without “*put[ing] on Christ*”?
- D. You see, baptism is a **must**: that means it is not optional; it’s required!
  - (1) The Lord told Saul of Tarsus, “*Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou **must** do*” (Acts 9:6).
  - (2) What was Saul told he “*must do*”?

- (3) “No problem, Saul. As long as you believe Jesus Christ is your personal Savior, you don’t have to do anything; you are saved.”
- (4) Saul was NOT told that when he went “into the city”! He was told this: “*arise, and be baptized...*” (Acts 22:16); that’s what he was told he “*must do*”!
- E. The folks that preach baptism is not necessary for salvation are wrong!
- F. They say: “To require anything else in addition to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is a works-based salvation.”
  - (1) Baptism is not a “work” in the way they say it is: **Col. 2:12**: “*buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*”
  - (2) Who does the “working” in baptism? God!
  - (3) Our submission to the Lord in baptism is an act of “*faith.*”
  - (4) When we’re baptized, we’re showing faith in God’s promises:
    - (a) He promises to forgive our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16),
    - (b) He promises to add us to His church (Acts 2:47), and,
    - (c) He declares we “*are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise*” (Gal. 2:29).
- G. And, if that doesn’t satisfy; the Lord Himself commands baptism: **Mk. 16:15-16**: “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved...*”
  - (1) Just ask Him: “Lord, who will be saved?”
  - (2) Lord: “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved...*” (Mk. 16:16) Any questions?

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” are the...**

4. **7** Qualifications of elders and deacons:

- A. All the abilities and qualities revealed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 concerning elders and deacons are imperatives, or the word “*must*” has no meaning!
- B. Don’t overlook these statements in your study:
  - ☛ “A bishop then **must** be...” (1 Tim. 3:2).
  - ☛ “Moreover he **must** have...” (1 Tim. 3:7).
  - ☛ “Likewise **must** the deacons be...” (1 Tim. 3:8).
  - ☛ “Even so **must** their wives be...” (1 Tim. 3:11).
  - ☛ “For a bishop **must** be...” (Titus 1:7).
- C. No pun intended, but it is **imperative** when appointing elders and deacons that men have these qualities and characteristics.
  - (1) God has ordained it be so!
  - (2) For very good reasons:
 

**Heb. 13:17**: “*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*”

**Acts 20:28-31:** “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

- D. When something is a **must**, there are no exceptions or options.
- (1) Men **cannot** be appointed with the hope they will “grow” into the qualifications.
  - (2) These qualifications **must** be in their possession from day one!

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...**

5. **8** Jesus’ suffering:

- A. Did you know all the suffering Jesus went through was a “must”?
- B. His suffering was not optional, it was a requirement: **Mk. 8:31-32:** “And He began to teach them that the Son of Man **must** suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”
- C. **\*\*** We need to stop and think about the suffering He endured:
  - (1) Garden: disciples lack of empathy...

**Matt. 26:36:** “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

**Lk. 22:44:** “Then His sweat became like great drops of blood...”
  - (2) Barabbas: Mk. 15:6-15,
  - (3) Scourging: Mk. 15:15,
  - (4) Soldiers mocking: Mk. 15:16-20,
  - (5) Carrying the cross: Mk. 15:21,
  - (6) Cross: Mk. 15:25,
  - (7) Mocking at the cross: **Mk. 15:29-32:** “And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, ‘Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!’ 31 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, ‘He saved others; Himself He cannot save. 32 Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.’ Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.”
  - (8) Apostasy: **Heb. 6:6:** “...crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”
- D. His suffering was not optional, it was a requirement, a “must”; **AND** He did it for YOU and ME!

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...**

6. **9** Preaching the gospel:

- A. Jesus said this: **Mk. 13:10:** “And the gospel **must** first be preached to all the nations.”
- B. Why?

**Rom. 1:16-17:** *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”*

- C. Many have lost their faith in the “power” of the gospel! For example:
- (1) Food, fun and frolic crowd.
  - (2) Carnal inducements must precede the gospel.
- D. Examine Paul’s travels in the book of Acts; what did he do when he came to a new city?
- (1) Did he host a “Las Vegas Night”?
  - (2) Dig water wells?
  - (3) Conduct a “music spectacular”?
  - (4) Raffle off a new Buick? They did that in Wisconsin where we once lived.
- E. No, he used the only “drawing card” God uses on men:
- Jn. 6:44-45:** *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.”*
- 2 Thess. 2:13-14:** *“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”; cf. Lk. 8:11-15*
- 1 Pet. 1:23:** *“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,”*
- F. The inducements used to draw men to God are the same ones needed to keep them.
- (1) Carnal inducements must be followed by more carnal inducements to “keep” people.
  - (2) Spiritual inducements require spiritual things to “keep” people.
- G. When it comes to evangelism:
- (1) Are you “ashamed of the gospel of Christ”?
  - (2) Are you doing your share? (“You Never Mentioned Him to Me”; James Rowe, 1949)

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...**

7. **10** Source of salvation:

- A. Do you remember the movie “Urban Cowboy”?
- (1) There was a song in the movie titled “Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places.”
  - (2) The singer lamented he couldn’t find a true love in places like “single’s bars.”
- B. In today’s world so many are “Looking for Salvation in All the Wrong Places.” Is salvation in...
- (1) Muhammed? No!
  - (2) Buddha? No!
  - (3) Self (i.e., morality; Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12)

(4) Materialism? Hedonism? No! Remember the Pharaoh's!

**Eccl. 5:10:** "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity."

**Eccl. 5:15:** "As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand."

C. If you want eternal salvation you "must" come to Jesus!

**Acts 4:12:** "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

D. The religion of Jesus Christ is exclusive; it excludes everything but Jesus!

**Jn. 14:6:** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"; cf. Matt. 12:30

E. Think about all the "religious" people that will be disappointed on the Day of Judgment?!

F. Most people cringe when they hear the name "Jesus"; how about you?! Acts 4:12

### Another item on the Lord's "must list" are...

#### 8. **II** Tribulations:

A. Many come to Christ with the false impression that when they obey the gospel, Jesus waves a magic wand, and all their troubles disappear. Not so!

**Acts 14:22:** "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'"

**2 Tim. 3:12:** "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

B. Consider:

**Matt. 10:34-39:** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 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. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

C. When we become a Christian it is so critical we understand Jesus will not make our lives "a rose garden." But...

(1) His burden is light:

**Matt. 11:28-30:** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

(2) **IF** we keep the proper perspective:

**2 Cor. 4:17-18:** "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

(3) And, **IF** we rely 100% on Him! Phil. 4:13; Matt. 5:6; 6:33

D. We must “keep our eyes on the prize”!

**Heb. 12:1-2:** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**1 Pet. 1:3-5:** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

E. We sing a song “It Won’t Be Very Long”:

It won't be very long till this short life shall end  
It won't be very long till Jesus shall descend  
And then in Christ from beds of clay shall rise  
To meet the Lord and King up yonder in the skies

It won't be very long till here we cease to roam  
It won't be very long till all the saints get home  
And then with smiling face we'll walk the streets of gold  
and sing the Savior's praise where the saints are never old.

It won't be very long till burdens we lay down  
It won't be very long till we'll receive a crown  
And then we'll shout and sing with angels round the throne  
And when we meet up there, we'll know as we are known.

It won't be very long till earth shall pass away  
It won't be very long till works of men decay  
But Jesus has prepared a happy dwelling place  
For all who look above and trust His matchless grace.

It won't be very long, it won't be very long  
Till Jesus shall appear, the day is drawing near  
Will you be ready then to meet the ransomed throng  
Get ready for that day, it won't be very long.

F. It really won’t be very long!

- (1) You may be worn down to the point you don’t think the Lord cares.
- (2) But He does!

**2 Thess. 1:3-10:** “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our



*Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”*

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is that we...**

9. **12** Support the weak:

- A. Paul tells us some words of Jesus that are not recorded in any of the gospels which we **must** follow:

**Acts 20:35:** *“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you **must** support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

- B. I plead with you to think: When is the last time you helped “support the weak”?

(1) Doing so is not an option; Paul said “you **must** support the weak”!

(2) Do you know why the Lord commands us to work and “make a living”?

**Eph. 4:28:** *“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”*

- C. Why do so many fail in this regard?

(1) Stinginess? No!

(2) Lack of ability? Not in the U.S.A.!

(3) Apathy? Maybe that’s being too cold.

- D. Perhaps we just don’t **actively** look for opportunities.

**Heb. 13:16:** *“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

(1) I don’t want to sound like I’m dishing out a verbal “tongue-lashing”; I sincerely hope I don’t come across that way.

(2) But, I urge you to look for opportunities “to share.”

(3) If you need help, I would be glad to supply you with the contact information of brethren I know could use the help.

(4) Please take advantage of the opportunities the Lord is offering now.

**Jas. 4:17:** *“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”*

- E. We will have to give an answer; you won’t regret it now (Acts 20:35) or in eternity (Matt. 25:31-46).

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...**

10. **13** Salvation:

- A. What’s the most important question a person will ever ask?

**Acts 16:30:** *“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’”*

- B. Unfortunately, in today’s world where there are thousands of denominations, so when you ask that question you will very likely receive a wrong answer.

- (1) Are we saved simply by reciting the “Sinner’s Prayer”? cf. Acts 9:11; v. 6; 22:16
  - (2) Some say we are saved by “grace” alone: **Eph. 2:8**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”
  - (3) Some, based on this account, say: “We are saved by ‘faith only.’”  
**Acts 16:31**: “So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”
- C. How are we saved?
- (1) Faith only?
  - (2) Does God’s “grace” nullify conditions? No!
- D. Consider Noah:
- (1) There’s no doubt Noah was saved by God’s “grace”:  
**Gen. 6:8**: “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”  
**1 Pet. 3:20**: “who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.”
  - (2) Even though Noah was saved by God’s “grace” and it was “the gift of God”; but there were conditions:  
**Heb. 11:7**: “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved** with godly fear, **prepared** an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
- E. Salvation comes to us when God’s “grace” intersects our “faith”:  
**Eph. 2:8**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”
- F. Notice what Paul tells us about God’s “grace”:  
**Titus 2:11-12**: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”
- (1) Note God’s “grace...that brings salvation...” teaches us something.
  - (2) His “grace” teaches us to do something! “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age.”
  - (3) Does that mean we are saved by works? Yes and no
  - (4) We are not saved by perfect law-keeping (“not of works, lest anyone should boast”; Eph. 2:9); but there are certain “works” we must do:  
**Eph. 2:10**: “...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”; cf. Phil. 2:12; Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 2:3-5
  - (5) Paul puts it this way in Galatians 5:6: “...faith working through love.”
- G. \*\* So, the answer to the jailor’s question: A resounding “YES!” God’s “grace...brings salvation” when we:
- ☛ Hear: Rom. 10:17

- ☛ Believe: Jn. 8:32
- ☛ Repent: Acts 2:38
- ☛ Confess: Acts 8:37
- ☛ Baptism: Mk. 16:16
- ☛ Faithfulness: Rev. 2:10

H. Did the Philippian jailor **DO** what he was told? Yes!

**Acts 16:33-34**: “At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because **he had come to believe in God** — he and his whole family.” (NIV)

- (1) When could it be said the jailor “had come to believe in God”?
- (2) Once he had repented and been baptized!

I. Are you willing to do what God tells you to do? Heb. 5:9

**Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is one day we will...**

11. **14** Corruptible put on incorruption:

A. We need to contemplate what the future holds for us:

**1 Cor. 15:53-54**: “For this corruptible **must** put on incorruption, and this mortal **must** put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”

B. Do you spend a little time each day thinking about what the future holds for you?

- (1) It is coming soon! Jas. 4:14
- (2) We will be given a body exactly like Christ!

**Phil. 3:20-21**: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”; Rom. 8:17

C. We don’t know exactly what this “incorruptible” body will be (**1 Jn. 3:2**: “...it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**...”); but we do know it will be a body:

- ☛ “sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory” (1 Cor. 15:43),
- ☛ “sown in weakness, it is raised in power” (1 Cor. 15:43),
- ☛ “sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:44),
- ☛ “this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Cor. 15:53),
- ☛ No more “tears”; “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 21:4),
- ☛ “no more death” (Rev. 21:4),
- ☛ “no more...sorrow” (Rev. 21:4),
- ☛ “no more...crying” (Rev. 21:4),

- ☛ “no more pain” (Rev. 21:4),
- ☛ “for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

D. Aren't these things worth hanging on for just a little longer?

**2 Cor. 4:17-18:** “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

**Heb. 10:35-39:** “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 ‘For yet a little while,  
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.  
38 Now the just shall live by faith;  
But if anyone draws back,  
My soul has no pleasure in him.’

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

E. Remember:

It won't be very long till this short life shall end  
It won't be very long till Jesus shall descend  
And then in Christ from beds of clay shall rise  
To meet the Lord and King up yonder in the skies

### Another item on the Lord's “must list” is...

12. **15** Giving of our means:

A. Did you know the giving of our means on the first day of the week is a “must”?

**1 Cor. 16:1-2:** “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you **must** do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

B. Furthermore, did you know the Lord tells you and me **exactly** how much He expects us to give? (PS. I am not bucking for a raise!)

- ☛ **\*\***“as he may prosper” (1 Cor. 16:2),
- ☛ “as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation” (2 Cor.9:5),
- ☛ “bountifully” (2 Cor. 9:6),
- ☛ “as he purposes in his heart” (2 Cor. 9:7),
- ☛ “not grudgingly” (2 Cor. 9:7),
- ☛ “not...of necessity” (2 Cor. 9:7),
- ☛ “cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7),

C. Even the “poor widow...threw in two mites” (Mk. 12:41-44).

- (1) God doesn't expect us to give beyond what we are able to give.
- (2) But He does expect us to give something: “so you **must** do also”

(3) Give...you'll feel better! Acts 20:35

**Another item on the Lord's "must list" is...**

13. **16** Forgiving others:

A. That's what the apostle Paul tells us:

**Col. 3:13:** "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also **must** do."

B. We must live by the "golden rule":

**Matt. 7:12:** "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

C. That's exactly how Jesus lived His life:

**1 Pet. 2:21-23:** "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 'Who committed no sin,  
Nor was deceit found in His mouth';

23 'who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;'

D. Remember what the Lord told Peter? Matt. 18:21-35; Col. 3:13

E. Our "righteousness" must "exceed" that of the "scribes and Pharisees" (Matt. 5:20).

**Matt. 5:43-48:** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

F. Withholding forgiveness leads us into very dangerous territory; anger, resentment, bitterness; all are harmful to us; so, we are better off to "let it go."

**Col. 3:8:** "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice..."

**Jas. 1:20:** "...the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."; Eph. 4:26

**Prov. 19:11:** "Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs." NLT

G. We just need to put it in the Lord's hands and He will take care of it (Rom. 12:19).

(1) In the end, God will right every wrong.

(2) He will do so with perfect judgment and justice.

**Another item on the Lord's "must list" is...**

14. **17** Give the more earnest heed:

A. The Hebrew writer tells us "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..." (Heb. 1:1-2):

**Heb. 2:1-4:** “Therefore we **must** give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we **drift** away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

B. “Drift[ing] away” is a constant danger for all of us: **1 Cor. 10:12:** “...let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

C. It doesn’t matter how old you are, male or female, rich or poor, fat or slim, tall or short; one thing is for certain: the devil is an “equal opportunity” tempter!

**1 Pet. 5:8-9:** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith...”

**Jas. 4:7:** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

(1) I’m convinced of the truth of James 4:7 (reiterate).

(2) However, just because the devil flees doesn’t mean he won’t come back.

(3) When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness He resisted, He submitted to God.

(4) And, Matthew tells us “angels came and ministered to Him” (Matt. 4:11); but what did Satan do?

**Lk. 4:13:** “And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.”

D. Don’t think just because your walk with Christ is going well Satan has forgotten about you or is done with you. He’s not! He’s waiting “for a season.”

### Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...

#### 15. **18 Faith:**

A. Note what the Hebrew writer has to say about “faith”:

**Heb. 11:6:** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must** believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

B. Jesus essentially says the same thing:

**Jn. 8:24:** “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”

C. **\*\*** Back to Hebrews 11:6; note there are two aspects of faith:

(1) First: we “**must** believe that He is”: the first hurdle is simply a basic belief in God’s existence.

(a) We can learn that from simply looking at His creation: His ‘book’ of nature...

**Psa. 19:1-3:** “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.”

**Psa. 33:6-7:** “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.”

- (b) Many claim to believe “God is”; but still hold on to false theories of man’s origins (i.e., evolution).
- (c) The evidence for creation, in contrast to evolution, is overwhelmingly in favor of creation (briefly explain). **Don’t ever feel you must apologize for believing in a Creator!**
- (d) Creation and evolution are totally incompatible: One cannot hold to Christianity and believe in evolution:
 

**Rom. 1:20-21:** “Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse;**” (RSV)
- (2) Second: we “**must** believe...*He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*””: the second hurdle requires at least two things:
  - (a) Working faith: One cannot “*diligently seek Him*” without doing something!
 

**Jas. 2:24:** “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

**Jas. 2:26:** “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

    - (i) True biblical faith goes way beyond a simple belief in God or a rote keeping of God’s commandments (1 Jn. 2:3-5; 5:3).
    - (ii) True biblical faith involves diligence motivated by sincere “love” (Jn. 14:15).
  - (b) Lifetime commitment: God requires us to give our very lives in pursuit of Him!
    - (i) Our commitment to Him is not “on one day, and off the other.”
    - (ii) It is a total, complete, unequivocal self-sacrifice:
 

**Gal. 2:20:** “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

D. \*\* Here is some “food for thought”:

**Lk. 18:8:** “...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

### Another item on the Lord’s “must list” is...

16. **19** Love our brother:

A. Note what John tells us about loving our brother:

**1 Jn. 4:21:** “And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God **must** love his brother also.”

B. Our love for one another as Christians is an important mark of distinction:

**Jn. 13:34-35:** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(1) When people of the world put our lives under a microscope, what do they see?

(2) Do they see what Jesus said in John 13:34-35?

C. The beginning of this type of love is found in **Philippians 2:1-8**.

(1) If there was anyone who ever deserved to be treated like royalty it was Jesus.

**Matt. 20:28:** "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

(2) Whose "interests" come first in your life? **Matt. 22:39:** "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**Another item on the Lord's "must list" is...**

17. **20** Put off this tent:

A. Peter talks about this in his second epistle:

**2 Pet. 1:14:** "knowing that shortly I **must** put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me."

B. Of course, he is speaking of his own death.

(1) Do you ever contemplate your own death?

**Eccl. 7:2:** "Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart."

(2) Peter did! And so, should you and I!

**Eccl. 9:5:** "For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten."

C. I don't mean to be morbid, but sooner or later we'll all have our "turn" at the funeral home. Some day...

(1) The casket will contain **my** body.

(2) The mourners will be reminiscing **my** life.

(3) The preacher will preach **my** funeral.

(4) The hearse will carry **me** off to the cemetery.

(5) The headstone will bear **my** name.

(6) Then **I** will be but a memory!

D. We need to learn this sobering lesson:

**Psa. 90:9-10:** "We finish our years like a sigh. 10 The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

**Psa. 90:12:** "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

(1) Sir Francis Bacon wrote:

"Death is a friend of ours; and he that is not ready to entertain him is not at home." *Sir Francis Bacon*

(2) Are you mentally "at home"? Preparing for your own death? Heb. 9:27

**Another item on the Lord's "must list" is...**

18. **21** The judgment:

A. All men have a sobering appointment with death (Heb. 9:27).

B. But we also have an even more sobering appointment with the Day of Judgment:



**2 Cor. 5:10:** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

- C. The fact there will be a final judgment where “we must all appear...that every one may receive the things done in the body” had a huge effect on Paul’s thinking:

**2 Cor. 5:11:** “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”

- D. The thought of facing the Lord on the Day of Judgment and giving an account of our lives should strike “terror” in our hearts **IF** we have not repented!

**Acts 17:30-31:** “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

- E. How about you? Have you repented?

**Eccl. 12:13-14:** “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

- F. Are you ready for all the world to know every “secret thing” you’ve done “whether good or evil”?

### III. CONCLUSION: 22

1. I hope this study of the Lord’s “must” list gives you a better understanding of the Scriptures.
2. Remember: the word “must” is the strongest word in the English language; it is an imperative; absolutely necessary, unavoidable, required.
3. Are you heading the “musts” of the New Testament?

New birth?

Salvation?

Worship?

Incorruption?

Baptism?

Giving?

Elders & deacons?

Forgiving?

Suffering?

Give earnest heed?

Preach gospel?

Faith?

Source of salvation?

Love our brother?

Tribulations?

Put off this tent?

Support the weak?

Judgment?

4. Invitation

Adapted from an article (“The Must List”) by John Isaac Edwards.