

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2019

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Perseverance – Never give up

Philippians 2: 12 – 13

As Christians, we have a great part to play in staying faithful to God. We should not always try to allow God to do all the work for us.

We must learn to persevere in doings Gods work.

We work because God is working in us. Perseverance is a gracious gift from the Lord. His work remains within us to make us effective in perseverance. Through God, we work out our salvation, but we cannot take credit for doing so.

Philippians 2: 12 – 13,....therefore my brethren, as you have always obeyed....for it is God who works in you....

Work out your own salvation.

We have to realize salvation is not something you have to work for, it is a free gift, you don't work for salvation, it works for you.

Working out our salvation is done through faith. We as believers sometimes see our walk of faith as a little scary.

But walking by faith is the only way to see our salvation manifested.

Jude 20 – 21,....building yourselves up on your most holy faith....keep yourselves in the love of God....

Shows us perseverance by walking by faith.

Living our faith is a very powerful testimony of our salvation.

Titus 2:7,....in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works....that cannot be condemned....

We come to realize God initiates our perseverance, God also sustains our perseverance.

We are going to look at 5 key qualities to acquiring spiritual perseverance.

#1 Submit to Gods plan.

#2 Allow the Holy Spirit to fill ua with and guide us with love.

#3 Give 100% for God.

#4 Trust in God to provide.

#5 Seek God – no matter what.

We find an example of these in:

Genesis 7: 7 – 24,....went into the ark....as God commanded....entered the ark....the Lord shut him in....the waters prevailed....the ark moved....the mountains were covered....God remembered Noah....

Noah, The Ark, The Flood.

#1 - Submit to Gods plan.

Genesis 6: 13,....End of all flesh has come before me – make yourself an ark.

Sin had prevailed in the land.

Genesis 6:

V.14 – Make yourself an ark.

V.15 – And this is how you shall build it.

Why build an ark - the ark is protection.

V.17 – I myself am bringing flood waters – to destroy all flesh.

V.22 – This Noah did – according to all God commanded him – so he did.

#2 - Allow the Holy Spirit to fill us and guide us with love.

James 1:12,....blessed is the man, who endures temptation....he will receive the crown of life....

Genesis 6:18,.... I will establish my covenant with you....

Hebrews 9: 14 – 15,....that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance....

You shall go into the ark.

Into the ark to keep them alive.

Genesis 7:1,.... Come into the ark....

You and all your household, I have seen you are righteous.

God directing Noah to come into the ark was a true indication that he (God) was already in there awaiting him.

2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 10,....behold, now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation....

Hardships in life provide opportunity for spiritual growth. Growth can be painful, but we must choose to grow.

Suffering produces perseverance.

Romans 5: 3 – 5,....tribulation produces perseverance....hope does not disappoint....

Perseverance is need for spiritual success.

Through the leadership of the Holy Spirit we can endure no matter what the trials or how much suffering we feel we must go through.

2 Corinthians 6:2,....in an acceptable time, I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you....

Now is the excepted time.

Now is the day of salvation.

God has a plan for each of us and our lives in living for him.

Ecclesiastes Tells us he has appointed us times and seasons In our lives for salvation and living for him.

Christ expects us to recognize that day of salvation and not to let it pass, but to except.

If people are not careful they can sin away the day of grace in their life.

We as Christians must always allow the Holy Spirit to fill us and guide us in Gods love.

#3 - Give 100% for God.

As Christians we should be honest with ourselves about what God is doing through us.

We must learn to take responsibility for what God has in store for us to do.

Genesis 6:

V.7 – Noah, his sons, his wife, his sons wives, went into the ark.

V.9 – 2 of everything went into the ark into Noah – male and female.

Galations 6: 6 – 10,.....let him who is taught the word, share in all good things, with him who teaches....do not be deceived....let us not grow weary in well doing....

Salvation comes through faith in Christ. By salvation God gives us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us in our work for God.

Good works comes by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit which allows us to bear fruit.

Only those who plant and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit will harvest eternal life.

James 1: 12,16 -18,....blessed is the man who endures temptation....of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth....

Whether we will admit it or not, our faith grows stronger when tested by trials.

Giving 100% for God in trials and tribulation brings us closer to spiritual maturity with greater perseverance.

Our reward here on earth for perseverance shows in our faith and quality of life.

Giving 100% for God helps make the connection between our love for God and our ability to remain faithful to him.

Remaining faithful to God helps us in seeking and gaining his wisdom.

Wisdom helps us to trust in God more, to be thankful and to give him credit for everything in our lives.

What percentage of our lives do we give to God.

What percentage of our lives our we still holding onto.

#4 - Trust in God to provide.

Genesis 6:16,.... Those that entered went in as God commanded, and the Lord shut him in....

Genesis 6: 18 – 24 – Why we need to trust in God to provide :

Waters prevailed – ark moved.

Waters prevailed – covered all the high hills.

Waters prevailed – mountains were covered.

Waters prevailed – 150 days.

- Waters prevailed – Ark moved.

In the beginning – **Genesis 1:9**,....God said, let the waters under the heavens be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear....

God gathered the waters together, dry land appeared. So here we see God reversing the process, he is resetting this aspect of creation, because of sin.

Waters might have prevailed, but not over the ark. The ark, our place of refuge (Floated) or rose above the destruction. God takes care of his obedient children.

The Lord shutting him in demonstrates that no one but him (God) can supply that kind of safety and security.

Christ constantly ask us to come in to him, to experience his mercy and saving grace.

Matthew 11:28,....Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest....

Salvation.

- Waters prevailed – Covered the high hills.

We begin to see life outside the protection of God.

When judgement begins, we know what it is, but we do not always heed to the warnings of God.

- Waters prevailed – mountains were covered.

Then it becomes more intense, more severe, but yet we continue on in the worldliness.

- Waters prevailed – 150 days

Judgement is going to continue until God gets someones attention.

When we place God first in our life we will be able to see him working through all the aspects of our life. No matter how long we have been saved, no matter what the circumstance, we should never stop seeking God.

Seeking God, for us, means seeking his presence in our life, finding his presence in our life means we have direct access to him.

The greatest way to seek him is through his word, which is the living word, Christ his son, which the Holy Spirit guides us in. So now we see access to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We have been given an endless life giving truth through the gift of Gods word. What ever the circumstance is in our life he wants us to use his word (Christ) to find peace, life, strength, guidance and hope. God is ready and waiting to meet us if we will only seek him.

Matthew 6:33,.....Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness....

Simple – salvation.

Salvation first before all else. We tried the world, it only gave us heartache and pain. God promises us all things, but not before salvation.

God promised Noah, safety and security, during the flood, a prosperous life after the flood, but before any of this could happen he had to choose and except the invitation to come into the ark with God.

#5 - We must learn to seek God no matter what.

Genesis 8:1 – God remembered Noah.

He remembered Noah, because when sin prevailed in the land, Noah found grace in Gods sight.

God provided a way out. Salvation from the tribulation to come. The Ark. (Christ)

There is rest and security in the Ark.

There is rest and security in Christ.

Noah had to choose.

Noah had to except the challenge to build the Ark. God laid it out, God provided the means, God provided the material, (Christ and the cross) All we had to do is make the choice and except, then continue to build, to grow and mature in the safety and security of God.

James 2: 14,17,26,....what does it profit....says he has faith but does not have works....faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead....

Faith without works is dead.

Noah had faith as well as works and entered into the safety and security of God.

We have done the same through salvation.

Genesis 8: 6 – 12,....Noah opened the window of the ark....sent out a raven and a dove....

Now we look at a series of events that God used to prepare Noah to step back into the world. To start a new life with God without becoming part of the worldliness. Just as he does with us, we must learn to leave the comfort of the Ark and mature in Christ and his salvation without straying away from the safety and security of God.

Genesis 8: 6 – Opened the window of the Ark.

God does not just open the door and put us out, he slowly prepares us to do his will.

Had he just opened the door, the flood waters (Worldliness) would have been overwhelming and would have had a disastrous effect on Noah and his family.

We must understand that God does not want us to fail. He does everything in his power to make sure we remain safe and secure in our salvation.

Genesis 8: 7 – Noah sent out a Raven, which kept going to and fro.

The Raven – A Test of faith.

1 Peter 4: 12 – 13,....rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ suffering....

The Raven is carnal – feeds on what is dying –which is worldliness which is death (Spiritual Death)

The Raven kept coming and going but never bringing back with it any sign of life, Until it just did not come back. If Noah would have gone with what information the Raven had provided he would have strayed from the safety and security of God and ended up totally in the death and turmoil of the world.

Noah matured in his test of faith .

Genesis 8: 8 – Sent out a Dove. (Holy Spirit)

To see if the waters receded. If we allow the worldly nature to make decisions it can only bring about spiritual death.

When the Holy Spirit goes from within to without it helps us to follow the leadership of God and his wisdom to make decisions in our life.

John 16: 13,....when he the spirit of truth has come, he will guide you into all truth....

Genesis 8: 9 –The Dove found no resting place. Noah put out his hand, took the dove, drew her into the Ark to himself.

Hebrews 10: 22 – 24,....let us draw near with a true heart....let us hold fast the confession of our hope....let us consider one another....

When the dove could not find any living thing it returned to the Ark.

The Holy Spirit always has us in search of that which is spiritually alive. If we allow, it will keep us from feeding upon worldliness and always establish our place in the safety and security of God until we begin to find maturity in the spiritual living will of God.

Freshly plucked Olive leaf.

Genesis 8: 10,12 - In order to begin to mature we must wait on Gods timing.

Isaiah 40:31,....They that wait upon the Lord....

Genesis 8:

V.16 – God told Noah, go out of the Ark.

V.18 – Noah went out of the Ark.

Mark 16: 15 – 16,.... Go into all the world, preach the gospel, to every creature....

Gods commission to us, as it was to Noah is 2 fold.

#1 To the old creature (Unsaved) that they might be saved.

#2 To the new creature (Saved) the word of God to lead us, to guide us, to direct our lives in him.

Noah went out of the Ark – steps back onto dry ground again, represents the church returning with Christ.

Zech. 14:5 – Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with him.

This is the second coming of Christ.

Once again the earth will be reset in preparation for the millennial reign of Christ.

Excepting salvation – becoming a Christian, does not make our life easier. But it will make it better.

In our life, we our going to go through trials. It is better to go through them with Christ by our side (In our heart) so that when we go through those trials in our life we do not give into worry and anxiety but simply bring those things to God in prayer. Nothing is greater than God. God gives us peace of mind through his presence. He will never leave us or forsake us.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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