

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

3.29.2020

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.

The 3 Fold Work of the Believer

## John 6: 29

As Christians we should want to work for the Lord, the work that he has called us to do. We desire to be good and faithful servants.

## 2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

To be a workman that God can approve, we must be diligent in our service to God. We must earnestly apply ourselves, we must correctly handle the word of truth, which involves much study, meditation, and prayer. We must have an open mind, open heart, and a faithful life to the word of truth. Our goal of being approved should be the same as Gods goal.

## Ephesians 2: 10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them.

We are created by God for his purpose, for good works. Good works do not give us salvation, but they are absolutely meant to be the result of salvation. We have been made alive in Christ, awakened to a new life by faith in him. Sanctified to be Gods chosen people, sheltered by Gods mercy in his great love.

Christ is our sin substitute, he died to pay our sin debt. For this we have faith in him as Christ himself and as Christ the written word.

As believers we have the life of Christ within us. The works that God has prepared for us to do cannot be accomplished through the old self, but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We trust him to work the works of God in us, to believe God will accomplish his work in us. This is for his salvation, his praise, his glory.

## John 6:29

Jesus answered and said to them, this is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he sent.

Believing is not just saying we believe, believing is real, without doubting. Believing takes work, that means seeking Gods will in the word. Seeking means hearing, hearing brings faith. Believing is a must do, God will not do it for us, it is a choice we must make. Christ said in his word it is our work.

A good example of this was when Paul and Silas told the Philippian jailer – Acts 16:31 – Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

This applies not only to salvation but to all circumstances in our Christian life.

The church often times gets so interested in trying to get Gods attention by there religious activities, that they forget if they believe and trust in him they already have his attention. The works of God that comes from a trusting relationship with him is far more fulfilling and fruitful than all the religious activity that we create in order to appease our lack of belief and trust in him.

We must not only believe in Christ whom God has sent for salvation, but, we must also believe that the Holy Spirit works within us, day by day, to do his good works, within us.

We are going to look at the 3 fold work of the believer.

1. Salvation
2. Maturity
3. Discipleship

### #1 Salvation

In **Luke 19: 9 – 10** - Christ himself said: Today salvation has come.... For the son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Christ recognizes our change of heart and through salvation assures us of our place in his kingdom. Salvation is not something mankind can accomplish on his own, but a reality that God initiates and offers. Salvation, however, does require our cooperation and perseverance. Salvation is living in the word, living for others, embracing the victory of the fullness of our salvation, which is eternal life.

The blood of Christ allows us to enter into the purpose of God.

Luke recollects to us Christ commission on this earth.

**Matthew 28: 18 – 20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....

To make disciples of all nations we must, share the word, to know the love of Christ and lead them to experience the life of Christ. We must, show the word, that is to be an example of how to follow Christ. To pray, to study, to live his word. We must, teach the word, we don't just receive the word, but we are called to teach people all that Christ through the Holy Spirit has taught us.

Recollects Christ instruction to us as believers on our commission.

Our commission from Christ is one of the most significant passages of scripture in Gods word. It is the beginning of faith in our service for Christ.

Salvation is the transformation from the image of worldliness to the image of Godliness. It takes place everyday of our life, by grace, which God bestows upon us through Christ. Salvation is the change that takes place within us.

Discipleship should be modeled after Christ example given to us with his disciples. This should seem obvious to us as believers. Unfortunately, the contemporary aspects of the church today has greatly neglected it. The church has strayed from sound doctrine and teaching to a time of promoting a feel good atmosphere, for those seeking to live a troubled free life with out any accountability to Christ commission of discipleship.

Christ calls every Christian to step out in faith and spread the word of salvation. Maturity and obedience to Christ commands changes in our spiritual lives forever.

Brings us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> work of the believer.

#2 Maturity - 2 Fold

For oneself to mature

Help others mature

God gives us the power and the wisdom to accomplish his purpose.

We should all aim at becoming mature in Christ, as well as we should all help others grow in spiritual maturity.

**Colossians 1: 21 – 23**, For it pleases the Father....to reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the love of Christ.

God did not meet us halfway, he came all the way, he gave all through Christ and invites us to accept his free gift. Christ himself was given as a sacrifice, so we can have forgiveness. Whatever separation that existed between God and man has been removed by the cross. This image is a reminder that the harmony between God and man has been restored.

In order to present others mature in Christ, we must be growing in maturity as well.

If we are not making an effort to grow in Christ, then we cannot help others in the same process.

Maturity in Christ means becoming Christlike. We can measure how mature we are in Christ by assessing our relationship with God and our relationship with others.

### **Mark 12: 30 – 31**

Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

This begins at a point and time when we enter a personal relationship with God.

Like all relationships we must spend time together if we want the relationship to grow. Spending time in his word, spending time in prayer, drawing near to him with an open heart.

**John 14:23**, says if anyone loves me he will obey my word.

Through his indwelling Holy Spirit he transforms us to conform to his will.

As we begin to allow Gods word to transform our mind, ourselves and the ones around us begin to mature into the image of Christ.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> work of the believer.

#3 Promote discipleship.

Working together with other believers to enter into the purpose of the salvation of God, which is presenting life changing relationships to others.

Discipleship is Gods way of passing our faith of salvation to others, it is a way of growing new Christians, distributing Gods work of the ministry of salvation, and providing accountability to the believers.

**1 Thessalonians 5: 12 – 22**, ....recognize those who labor among you....rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks....

As Christians we must accept responsibility for the spiritual care of one another. This takes personal commitment through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. This produces a great spiritual relationship with those who labor among us.

We are called to be a community of people. Submitting to one another, teaching one another, fellowshiping with one another, encouraging one another.

The church is to build up and encourage one another. One of the issues people have with this is, people want to covet all the power for themselves. It is a worldly view that seeks to increase ones own power at the expense of others. The Godly way is to work together, speak well of one another, build up one another in the grace and love of God. We do this by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit which comes through prayer. Prayer that is not whining, complaining, begging and pleading, but, prayer filled with thanksgiving. Being thankful helps us to experience the grace and mercy of a loving God, and to share with one another the joys of salvation.

God has a place for us to serve, growing and changing is what it is all about, knowing that God is using us to impact the lives of others.

**1 Thessalonians 2: 4 – 9**, ....we have been approved by God, to be entrusted with the gospel.

We are not entrusted merely with the gospel, we are entrusted with presenting the gospel of God in the realm of Christ. The truth of the word brings divine salvation, divine salvation produces the church, and the church is responsible to preach the word.

No matter how spiritually gifted, no matter how much wisdom and knowledge, people will not care about what we can do or what we know until they see our compassion and know that we truly care.

Discipleship means getting the word of God into the lives of others. We cannot change, people cannot change, unless the word of God changes their perspective on life.

This happens by sharing our faith, our passion, our excitement of our salvation.

We learn discipleship by simply doing it. Studying Gods word, stepping out in faith and then watching God work.

The 3 fold work of the believer is not to judge the world, but through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit help to change it. One person at a time. The place to begin, is with ourselves. Through the gospel of salvation, by grace, we trust in God to enable us as believers to do his work.

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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