

Mt. Lebanon Church.

Love of God – Bible Study

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 have 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 bible study.

Roman 5: 1 – 5

What is the love of God all about.

The expression of Gods love in us defines our spiritual being. Our actions tell what is in our hearts. The closer our relationship with God, the more we live a life of unconditional love. Loving God requires knowing him, and that knowledge begins with the word.

We will look at 5 things in the word of God concerning his love.

#1 Gods love is an atoning love.

Romans 5: 1 – 5,....Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given unto us....

God is merciful, God is longsuffering, he does not want mankind to perish, but wants to reserve his relationship with us and have fellowship with us.

This change came through, and comes through Christ. The son of God, born of Gods spirit, a spirit that accompanied him his whole life, giving him the will and strength to overcome temptation. Completely pure and without sin, crucified as a criminal. Christ took upon himself the punishment for the sins of the

whole world. Christ became the propitiation for our sins. He gave the atonement and the gift of eternal life.

1 John 2: 1 – 2,.... And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous....

Atonement through forgiveness is a free gift, entirely through Gods grace which we receive by faith. Atonement gave us opportunity to start with a clean slate.

2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21,....if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature....all things have become new....all things are of God....

Atonement is unlimited, available for all. The love of God, displayed in Christ on the cross of calvary to the whole world.

When God gave his only begotten son it was that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Gods desire is that all men find salvation.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....Desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth....

2 Peter 3: 9,....not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance....

Atonement is sufficient for all men, but it is only efficient for those who believe.

#2 Gods love is a redeeming love.

Romans 8: 3 – 4,....for what the law could not do....God did by sending his Son....

For those who trust in Christ, Christ has purchased by his blood, redeemed us from the slavery of sin and rescued us from the eternal wrath of God.

Through salvation, God identifies us with his son, his death is accepted as payment for our sin, which is a deserving death. (For the wages of sin is death.) (Death, which is separation from God.)

2 Corinthians 5:21,....He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God....

Now when God judges us it is based on the righteousness of Christ.

Ephesians 2: 8,9,....For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God....

Having believed the gospel, we now live in the spirit of God. With the help of this spirit we are confident God is for us and loves us in Christ.

1 Corinthians 6: 19 – 20,....your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit that is within you....You are not your own, you were bought at a price....

Not only has God created us, but he has redeemed us. We have been bought with a price (Christ the savior – our saviors precious blood). He owns us because he loves us.

Let us look at it like this:

God the Father: Created us.

God the Son: Redeemed us.

God the Holy Spirit: Indwells in us.

This is why we belong to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It all comes by placing our faith and trust in Christ and the cross.

John 14: 15 – 18,.... If you love me keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father and he will give you another helper....

Through salvation the Holy Spirit will then be with us forever.

This makes our body a dwelling place that is sacred. A place where worship takes place, a place revered and honored. So it becomes very important that every thought, every action, every reaction and every deed, is in the will of God.

We belong to God for we are his own purchased possession. Our spirit, soul and body belong to the Lord, we are no longer slaves to sin. Our body is now the temple of the Lord.

Galations 3:13,....Christ has redeemed us....having become a curse for us....For it is written: Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree. (Deuteronomy 21:23)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. He redeemed us from self defeating. He became a curse and dissolved the curse at the same time. Once redeemed by Christ no one else can annul it or add to it.

Christ righteousness was imputed (assigned) to us.

Our sins were imputed (assigned) to Christ.

His righteousness was credited to us as believers, our sins were credited to him.

Deuteronomy 21: 22,23,....if a man has committed a sin deserving death....you hang him on a tree....for he is hanged is accursed of God....

This is talking about a man who has committed a sin worthy of death.

Christ was not this man, he committed no sin.

Since mans sin were imputed to Christ and we are worthy of death, this is why it is written, and Paul used this as an example and explanation to the Galatian church.

Galations 4: 3 – 7,....when we were children we were in bondage under the elements of this world....when the fullness of time had come....God sent forth his Son to redeem....

Christians are adopted as full children – heirs of God.

Given the Holy Spirit, making it possible to call him father.

Christ made It possible for all to become Gods children through faith in him, which is the difference between being born into slavery (worldly birth) and being born into the promise of Christ (spiritual birth)

#3 Gods love is a justifying love.

Romans 3: 21 – 26,....for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God....being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus....

Gods love is shown by declaring us innocent by grace through faith in Christ. Christ is treated as if he were the sinner and the sinner is treated as if he were the righteous one. God now sees us through Christ righteousness instead of through our sin.

All mankind that is outside of the salvation of Christ is under the wrath of God.

Romans 3:21 – Paul shifts from talking about condemnation to justification.

9 Truths about Justification:

Romans 3:21A # 1. It is apart from the law.

Righteousness that God requires can only come through salvation, not at feeble attempts in keeping the laws.

Ephesians 2:8,....for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves....

We can make no contribution to our own salvation.

Romans 3:21B # 2. It is witnessed by the old testament.

From this we know it is not a new message, the truth of salvation by justification goes clear back to the beginning.

Romans 3:22A # 3. It is provided by God.

God is the source and the giver. It comes down from the throne of God. We must come to God to receive it.

Romans 3:22B # 4. It is received by Faith. (Even the righteousness of God)

Faith is only as good as its object. It is only Faith in Christ that gives us the righteousness of God. Saving faith is the exercise of a persons will to turn away from self righteousness and entrust their life to Christ.

Romans 3:23 # 5. It is need by everyone. (For all have sinned)

Every person desperately needs the saving grace that only God can give.

Romans 3:24 # 6. It is declared by God. (Being Justified)

We cannot justify ourselves.

Romans 3:26 Justification is full and complete, what God declares stands forever. Justification washes away the debt we owe to God.

Romans 3:24 #7. It is given as a gift.

There is a difference between wages and gifts. Wages you work hard for and earn. There is nothing you can do to earn a gift or deserve a gift, it is based solely on the mercy of the giver. There is nothing that can be added to the gift of God.

Romans 3:24C – 25 # 8. It is acquired by Christ.

Given to all those who believe. A deliverance procured by a payment of ransom. (Propitiation – Appeasement) Bought us out of our slavery to sin.

John 8:36 ,.... If the son will set you free, you will be free indeed....

Justification occurs between God and the sinner.

Propitiation occurs between God and the Son.

Redemption occurs between God, the Son and the sinner.

....therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith....

Romans 3:25 – 26 # 9. It is designed by God.

Sin had to be eternally dwelt with. His plan was devised so there would be a substitute to stand in our place and bear our sins. He would suffer our punishment and endure the wrath. God can be both the just and justifier because of the cross.

To demonstrate his righteousness that he might justify the one who has faith in Christ.

God's righteousness comes through faith, not works, and is available to all who believe. Since all are sinners and together have fallen short of God's moral and spiritual perfection, all are in need of his righteousness and all receive it on the same basis. Salvation is a gift and is given by God's grace. It is given according to the undeserved, unmerited favor. We all have fit that description at some point in time.

Faithfulness to Christ refers to our obedience to the cross and the focus on Christ's, crucifixion, death and resurrection.

The cross is the answer. It condemns sin as well as justifies the person who believes because of the faithfulness of Christ and to Christ.

Galatians 2: 14 – 21,....a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ....

Justified by Faith.

Justification: God's righteousness act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin, while, at the same time, declaring the ungodly to be righteous through faith in Christ atoning sacrifice.

1 Peter 2: 23 – 24,....did not revile....did not threaten....but committed himself....

To be saved means God has delivered us from this wrathful judgement due us because of sin, where we would have been judged and sentenced to eternal damnation.

We are justified by Christ, through salvation, attained by faith.

#4 - Gods love is a sanctifying love.

Sanctification: How we live, spiritually, day b day. Spiritual growth, spiritual maturity. All this comes from spending time with Christ in a personal relationship with him.

1 Thess. 5: 23 – 28,....now may the God of peace sanctify you completely....

Sanctification is: The work of God accomplished through his word and the ministry of the spirit. No matter how hard we try to keep the principles of Gods word, and teach that word to others (prayer) is absolutely vital in this process.

Redemption: Saving or being Saved.

Justification: To declare or make one righteous.

Sanctification: Process of being made holy.

1 Thess. 5:23,....your whole spirit, soul, and body are preserved blameless....

Sanctified by the sprit of God. That through the gospel we should serve the living God with: True faith, hope and love, to be exercised in every manner.

The reason it is a process or making one Holy is because: We become lacking in faith – love waxes cold – hope is not always lively and knowledge becomes partial in our lives. Even though these things are in our life they have not come to their full growth. (Maturity)

Spirit, Soul, Body. – Be preserved.

God is triune. (trinity) - -Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

God said let us make man in our image.

Man is triune. (trinity) – Spirit, soul, body.

The trinity of man is an essential part of the relationship between himself (ourselves) and God.

Neither the body, soul or spirit in itself can make up the whole man.

Spirit – **1 Corinthians 2: 9 – 11**,....for he spirit searches all things....

Soul - **Luke 1: 46 - -47** – Notice Mary could not (extol) praise the Lord in her soul until she had recognized God in her spirit as savior.

Body – Genesis 3:19 – The body is that which connects us to the material world. - -5 senses – sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch.

Romans 5: 14 – 17,....the free gift which came from many offences resulted in justification....

Paul being proud to have God use him to accomplish his purpose says: that the fruit that comes from the lives that God has touched through himself gives him reason to be proud of the work he has done for God, through Christ Jesus.

Our encouragement and strength in faith is to please other Christians so the church (family of God) can be unified.

2 Peter 1: 2 – 4,....grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as his divine power has given to all things that pertain to life and Godliness....

V.3 – Given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, which is eternal life. The promise both of this life and the life to come. Everything related to it, in it, and consist of it, from Christ and the eternal graces of the spirit: faith, hope and love which are the principle part of Godliness and gifts of Christ.

V.4 – Great and precious promises relate to things spiritual and eternal, which are absolute, free, unconditional, irreversible, and unchangeable.

- Partakers of the divine nature. Divine nature of Christ: Principle of grace, being formed in the heart in regeneration, after the image of God. Bearing a likeness to the image of the Son, Christ, formed in the heart, from glory to glory, by the gospel, transforms us, to be perfected in him.

Sanctified: Set apart for God. Not meant to be used by others or for others for things that are not holy.

As believers we understand God has been and always will be at work in our lives. The shedding of blood is required, is critical, is necessary for sanctification.

Philippians 2: 12 - 16,....therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed....work out your salvation in fear and trembling....

We separate ourselves from worldliness, dedicate ourselves to God, purified through salvation we continually renew our soul and cleanse our spirit. It is a process that happens little by little through Gods mercy and grace as he shows us areas in are life that needs cleansing and to mature.

Romans 15: 15 – 16,....that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ....ministering the gospel of God....that the offering, might be acceptable....sanctified by the Holy Spirit....

2 Peter 1: 2 – 4,....according to the foreknowledge of God....in sanctification of the spirit....for obedience....

Gods desire for us to have grace and peace in abundance – meaning more than enough. That we would acquire this through wisdom and knowledge of Christ. God reminds us he will supply us with everything we need to live Godly lives. We must work to add through faith the goodness and qualities of Christ.

#5 Gods love is a glorifying love.

1 John 3: 1 – 3,....behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us....

God shows us his glory through his word.

God calls us to glorify him in all we do. God glorifies himself by enabling us to glorify him through our service.

#1 We glorify God by faith

By having faith in his promises.

Romans 4: 13, 16 – 20,....therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace....he did not waiver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God....

To give glory to God is to rely upon his power and his faithfulness to us.

#2 We glorify God by worship.

Nothing we do, delights God more, then calling on his name with s sincere heart and giving him all the glory that belongs to him.

1 Corinthians 10: 31 – 33,....whatever you do, do all to the glory of God....

As believers in Christ, to the glory of God, through obedience in works of service that blesses others and the church, we glorify God.

1 Peter 4: 10,11,....as each one has received as gift, minister it to one another....let him do it as with the ability that God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ....

Use the gift we have, with all the strength God gives us, to serve God and others. God is glorified by our wholehearted service to others.

Ephesians 1: 5 – 6,....having predestined us....to the praise of the glory of his grace....

God loved us in eternity, before we were created he had an eternal plan for us. If he did not create us, he would not have loved us, he would not have glory in us or be glorified by us.

John 3:16,....for God so loved the world, he gave....

God showed his love and glory for us by sending his son (Christ) as a savior for us.

We received a savior, he receives the praise and glory.

Salvation: A free gift to savor and show the glory of God. We live in him to display his greatness.

Gods love and glory makes us spiritually alive.

Ephesians 2: 4 – 7,....God....rich in mercy....made us together with Christ....

The reason we are made alive from the deadness of our unbelief is because of Gods great love for us. A love that moved him to choose us for his own glory makes us alive. Christ himself ask the father to let us see his glory. God performs acts of love toward us in a way that reveals he is loving us for his glory.

Philippians 1: 3 – 11,....this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment....

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus. To the glory and praise of God.

The believers lives is a reflection of what they set their mind on.

Which is the Love of God.

Christ through the word encourages us to grow in love for one another.

We need to let our manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, and continue to stress the importance of living our Christian life according to the salvation of Jesus Christ.

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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