

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

6.7.2020

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.

Gods mercy, grace, redemption.

Genesis 18: 16 – 33

Sin or disobedience to God opposes the character and will of God. Sin brings spiritual death, which is separation from God. Through grace, salvation is given by God, a gift expressed through his love and mercy. This means God will withhold the punishment of death from us, due to his loving kindness and tender mercies. This is redemption, secured by salvation, through Christ and the cross. Through redemption, we turn from sin, and turn to God. Redemption is motivated in our lives by the Holy Spirit through the power of Gods word. Through faith we are forgiven, due to the atoning death and resurrection of Christ. Our relationship with God is dependent upon our study and meditation of Gods word and in prayer.

When talking with God, what is conversation likely to be.

For most it is probably a prayer for God to eliminate the painful events and circumstances in our lives and the lives of those around us, and most likely for some kind of worldly peace and personal prosperity, all of which is just a temporary solution to an eternal endeavor. What we do not realize, is that what we are going through is the consequences of our own sinfulness. Our prayers should be one for Gods mercy, grace, and redemption.

Genesis 18: 16 – 33,....Abraham stood before the Lord. And Abraham came near and said, would you destroy the righteous with the wicked....

In this passage of scripture God was encouraging Abraham to pray, not that the city would not be destroyed, but that the inhabitants of the city would look to God for salvation.

God, in our lives, encourages us to pray more faithfully. He wants us to get away from the tedious tasks, and list of request that we normally pray about, (things that God already knows, for which we have already ask repeatedly) and pray for his mercy, his grace, and the remission of sin.

Abraham inquired of God seven times concerning the number of souls to be saved. Out of the five cities of the plains, each having a population of approximately 150,000 people each, Abraham started off by asking God, if he could just find fifty souls, would God spare all. On Abrahams seventh and final request, he was down to finding just ten souls, would God spare all. Abraham never waived from the prayer that God had encouraged him to pray. His thoughts not once went towards worldly gain and prosperity, but, focused on the people and the saving grace of God. He prayed for their spiritual well being, that they would turn to God instead of being eternally separated from him.

As it was in Abrahams time, it is much like that in our time today. God is allowing so many things to take place, not only to get the church to seek after him more faithfully, but, to get sinners to come to repentance. His actions are two fold.

First, as he did with Abraham, God wants to encourage the church to pray for his mercy and grace to continue so that there might be redemption.

Second, pray that the sinners might see the faithfulness of the church, praying for their redemption, and to turn to God.

Prayer is absolutely essential to our walk with God. Prayer is not so that our will would be done, but, to get Gods will done. To be effective and successful in prayer, we must grow in the knowledge of Gods eternal purpose.

Ephesians 3: 8 – 13,....according to the eternal purpose which he (God) accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Many today, see the church as optional. When it meets our need, it is fine, we will go, but, if it doesn't, then why go. What matters to God, is the church. Christ gave his life for the church, we must give our life for the church as well. To do this, we must see Gods vision and purpose for the church as our vision and purpose for the church, which is salvation.

Galations 4: 4 - -7,....but when the fullness of time had come....to redeem those....

The time has come, the time is here, for all who want to share in the inheritance of Christ, which is, to except salvation. The first coming of Christ was not by chance, it ended the full allotment of time that God had given to his people under the law and brought into existence the period of time that we live in now, this grace dispensation period. This period of time also has a set allotted time, allowed for grace, mercy and redemption. We do not know when this time will come to an end and the next phase of Gods eternal plan will take place. This will be when he comes after the church and removes the church from the earth. This is why it is so important to focus on what God has allotted this time for, and that is salvation.

John 14: 1 – 3,....I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself....

It is the tendency of all people to look at trials and tribulations, and imagine things to be worse than they really are. The Lord does not want us to have troubled hearts, he wants us to have hearts of peace. Peace is Gods wonderful gift that we receive by faith.

The word of God tells us that in this life we are going to have troubles, the promise that God makes is that in a troubled life we do not have to have a troubled heart.

Christ comfort for us goes far beyond this life. Christ comfort is eternal. Christ always anticipates the sorrow of our heart. Even on the cross, Christ focus was on the needs of others. Christ here is simply asking us to trust him. Not for his saving grace, we already have that, but, to simply trust him in all aspects of his life. Though we cannot physically see him, we love him, though we cannot see him, we believe in him. Everything Christ done brought fulfillment to mankind. His birth, his life, his crucifixion, his resurrection, his ascension, the Holy Spirit, our lives.....we can go on and on with examples of Gods goodness.

Just as with Abraham, our prayers, all that we do in our Christian life, must be on behalf of a world under judgement, because, a world full of sin will always be under Gods judgement.

It is very easy, out of pride to look down on sinners who are suffering Gods judgement, and think in our being, that it serves them right. It is much harder to pray to God that if only we can find ten or even one, would you spare all.

Our prayer as Christians should be for God to tarry, to pray for Gods mercy, grace, and redemption.

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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