

Mt. Lebanon Church

6.28.2020

Sermon

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.

Run the race that is set before you.

Hebrews 12: 1 – 2

As believers, our life works best, when we follow after, and are obedient to Gods word.

Our, ultimate goal of salvation, is the encouragement of knowing that eternal life awaits those who live by faith in Christ.

In the beginning, Christ and the goal of our salvation may seem far away. Through his gospel, and the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we realize that he is awaiting us, to instruct us in his wisdom, and knowledge, and understanding.

As we grow and mature and keep our eyes on God, he continues to work with us, molding us, more and more to the likeness of his son, the one who gave his all for us on the cross.

Hebrews 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, looking unto Jesus....

Paul describes our Christian life as a race being run. The starting line, being, when we accept the salvation freely offered to us by Christ and the cross. The finish line is when we get to meet him face to face.

First, we must understand that without Christ and the cross in our life, we are not even in the race.

This comes through the freedom of our choices that we make in life, which is by the free will that God has given unto us.

Hebrews 12: 1,....since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses....

1 John 1: 1 – 9,....that which was from the beginning....concerning the word of life....

Since the beginning of time, God has had the understanding with mankind, that with free will comes responsibility.

With this, 1 John says comes the responsibility of choosing one of two pathways. That is the pathway of light or the pathway of darkness.

We are born into sin, so therefore we are walking in darkness. As we come to the age of understanding between right and wrong, we must choose our pathway. We make our choice by what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes that we have looked upon, and what our hands have handled. But, the key to this scripture is the next part which states: concerning the word of life. Now all of these things, obtained through worldliness will only continue to keep us in darkness.

As we begin to truly hear the word, see it and look upon it, handle it with our hands, allow it to become a part of us, then we begin to walk in the light. Now we are beginning to have a true understanding of Christ and the cross. We are learning why that the scripture says: for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son....

As we begin to have fellowship with God, on the pathway of light, avoiding the deception of darkness, then we will confess our sins.

Romans 10: 9 – 10,....if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in you heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation....

1 John 1:9,.... Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleans us from all unrighteousness.

By salvation, now we are in the race. Now this race is not a race where we are looking for just an individual victory for ourselves. We are looking for others to run with us. The greater the number of participants, the greater the victory of the finish.

Hebrews 12:1,....let us run with endurance, the race set before us, looking unto Jesus....

Hebrews 2: 9,....but we see Jesus....by the grace of God....

Although we proclaim salvation, this does not mean that we always see Jesus. Worldly blindness, brought about through temptation and deception, clouds our spiritual vision.

James 1: 12,....blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised, to those who love him....

To see Jesus, we must endure through the temptation, overcome the deception, and continue to be obedient to the word of God. The word of God is the key, the living word, which is Christ himself. The race that is set before us, is now setting at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 2: 15 – 16,....among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ. That I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

The word of Christ points out the importance of the believers appearance as the light of our salvation in the world.

This Godly mindset comes through maturity in our Christian life. We hold fast to the word, which contains everything that we need to live Godly lives in Christ Jesus.

As Christians, our desire is to see others come to know salvation in Christ Jesus. We not only run to victory for ourselves, but, for all those who God allows us to be a part of each others lives as we have been granted opportunity.

My personal desire is that, if those who do not know the Lord as their personal savior, that this would be the day, that all would accept him as their own.

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 that God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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