

Mt. Lebanon Church.

The Natural Body, The Spiritual Body – Bible Study – Part 5

The Natural Body – Living in this Natural Body

7.22.2020

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 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.

1 Corinthians 15: 35 – 58

God, who created our body, expects us to use it in the way he intended for it to be used. Naturally (which is the natural self without salvation) we rebel against the idea of our body not being our own. Spiritually, we realize, God created it, it belongs to him, he loaned it to us, he expects us to take care of his creation, and bring glory to him with our bodies.

Therefore, I am not the owner of my body, just the caretaker. Taking care of our bodies, falls under our spiritual stewardship. We will have to give an account one day for all that he has given unto us to manage, including our body.

Christ had a human body, just like ours, and he understood, that he was not on this earth to react according to its passions and desires.

Our body is the greatest personal asset that we have received from God. We have, and, make the choice to either use it for service to the Lord, or to destroy it through giving in to the lust of the world.

1 Corinthians 12: 27,.....now you are the body of Christ, and members individually....

As we began to look further into the natural body, we are going to look at it, as believers in Christ. Not only are we a part of the body of Christ as a group, but as individual members as well. As individual members, we have a designed role, as a diverse member of the body, in order, for the body to function as a whole. God has given to the church, through the individual members, the opportunity to become part of the body of Christ, to thrive together, to become what God intends the church to be.

Ephesians 5: 23,....as also Christ is head of the church, and he is savior of the body....

We are called to live united, serving with one another together. It is not about one person being better than another, it is a mutual submission, which honors God. Therefore, we are able to submit, and come into submission without the feeling of becoming inferior.

1 Corinthians 6: 19 – 20,....or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom ye have from God, and you are not your own....

Man has always argued, that since these bodies will die and decay, that it does not matter what we do with them. Nothing could be further from the truth. We also know that man only looks upon these ideals when the body is in good condition. When the body continues to deteriorate, then man takes on a whole new perspective of it.

A Christians body is where the Holy Spirit lives, this is why it is referred to as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1: 13,....in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise....

We have always belonged to God, through salvation, we come to truly realize that our bodies are not our own, to do with as we please.

It was the Father who created our body, it was the Son who redeemed our body, and it is the Holy Spirit who indwells in our body.

We not only belong to the Lord just because he created us, but, also because he redeemed us. We were purchased at a very high price, and this was not just so he could say that he owns us, it was because of his love for us. This gives unto us a position of great honor, and, also a tremendous responsibility. Our spirit, soul, and body now belong to the Lord, we are no longer slaves to sin. We no longer think of our bodies as our own because we now see the importance of glorifying God in our actions, in our attitudes, and in our words of prayer and praise. We realize, that if we are truly in Christ, then we are truly not our own. What a great honor to know that all who are in Christ have the opportunity to use these bodies to bring glory to him.

Psalm 12: 1 – 2,....I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service....

Now we began to learn, how those in Christ should respond to the greatness of Gods mercy and grace, and begin to live our lives in him. The only true response to this, would be that in response to Gods giving to us eternal life that we would in return give our lives to him to use for his purpose. Christ, willingly sacrificed his life for us, we now willingly sacrifice our life for him. God has already set us apart for his purpose, and through the salvation of Christ, now sees us as holy and acceptable to do his will.

Our bodies are not given to us to make visible the beauty of ourselves, it is given to us to make visible the beauty of Christ.

Isaiah 53: 2 – 3,....he has no form or comeliness, and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him....

Just as in our day today, Isaiah prophesied that man would misjudge and reject Christ, based on wrongful perceptions. Mans conclusion of Christ was based on an outward appearance, rather than the righteousness of his heart. This unattractive perception still exist today in the heart of man. Although, physically, we cannot see him, we are still not attracted to the lowly, humble, caring, loving, disposition that comes through the grace and mercy of God. Man is more attracted, by a conquering, heroic, powerful, smooth talking, self made, saint. When we look at the life of Christ, then, and compare it to now, we still see a despised and rejected savior.

Luke 18: 31 – 33,....he took the disciples aside and said to them....all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge him and kill him. And the third day he will rise again.

This, that has already come to pass, is still coming to pass even today. The gospel that is now being presented to the Gentile people, during this grace dispensation period is being mocked, it is being insulted, and it is being spit upon, meaning it is being treated as if it is something that has no truth or bearing upon our lives. This gospel, or written word, which John tells us, is just the same as Christ himself, is being scourged and killed by mankind. This is being done by using the word to make visible ourselves, and to make valuable our worldly beauty, so that others may see us, but never see the beauty of Christ and his salvation through us. But, we have a promise to hold on to. Just as Christ through the resurrection rose from the dead, so will the church arise and be resurrected, which, is all those saints that took on the form of the comeliness of Christ, and valued the body, soul, and spirit that was prepared, and given to us by God, to be used to glorify him, and make visible the true beauty of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9: 27,....but I discipline my body, and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified....

Our Christian life should be one that is described as a life of self sacrifice. We stay motivated in our spiritual life by continually practicing self control, which comes through, and by prayer, as well as to study and meditate on Gods word. We must understand, that, we have the guarantee of salvation and eternal life, everything else must come by obedience, through discipline, and subjection to Gods word.

Psalms 119: 11,....your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you....

Without discipline and subjection to Gods word, without study and meditation through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we risk bringing reproach upon the gospel of Christ, whereby, causing our ministry to be justly contradicted and blamed, brought under contempt, rejected, and disapproved by man.

Through our security and obedience in Christ, we preach the word of God. Although at times rejected by man, if preached in the confidence of our salvation in Christ, it will never be, justly contradicted or brought under contempt in the world.

Salvation and eternal life is a free gift from God, and once given by him, and accepted by us, can never be lost or taken away. Failure to love, follow, and obey God, will result in a loss of spiritual blessing, as well as a loss of our ministry and our opportunity of serving God. Our determination is one, as to not allow this to happen, but, to practice spiritual disciplines, so that we may always be found fit for the Kingdom of God.

Philippians 1: 19 – 26,....but, with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death....

Even in our trials and tribulations, we must stay secure, in our faith, and be confident, that in, what ever situation we are in, that we would represent Christ and our salvation to the greatest of our ability in God. We should never fear what man can do, and always look forward to the opportunity to speak the word of God in all situations. We must be willing to honor and glorify God through our ministry, either in our continued life, or whatever kind of death that we might endure.

In order to do this, our earnest desire must be to come to know Christ more. To live for him, to die daily to self. Our deep desire is to be at our utmost for the glory of Christ, so that others may come to know him.

We as believers should fully expect and hope to remain faithful to this life end, and never to be ashamed of Christ.

Romans 1: 16,....for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes....

God wants visible, bodily evidence, that our lives are built on his mercy. We learn to deny ourselves earthly treasures and comforts, to carry ourselves for Christ sake, to the places and relationships in life that he has provided, places where his mercy is needed.

Romans 9: 14 – 18,....I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion....

We must let every act of our body, while living on this earth, be an act of worship to God. That is, every act of our living body, to be a demonstration that God is our treasure, to let every act show that Christ is more precious to us than anything else, to let every act be our death to the worldliness, and to all that dishonors God. We must show the worth of Christ by the way we use our body.

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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