

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

8.23.2020

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.

God gives the Increase.

1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 6.

In the church today, believers seem to be aligning themselves with the works and the actions of the ones that are leading, instead of following after the one true God. This boasting and bragging upon the wisdom of man will eventually create division in the body of Christ. We must come to realize, that the power, that brought us into our faith in Christ, only flows through mankind, it comes from God. Man can only serve and deliver, he is not the source of the power.

1 John 2: 4,...he who says I know him, and does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him....

God is the only one that can give us the ability to believe in, and follow after, the gospel of Christ, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So, how do we as Christians come to the understanding that we do not belong to the leaders of the church, we do not belong to ourselves, we belong to God, through Christ.

1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 6,....when one says, I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos, are you not carnal....Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase....

The breathtaking answer to the question, whether we belong to man or God is, to allow God to give the increase. In doing so, we no longer boast in man, but in God.

Without the increase of God within us, there can not be any spiritual growth. The growth of the body of Christ depends upon the growth of God in our lives, the addition of God in our lives, the increase of God within our lives, which all comes from God, who gives of himself to those who diligently seek him.

John 3: 27 – 30,....a man can receive nothing, unless it has been given unto him from heaven....therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled, he must increase, but I must decrease....

In order to understand and receive from God, we must be humble. Only the humbleness of our salvation will keep us from the pridefulness of accepting credit for the workings of Christ within us, and through us. It is only through this humbleness, that we have the boldness, to put Christ first in our life.

Galatians 2: 20,....I have been crucified in Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me....

Even though we continue to live in the flesh, our lives are no longer directed by our worldly nature, but, by the indwelling Holy Spirit. As we mature in our Christian life, we obtain victory over the sinful desires that we have allowed within. As we gradually claim this victory over the sin that so easily besets us, then and only then can the body of sin be destroyed, and we will no longer continue to be a slave to that sinfulness.

Hebrews 12: 1,....let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that easily besets us....

Therefore I now rejoice greatly in knowing that I can consider myself the friend of Christ. And what do friends do, they draw closer and closer to one another.

James 4: 8,....draw near to God and he will draw near to you....

Drawing near to God means, putting forth the effort to serve him. Loving God means, that in doing so, it does not seem like effort at all. We must hunger for God's word, we must long for a greater relationship with him, we must have passion for his presence, inviting him into every aspect of our lives.

He must increase, but I must decrease. How does God increase in our lives. It comes through true worship with him.

John 4: 23,....but the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers, will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him....

Today's church, believes that true worship, is the entertainment supplied to them by the people to stimulate the emotional reactions of the people. True worship, comes from deep within, it is experiencing God in a way that allows him to have complete control of our lives, daily. It is not just a brief stimulating period of time, when we allow ourselves to be manipulated into following after something, or someone, true worship can only come from God, through Christ and the cross, by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Even though it is a free gift, salvation is something in our spiritual life, that as we begin to mature spiritually, we will strive for its perfection in our life. This all comes through Christ, who is the word, who is our communication with the Father, by means of the Holy Spirit, and forever will be. We worship the Father in our studies of the word, in our communication with him through prayer, in our witnessing, in our preaching, in our teaching, in our everyday interaction with the world around us, as we set an example and tell others what God's love truly is and is all about.

The hour is coming and now is,.... Daily as Christians we must provide to others the importance of salvation and eternal life.

1 Corinthians 6: 1 – 2,....as workers together with him, also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain....in an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you....now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation....

Ever since the fall of man it has been a world full of troubles. The bible tells us this is due to sin, which came by man, through deception and transgression. Everybody wants to turn things around, to make things better, unfortunately the only way they see to do this is through things that will only bring forth worldly value. We are not going to change God's eternal plan, nor should we want to.

Colossians 3: 1,....if then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God, set your mind on things above....

To make things better for ourselves, and others in the world that we leave in, we must strive for those things that are of eternal value. We must put aside, following after worldly things that man has to offer, which comes through temptation and deception, in which comes forth sinfulness. We must follow after God, for he gives the increase.

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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