

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

8.9.2020

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.

Invitation to Salvation

Isaiah 55: 6 – 7.

There is not one person, nor has there ever been one, or ever will be one, that does not need to seek the Lord. Believers need to see the Lord continually, to remain in Gods love, and to continue in his guidance and his blessings. Unbelievers need to seek the Lord for salvation, so that they will not be left to unbelief and eternal destruction. All of us individually need to seek a sincere relationship with God. When we are not seeking God, then we are seeking out our salvation and fulfillment in the world. And, although these are things that can never satisfy us, we, often times, still find ourselves believing in the world and rejecting the word.

So, what does it mean to seek the Lord, and why should I want to seek the Lord.

Isaiah 55: 6 – 7,....seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near....

Man does not seek after things of his own free will, he comes to follow after those things of his own free will, after an invitation has been made to do so.

Daily in our life an invitation is given by God, to follow after salvation. Also daily is given, an invitation by Satan to follow after worldliness.

Gods invitation, given by the Holy Spirit, comes to the unsaved, by the word, in the form of conviction, brought to us in some form of Gods word, whether it is through witnessing, preaching, teaching, song, trials, tribulations, tragedies, whatever God sees fit to use. In the life of the believer, the invitation comes also through the word, and, also in many forms, such as the same as with the unsaved.

The invitation given by Satan, also daily, in the lives of the unsaved and the believer as well, is given through temptation and deception, and comes in many forms, including the misuse of the word of God.

Once the invitation is given, because of the free will God has given unto us, and it does not matter whether saved or unsaved, man is obligated to respond, to one or the other. These are the choices that we must make, everyday in our lives.

This service, or stewardship of responsibility, lies within the believer. Daily, we are presented with an invitation from God, Gods invitation is to seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. This invitation from God, to us, just as it was with Israel, is due to, and in regards to the invitation of temptation, given by Satan, that we fall prey to. Falling prey to his deception means, we are not seeking God and calling upon him, we are not pursuing a relationship with him, and we have been found guilty of sins against his word. Through Christ, we are invited to forsake these wicked ways, turn from our unrighteous thoughts, and return to the Lord.

Colossians 3: 1 – 4,....If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above....set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth....

By faith, we were saved according to the grace of God. Therefore, we not only seek those things above, but our mindset is focused on heavenly things as well. In order, for this to happen, it takes discipline, through obedience, to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the word of God. We must

totally commit ourselves to God, and we can only do this, by eliminating the worldly distractions in our lives. We cannot eliminate these distractions on our own, we must have Gods help.

Matthew 7: 7 – 8, 13,....ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks, finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

We are going to look to these three things, that Christ explained to his disciples, was the basis of total commitment to God. Ask, seek, and knock.

Ask,

Isaiah 7: 11,....ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God, ask it either in the depth or in the height above....

There is no limitation to Gods power, the only limitation is that of ourselves, which is due to asking God for things that is not his will for us in our lives.

James 4: 3,....you ask and you do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your own pleasures....

Worldly temptation and deception is so hard to overcome when we do not totally commit to the Lord. Asking sincerely, asking in faith believing, asking that in everything Gods will be done, gets us headed in the direction in our life that God would have us to go.

Seek,

Ephesians 1: 17,....That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ....give to you the spirit of wisdom, and revelation in the knowledge of him....

As believers, we need, spiritual wisdom. Wisdom and knowledge, that leads to understanding, that can only come by God, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the word of God.

2 Timothy 2: 15,....study to show thyself approved unto God....

As we stop paying attention to the world, and the wisdom of the world, we will come to realize that the only truthfulness comes from God. This truth can only be found in his word, we must study, meditate, pray, and by the Holy Spirit, rightly divide the word of truth, which gives us wisdom.

Knock,

2 Corinthians 2: 12 – 14,....furthermore, when I came....to preach Christs gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord....

When we allow Gods will to work in our lives, then he begins to open doors for us in our spiritual lives. Doorways, of his grace and mercy, of his peace of mind, of his wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, of the greatness of his love that leads to salvation.

Philippians 4: 4 – 7,....the peace which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus....

Christ is the door, the door that opens unto us salvation, and leads to the hope of eternal life.

Matthew 7: 13,....enter by the narrow gate....narrow is the gate, and difficult is the way....

God never promised it would be easy. There will be invitations of temptation and deception, but, as we learn to reject that which is evil, and accept the invitation of the goodness of God, that will lead us to salvation, then, he will have mercy upon us, he will abundantly pardon us, we will be his people, he will be our God.

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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