

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.2.2020

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.

Saul's disobedience under pressure.

1 Samuel 13: 5 – 14.

In our lives, we will experience those times of joy, happiness, gladness, triumph and victory. We must be careful during these times, not to allow the humbling experiences of our spiritual victories, to become entangled with the pridefulness of our worldly emotions. When we allow this to happen, our obedience to God begins to falter, and the chance for spiritual disaster to take place in our life is inevitable. Sadly, due to the triumph and victories in our life, we do not see our actions of disobedience, to be all that bad. We become indulged with self righteousness, and begin to do things of our own actions, with disregard to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and our obedience to God. God must then bring us back into his obedience through sufferings.

1 Samuel 13: 5 – 14,....

Verse 6,....when the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were distressed) then the people did hide themselves....

God gives us everything we need to succeed. We are brought down by our own wrong choices as we begin to give in to worldly fear, which is completely unnecessary in our Christian life.

Fear is a problem for Christians, and can hurt our spiritual life in so many ways. Since we are called to live by faith, worldly fear will cause us to be afraid to step out in faith. Faith that helps us to share the gospel, faith that keeps us from the temptation of doing the wrong things and going against God's word. Fear brings about sinful pressure, that leads to disobedience.

2 Corinthians 4: 8 – 9,.... We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed, we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed....

In our spiritual life, often times, it may feel like we are losing ground. At times, the trials and tribulations may seem overwhelming. We can find comfort through the Holy Spirit, in the word of God. We must always remember, if we are seeking comfort, it is because we are going through hardship, hardship that comes through trials and tribulations, do to sinfulness in our lives. As we seek comfort in God's word, he will give us that comfort, but rest assured, he is going to point out the reason for the trials and tribulations that are going through. This is to allow us to bring those things to him, to turn them over to the one that can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is called maturing in the Lord.

Colossians 1: 28 – 29,....him we preach....that we may present every man perfect in Christ....to this end I also labor, striving....

Spiritual maturity is learning how to walk according to the obedience of God. In order for this to develop in our life, we must make the choice to learn God's word, study and meditate on it, and allow the Holy Spirit to continually renew it, over and over in our mind, and then, to be obedient to it.

Making the choice to live by God's views rather than our own is a very simple decision to make in our life, but, the simplest decisions are the hardest to follow. It only makes sense to want what God wants for us, because he only wants the best for us. It is very easy to say, that this, God's best, is what I want in my life. But, as soon as we set this in motion, temptation begins.

James 1: 12 – 15,.... Blessed is the man who endures temptation..... Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death....

Spiritual maturity must be a priority in our life. We must remember, the desire to sin, that choice to sin, that is all on us. Often enough, this starts out as something in our life that we want, and we began to place our trust in our worldly emotions instead of trusting in God and waiting upon him.

1 Samuel 13: 8,....he tarried seven days....but Samuel came not....and the people were scattered....

Most people are not good at waiting. Waiting on the Lord shapes our Christian character. Patience, is how we conduct ourselves in situations. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, we will find that patience will become a valuable part of our everyday lives.

Isaiah 40: 31,....but they that wait upon the Lord....

As Christians, we will experience difficulties in our life that will overwhelm the strongest of us. We stumble and fall, because we rely on our own inner strength and not on the power of the word of God. We find comfort in the word of God, in knowing that God never goes back on his word, he never grows weary in his loving kindness, and he gives grace, which renews the strength of those who faithfully wait upon him. God's grace is sufficient for every circumstance in our life.

2 Corinthians 6: 3 – 10,....give no offense in anything....in all things commend ourselves as ministers of God, in much patience....

Our first responsibility must be to God. We must not give in, or give up in the face of trials and tribulations.

Philippians 3: 12 – 16,....but I press on....forgetting those things which are behind.... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

As we wait upon the Lord, without wavering faith, as we mature in the Lord, through faith, our spiritual goals begin to change. We learn to focus more on Gods will and not our own prior mistakes. We can only move in our life in Christ, as we ask forgiveness for those things in our life that is not pleasing to God. Our goal should be such of pursuing Christ, and focusing on his will, to the faithfulness of our salvation, and the salvation of others.

We must learn, not to be impatient and take matters into our own hands. Disobeying God is always a foolish decision. We must learn to wait patiently on the Lord, and not to let our own plans replace our obedience to God. Doing so, brings us to the place in our life, where we seek to justify our works rather than admit to our wrong doings and seeking forgiveness, so that we may pursue the will of God in our lives.

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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