

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

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.

Service for Christ

## **Colossians 1: 24 – 29**

As maturing Christians, we learn, that even through hardships in our lives, we can still rejoice in the Lord, knowing that, the end result is eternal glory with God. Our suffering is a service to Christ, made possible through his suffering on the cross, which was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. We suffer for the church, the body of Christ, as part of our ministry or servitude for Christ. This service that we offer for Christ sake, which he left for us to fulfill in him, is for, and on behalf of others. We recognize that anything, and everything that we accomplish is only through the power of the Holy Spirit, given unto through Christ.

**Colossians 1: 24 – 29**,...I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of his body, which is the church....

Our service, or ministry should be all about Christ and him crucified. We are called to be stewards of God, to give our lives to proclaim Christ, to grow and mature in him, as well as to grow and mature in the church, and the church in him.

Although our service to the Lord is accomplished through suffering, we do not see it as such. It is something that we choose to do of our own free will. In making the choice to do so, God then entrusts us with the responsibility of sharing the gospel of salvation with others.

**Acts 9: 15,....**The Lord said to him, go for he is a chosen vessel....for I will show him, how many things he must suffer for my names sake....

Like Ananias, we often have hesitations and doubt when it comes to our service to God and his goals for our life. We must work by faith, believing that Gods direction for us in our life is true and absolute. When God gives us direction, he has already prepared the way, the hearts, and the lives of those which he has intended for us to be a witness to.

Christ, through his time upon this earth, through the scripture, through the giving of the Holy Spirit, through the crucifixion and resurrection, has provided us with every means possible to continue to fulfill the ministry that he had begun while upon this earth, all for the sake of the church, which is the body of Christ. This is not only for the maturing of the saints, but also for the body of Christ to grow in number through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 1: 25 – 26,....**of which I became a minister....to fulfill the word of God....the mystery....now has been revealed to his saints....

The mystery, the word of God, the gospel of salvation, revealed through the crucifixion and resurrection, is Gods eternal plan, handed down from generation to generation, for fulfillment, by the saints of God.

**Romans 16: 25 – 27,....**now to him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ....according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to faith....

**Ephesians 6: 19,....**and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly....

One of the many things that we should talk about with the Lord, is not only that, he would direct us in our pathway of servitude and stewardship in the gospel, but, that he would supply us with the words of wisdom, to speak the truth of salvation to all mankind. Without the truth of the word, there is no gospel. Our words are just words, stories of worldliness, that have no eternal value. Gods word is true, it is encouraging, it is convicting, it brings unbelievers to become believers, it is the power of salvation, to all who believe. The power to overcome death and hell, the power to have eternal life.

**Colossians 1: 27,....**to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery....which is Christ in you, the hope of glory....

The sovereign God, perfect in all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. As creator of all things, he has complete control over all things. The glory of our salvation is Christ in us. This is our personal relationship with him, being conformed into the image and the likeness of Christ. At salvation, we become positioned with Christ, we become a new creation, we receive the hope of eternal life, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and therefore the righteousness of Christ. All of these spiritual qualities he has bestowed upon us through salvation, for the benefit of the church, for the saving grace of others, for the perfecting of the saints.

**Colossians 1: 28,....**him we preach, warning every man....

Every person matters to Christ. We must proclaim him, we do this by growing in the knowledge of Gods word, so that all may see our Christ like spirit, and him working in us, and through us.

**1 Corinthians 1: 21 – 25,....**it pleased God....to save those who believe....but we preach Christ crucified....

Humanity will never come to know God through human wisdom. It is the wisdom of God that brings the understanding of salvation to the world. This wisdom, comes through the word, the word of God is a powerful truth. A powerful but simple truth, so simple that man looks upon it as foolishness. What man has tried to do, and failed, God has done through the powerful, simple word, concerning the crucifixion, and resurrection of his Son. This simple truth is ours, as believers, to take to the world, to experience the blessings of salvation through all who will believe.

**Colossians 1: 29,....**to this end, I also labor, striving, according to his working....

We must be willing, not only to work, but to work hard, and at a great cost to the things of the world. This can not be completed in our own power, but, through the power which God provides. God expects our complete and full devotion to him, and to the service of others.

**Matthew 22: 37 – 40,....**you shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself....

These two commandments are very demanding in our Christian life and should not be taken lightly. In order, to be obedient in this, it will take complete cooperation on our part. Through much prayer and meditation in God's word, we begin not only to learn the meaning of the love of God, but, as we begin to understand that we must love him unconditionally with 100% of our whole heart, soul, and mind, then we can understand the importance of loving our neighbor. The salvation of Jesus Christ is the most important thing in this natural life. It determines the outcome of not only our eternal state, but it has a great effect on others as well. In our life, the burden for Gods love and the salvation of others should grow greater and stronger every day, concerning these two great commandments, where in lies the fate of mankind.

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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