

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.8.2020

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.

Living Peaceably with all Men – Part 2

Romans 12: 14 – 21

Romans 12: 14,....bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse....

Let us start off by stating, that we can only bless those who persecute us if, and only when we are more concerned about our persecutors eternal welfare, then we are about our own suffering. Persecution can come both from within the world, and from within the body of Christ. It is these tests of our faith that is needed for spiritual growth, and maturity in our life, that brings us into a deeper understanding of our relationship with Christ, as we genuinely and continually seek his will.

2 Timothy 3: 12,....all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus, will suffer persecution....

As Christians, who are growing and maturing in our faith, we do not follow a specified period of time to reach this level of maturity. Instead, we press on, walking in spirit and in truth. Living Godly, Christlike lives, choosing to exchange the material blessing of our own life, for the spiritual blessing of salvation, when it comes to the lives of those around us, who do not believe.

Luke 6: 27 – 28,....I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who spitefully use you....

To bless those that persecute you means, to genuinely pray for them, which means, asking God for Christ saving grace to come to those who persecute us, which would be the greatest blessing that we could want to bestow upon others. The rewards for this will be eternal, not just mere earthly blessing.

1 Peter 3: 14,....but even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed....

As Christians, we have a secure, abundant future, eternally with God. For this reason, we are called to live apart from the world, for the sake of Christ and the cross. Therefore, we should not be surprised when we suffer for his name sake. To suffer in this manner is a spiritual privilege, and we are blessed.

Isaiah 8: 11 – 14,....for the Lord spoke this to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people....nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled....let him be your fear, let him be your dread, he will be as a sanctuary....

The Lords guidance for us, is that he has all situations in hand, meaning that he is in control, because he has the world in his hands. We were called, or are called, not to pursue after the things that the world pursues, but to pursue after the will of God, which is to do his will, in serving him, and serving others. We are serving, so that we may reflect the character of Christ to all those who God surrounds us with. More importantly, as we reflect his mercy and his grace to others, we must want, and expect God, to be glorified through it.

John 15: 20,....remember the word that I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master, if they persecuted me, they will also persecute you, if they kept my word, they will keep yours also....

We as Christians, need encouragement, to bless those that persecute us. This encouragement can only come through Gods word, by reassuring us of his love, and his mercy, and his grace, and giving unto us spiritual perspective in our lives. What is that spiritual perspective, it is God showing us in advance, through his word, that these hardships are going to take place and there is no doubt about it. He also shows us in advance, that he is in control, and that he can and will make these hardships easier for us to endure, if we accept, to allow him to do so in our life.

Christ, who is a servant of God, and a master to us, would not expect us to do anything that he has not already went through, and conquered. Therefore, we as servants, are expected to do anything and everything that he would do, and has done for us.

Galatians 6: 10,....therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith....

Remember that I said, persecutions come from both within the world, and within the body of Christ. The most obvious blessing in our life as a believer is our own hope of eternal life in Christ. God, would also like for us to recognize as a positive result within ourselves, the eternal life of others, who have come to Christ and will continue to come to Christ.

Matthew 16: 24,....if anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me....

We all belong to the same household of faith. We must keep in mind, God was gracious to us when we were yet sinners, and he is still gracious to us when we sin today. Through Christian unity, we must practice spiritual humility, which means that we share Gods mercy, and grace, while blessing others, not only through the joys, but also through the sorrows, because, it is the sorrows of this world that becomes the persecutions in our Christian life.

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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