

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

12.13.2020

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.

Preparing The Lords Way

Luke 1: 76 – 80

Today we look at an introduction to the birth of Christ, through the mission given to John the Baptist, passed down unto us, to show that the light of Christ, who is a symbol of hope, and the truth in God, entered into the world, and successfully overcame the powers of darkness. Whenever we have confusion, hopelessness, despair, darkness, and depression, these things can seem overwhelming in our life. This is when the Holy Spirit reminds us that the hope of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is greater than all these things.

1 John 4: 4,....ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world....

Through salvation we have replaced the worldly covering of sin, with a heavenly robe of righteousness. We have been given the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit, permanently in our life. This is all due to Christ sacrificial death on the cross, and his glorious resurrection. The moment that we are saved by grace, through faith, we become a new creation in Christ, and now, must begin to grow into his spiritual maturity. We have become the dwelling place of an all powerful, all mighty, all knowing, all gracious God, which gives unto us, the ability to profess, that greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.

Luke 1: 76 – 80,....you child....will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways....to give the knowledge of salvation....to give light to those who sit in darkness....so the child grew and became strong in the spirit, and was in the desert till the day of his manifestation....

Through this passage of scripture, we will learn about the great expectations that God has for his children, and, also concerning the great expectations that the people have for God. We will learn how to become a tool in Gods hand, to be a witness in the time of his fulfillment. Gods fulfillment is his work, and his deliverance is his salvation. We as Christians, are called to speak the message of salvation to a particular group of people at a particular time. As we preach, and continue to preach, we do not have to prophesy anything new, we are to simply proclaim the things that have already occurred. We must be faithful in communicating the very word of God, and be willing to endure, so that the word of God will not be compromised.

Luke 1: 77 – 78,....to give knowledge of salvation to his people, by the remission of sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the dayspring from on high has visited us....

As believers, we are called to stand firmly in the truth of our salvation, to establish ourselves in the reality that God has set forth for us in our life, not the reality of our own conceptualized knowledge of the world. Through Gods wisdom, knowledge and understanding, his truth is confirmed as our spiritual reality.

Romans 1: 18 – 19,....for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them....

We are not sinners because we have sinned, but we sin because we are sinners, who have suppressed the truth of salvation, which we have received from God, through Christ and the cross, but have neglected the acceptance of that truth. Christ Jesus, the one and only savior of the world, who's sacrificial death on the cross paid our sin debt, and through his glorious resurrection, has imparted unto us his resurrected life, making us part of the body of Christ, joint heirs with him.

2 Peter 1: 2 – 8,....grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord....has given unto us all things that pertain to life and Godliness....has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises....that we may be partakers of the divine nature....adding to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self control, to self control perseverance, to perseverance Godliness, to Godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will neither be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ....

Luke 1: 79,....to give light to those who are in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace....

Due to sin, which came by deception and transgression in the Garden of Eden, man assigned to himself, a sinful nature. Because of this, all of humanity was condemned by God. Now God was about to fulfill his promise to send a messiah, who would bring salvation to all who would call upon his name. It is by the grace of God, that John was called to be a forerunner, to prepare the way of the Lord, and it is by Gods grace, that we as Christians, might give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah 9: 1 - -7,....the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shone....for unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given....his name will be called, wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace....

This light, spoken of in Gods word, would shine more brightly than anything ever known. It would shine past Galilee, who would be the first to witness this light, to the uttermost parts of the earth. This light would embrace every man, woman, and child ever born into this world, extending back to a time before the world was made, and forward to the time of the great white throne judgement at the end of the millennial age. It is a light, that no darkness can ever overcome. God has set forth in his word of truth, the uniqueness of his way of life, through salvation, peace, hope, and love, to enlighten all those who will freely accept.

Luke 1: 80,....the child grew and became strong in the spirit, and was in the desert until the day of his manifestation....

As the Holy Spirit fills us, and empowers us, we mature spiritually in Christ. He leads us, he guides us, transforms us, equips us, and informs us, which is our help in time of need, in becoming strong in his spirit, and becoming all that we can be in him, and for him. Why does God want us to grow in his spiritual maturity, it is due to the fact that, we live, and will continue to live in the deserts. Meaning that our life in Christ, even though it is filled with the assurance and spiritual blessings of our salvation and hope of eternal life, will continued to be filled with the worldly confusions that come through, temptations, trials, and tribulations, that we must learn to resist, overcome, go through, and be victorious in our Christian life.

Christ came as a sin substitute for the whole world. He came as the light of the world, the light that shines in darkness, the true light that came into the world to enlighten every man, so that all who believes in him, might be saved.

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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