

Mt. Lebanon Church.

Gods Grace

Grace and the Revelation of Christ as seen through the Heart of John - Part 4

The Church at Philadelphia

12.2.2020

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 have 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 bible study.

John 1: 1 – 18.

Revelation 3: 7 – 13.

The church at Philadelphia considered itself, the rightful, spiritual heirs of Judah. The church also considered itself superior, due to it was comprised of spiritual Jews, who had received the circumcision. This caused a division between the Christians and the Jews, due to both, claiming to be the true people of God.

Gods word teaches us that, no one is deprived of access to God. Christ, through salvation, has granted access to all who will have faith and believe in him. It is Christ alone, who can present himself, to the church, as the way to salvation. Humanity, will ultimately have to acknowledge that it is Christ who loves the church, so then the church will recognize that it is the people of God, that makes up the body of Christ, not just specifically Jews or Gentiles.

Revelation 3: 7,....these things says he who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, he who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens....

Christ here is presented as one, who's work is fitting to the needs of all people. His character is without flaw or blemish, he is the one behind all that really exists. Gods will, cannot be opposed, he governs the events of history upon this earth, which means that he will open some doors, and he will close some doors. There is no power of humanity that can change what God determines to be so. The doors of the ministry of salvation, through good works, will be opened unto us, when we begin to allow the power of God to move in our lives, through the working of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2: 10,....we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works....

Each member of the body of Christ is capable of good works. When, we through the abilities given unto us, by the Holy Spirit, respond with these good works, in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ, then, through God, it will become an open door.

Revelation 3: 8,....I know your works, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut, for you have a little strength, have kept my word, and have not denied my name....

Christ hope for us is that our potential for the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ, will continue to increase. This ability given unto us by God, through the working Holy Spirit, is given unto each member of the body of Christ, without condition. The power, of these abilities, comes through the living word of God, to those who will not deny his name. Gods word is at the heart of the church, there is no mistaking, there must be the word of God. We must teach it, study it, and truly know it. The word enables us to know the character of Christ, it is this character of Christ within us, that will always insure that the body of Christ, will always respond to opposition and hostility with the love, compassion, and the knowledge of God.

Hebrews 4: 12,....for the word of God is quick, and powerful....and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart....

Revelation 3: 10,....because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world....

This is one of the places in the word of God that shows the promise that the church will be called out before the great tribulation period begins.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16 – 17,....the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout....the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds....

A wonderful promise to the church, a promise that the body of Christ, is to be called out before the great tribulation, this great tribulation will be a time of physical distress and mental attitude, which will come upon those who live as though their life upon this earth is all that there is. This is mankind, living only with the hope of worldly riches, and have no hope of anything, with eternal value.

Revelation 3: 10,....I will also keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth....

Let us take a moment to look at this promise, in comparison to the life of the church up through the ages, before the time of the great tribulation, including our present day and time.

As we look at the events taking place, in the world today, which has affected all of humanity, we must first realize, that it is not for the believer to chose a worldly side, but to chose Gods side. In order, to do this, our outlook, our meditation, and our prayer, should be one of Gods will in our life, and the lives of others.

Christ gives us the greatest example of this when, he was praying in the garden, before he took on the greatest trial and tribulation ever known to happen to a man, took place.

Luke 22: 42,....saying Father, if it is your will, take this cup away from me, nevertheless not my will, but yours be done....

We can only pray this way, through the strength given unto us by the word of God. This word is made known unto us through the wisdom, knowledge and understanding, given unto us by the Holy Spirit.

John 16: 33,....these things I have spoke unto you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world....

Romans 12: 9 – 13,....rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer....

1 Corinthians 10: 13,....no temptation has over taken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation, he will also provide a way of escape, that you may be able to endure it....

Proverbs 3: 5 – 6,....trust in the Lord with thy whole heart, lean not on thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths....

1 Peter 1: 3 - 9,....blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ....who hath begotten us....to a living hope....that the genuineness of your faith....though it is tested by fire, may be found to the praise, honor and glory....receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls....

Revelation 3: 11 – 12,....behold I am coming quickly, hold fast....he who overcomes....I will write on him my new name....

As we live in an everchanging world, times become harder, events become more difficult, hostility increases, Christianity has turned into a form of religion, so we as believers must be careful not to give up, or give in. We must not fall prey to deception, and begin to go along with the worldliness that is taking place all around us.

1 Corinthians 3: 12 – 15,....if anyone builds on this foundation....the fire will test each ones work, of what sort it is....if it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire....

God is merciful, and willing to forgive, but that should not make us careless concerning the word of God. Building our life on the right foundation is essential in our maturity of faith in our Christian life. It means growing and building according to Gods plan and purpose, which is laid out for us in the word of God, not according to our own worldly wisdom, but through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, so that God alone may be glorified.

Revelation 3: 12,....and I will write on him my new name....

Christ tells us that, believers will receive honors that will abide eternally. We, as Christians, have been given all that we need to love, as Christ loved. These honors that will abide eternally, reminds us that we have permanently, within us, the indwelling Holy Spirit, who has become our life, here and through eternity.

1 John 3: 2,....now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is....

As Christians, our redemption will be full and complete. Our justification, sanctification, and glorification will be finalized. Our spiritual identification will be completed when our perfected, body, soul, and spirit receive's this new name of God. By Gods grace, we are saved, by Gods grace, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, by Gods grace, we will be permanently identified with God, throughout eternity, his name inscribed upon us forever, eternally.

So, we end with,

Revelation 3: 13,....he who hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches....

We must stop, look, listen, and hear, what God has to say through his word, and the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We must pay close attention, for it is laying out our future destiny.

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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