

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

12.27.2020

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.

The Sign of the Christ Child

Isaiah 7: 10 – 16

The word of God provides us with warnings of impending judgement, which is punishment for sinfulness. Gods word also sets forth a calling for all of humanity, to accept the saving grace of God, given unto us through Christ and the cross. Due to sinfulness, mankind has, down through the ages, passed through extended periods of trials and tribulations. But a message of hope was sent, which started with the arrival of God himself, born into this world as a tiny baby, that would become the ultimate sacrifice to save his people, and not only his chosen people, but all of humanity, of every kindred and every nation, that all the families of the earth would be blessed. Gods word is sure, his word is true, his faithfulness, his promises, are everlasting, and will reach his ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

As Christmas is fast approaching, as mankind prays for peace on earth, as we are all still learning how to turn completely to God, through experiencing warnings and judgements in our lives due to the sinfulness in this world, let us look to the word of God, and the reminder, that the Lord himself gave us a sign. And the government will be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called, wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of peace, and all that we have to do is, call upon the name of the Lord and thou shalt be saved.

Isaiah 7: 10 – 16,....the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God....therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel....

God, in spite, of the sinfulness of mankind, will still fulfill his promises to him. To test our belief, faith, and obedience, God often times tells us to ask for a sign, this asking for a sign would be to show that we have faith and, believe in him. Like Ahaz, our disbelief in Gods promises will keep us from asking God for his grace and mercy in our life, so God, done all that he could do for mankind, by giving him a sign, and ensuring that everything was in place for humanity to accept that which he is freely giving. All that we must do, is to accept. God provides the grace we provide the faith and the acceptance.

Matthew 17: 20,....for verily I say unto you, if you have the faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you....

If as Christians, God has provided all that we need to possess and to proclaim this kind of faith, then why are we not doing more in our service to him. Why do many feel that God is not working in their lives the way that we think that he should be, or the way that we would like for him to. We will find that there will be many times in our lives, that we will doubt that God will do, what we know that he can do. This lack of faith will cause us to think, that it just simply is not Gods will for me. How do we know the difference, for there are things that are not Gods will for us in our life. We only know this through prayer and meditation in God's word. It is this wisdom, knowledge and understanding, which comes through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit that will help us to mature in our life in Christ, to give unto us the faith, to accept the promises that God has in store for us, and the understanding, to know Gods will in our life.

Jesus Christ is the sign. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment.

Matthew 1: 22 – 23,.... now this was all done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us....

The nature of Matthews gospel is, that salvation comes from the Jews, meaning that salvation comes through faith in Christ, the Jewish Messiah. Due to our obedience and faithfulness, God uses us to help bring about his promise of salvation to all who will believe. We may not always understand why God calls us to do certain task, but we can rest assured that he will use our faithfulness to his glory and to the greater good of his salvation.

There are times that we need to see, or experience once again, Gods sign in our lives, this sign is our salvation, which is our personal justification in Christ.

Titus 3: 4 – 7,.... when the kindness and the love of God our savior toward man appeared....he poured out on us abundantly....that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life....

Gods greatest expression of love toward humanity is his eternal plan of redemption secured by Christ and the cross. God's love for mankind appeared in the birth of Christ, who lived a sinless life upon this earth, was then crucified for the sinfulness of the whole world, so that all who believe on him should not perish but have everlasting life. This life that we live upon this earth, according to mankind, is conditional according to that which we do. But, for those who look to God for mercy and grace, God unconditionally forgives, and gives us the promise of eternal life. This unconditional salvation, we do not deserve, we also cannot earn, and we do not know how to respond to it without the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So, what do we celebrate at Christmas. It is the season that reminds us of Gods kindness, his love, his mercy, his grace, and his power of redemption for all, and to all who will believe. It is this saving grace that motivates us as believers to show Gods love of salvation to all. We learn, and teach, the baby Jesus in the manger, but we must come to know him as our savior. The one who rescued us, by purchasing our salvation on the cross, so that we may no longer become separated from God. This is what we celebrate in this glorious season. The birth of God himself as a man, the little baby born in the arms of Mary, whom he created. A savior that came to wash away our sin debt, so that we might have salvation, and the hope of eternal life. As we celebrate his birth, let us always be thankful for the great gift, of the sign given unto us, and remember that we cannot live like Christ, without Christ living within us.

Merry Christmas.

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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