

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

1.31.2021

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.

Worldly Betrayal

## **John 18: 8 – 11**

Gods kingdom, is not of this world that we live in. We have a world to live in because, of Gods kingdom and his mercy and his grace. Therefore, the kingdom of God cannot be obtained through fighting for it with sword and spear, it can only be won through the shedding of blood, which came by Christ and the cross.

**Hebrews 9: 16 – 22,....**for where there is a testament, there must always of necessity be the death of a testator....therefore not even the first covenant was decided without blood....almost all things are purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission....

Only through the death and the resurrection could Christ have victory over worldly powers. Spiritual battles are not won with worldly weapons. Christ, who was born to die, so mankind could live eternally with God the Father, left his glory on high, lived the life of a humble, obedient servant, in total dependence upon the Father. Therefore, his perfect, sinless life, qualified him, and only him, to become a sin sacrifice for mankind, and his example demonstrated how that God intends for all humanity to live totally dependent upon him. We should be willing, and obedient, to seek to do the same, by laying aside our worldly weapons, knowing that Christ died, not only to save us, but that we might allow him to live his life through us.

**John 18: 8 – 11,....**Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he....Then Simon Peter having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priests servant, and cut off his ear....So Jesus said to Peter, put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which my Father hath given me....

Mankind often times, become as Peter, who when earlier in the night said, that calvary must never happen, and boasted that he would die for the Lord. When Peter saw Christ accusers, and the soldiers approaching, his cowardly reaction was to draw his sword and cut off the ear of the priest servant, and then flee from the ungodly act that he had committed. Today, mankind's reactions to events that take place in their lives is the same as was Peters. Sadly, due to worldly deception, a young spiritually immature part of the body of Christ will follow this same pattern.

**2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5,....**but know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves....rather than lovers of God, having a form of Godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away....

This type of behavior is a result of those, who reject the will and the wisdom of God. Humanity is known throughout history, for expressing faith in God, but rejecting the actual power of the Holy Spirit. There are those that, want to be seen as good people, as spiritual people, but they are not true followers of God. Without a true relationship with God that is built upon truth and trust, we then just have a group of people who pick and choose when they want to obey God. We must be careful not to allow this type of behavior to turn us from the true teaching of salvation. As Christians we must find separation from those who claim to be Christians, but their false actions and teachings express otherwise.

**Matthew 7: 16 – 20,....**ye shall know them by their fruits....a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit....wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them....

Through the word of God, we are encouraged to, follow after Gods wisdom, knowledge, and truthfulness. To stay away from false teachers who, will form in our minds, skepticism through deception, which comes not only through their words, but also by the way in which they live their lives. Christ himself called them wolves in sheep's clothing, who not only deceive through the way that they believe, but they also promote their own position and power.

**Matthew 7: 15**,....beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves....

In order, for believers, to know others by their fruits, we must look to the word of God, so that we may gain a better understanding, of both good fruit and evil fruit.

**Galatians 5: 19 – 23**,....now the works of the flesh are evident....just as I told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God....but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control, against such there is no law....

This truth applies to all believers, and that truth would be that, due to worldliness, we would not waste the freedom that we have in Christ, just to serve our own selfish, worldly desires. The problem with this is that a lot of Christians have trouble with this in their life as a believer, and that which they have trouble with is to be free in Christ. To be free in Christ means that, we are serving each other in love, living a life of self sacrifice, and completely and totally surrendering to Gods love. This is not the love that comes naturally within us. That which comes naturally within us would be to resist giving up our own way, and to resist that which God has given unto us, to guide us in our every decision. The word shows us our source of wisdom and power, which is beyond ourselves, and that is, the Holy Spirit of God. This spirit which comes to live in the hearts of the believers is what teaches us to use our freedom in Christ, it teaches us to access the power of God, by walking in his power and his guidance. This is how we overcome the desires of the flesh, and pursue after the righteous of God.

**Philippians 2: 8 – 11**,....he humbled himself and became obedient....even the death of the cross....God also highly exalted him....that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow....and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father....

Christ makes it clear to our enemies that, we as Christians need not suffer, due to that our protection is, maintained by his suffering on the cross, and our victory is secured through his resurrection from the grave. God himself stands between those who, truly follow after him, and the harmfulness of this world, taking upon himself the consequences of the worldly hatred and evil. Therefore, we do not need to attempt fighting a self proclaimed battle that, will only bring about an immediate rebuke from Christ.

As believers, we must understand that these events, that are going on around us, and happening in our lives, this is Gods plan. Just as he had already warned Peter that these events were going to take place, so has he warned us, through his word that, the events and happenings of this world which we live in, and also the things happening in our lives are going to take place. This is so that, we may prepare ourselves for these upcoming proceedings, not so that we may build up a defense of our own protection, but that we may allow the power of God to work within us, and through us, to overcome these forces of evil. Christ did not tell Peter to abandon his sword, but he did tell him to put it away.

**Ephesians 6: 17,....**and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God...

**Hebrews 4: 12,....**for the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword....

Our sword, as believers, is the word of God. Every time that we pull our sword to fight, it is not done in the name of the Lord. Before we attempt to fight in in the name of the Lord with our sword, we must first allow the Holy Spirit to give unto us an understanding of God's word, and then we need to look to God, to see his desire for us in his word. Without this, we are fighting of our own faith, and of our own strength, and of our own will, which will lead to committing ungodly, cowardly acts that we will eventually flee from.

**Ephesians 6: 10 – 20,....**be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand....we wrestle not against flesh and blood....praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit....and for me the utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, from which I am an ambassador in bonds, that though I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak....

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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