

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.7.2021

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.

The Depths of the Sea

Micah 7: 18 – 19

God has graciously provided a way for all sins to be forgiven. Although we deserve punishment, God sent his Son, Christ to the earth, to be a sacrifice for all our sins. Through faith in Christ and all because of Gods grace, we can be forgiven of our sins, and receive the gift of eternal life. Being forgiven does not mean that we will no longer sin, because as Christians, we will go through times of great temptation and testing. This temptation does not come from God, we are tempted by our own desires.

James 1: 4,....but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....

As children of God, we are encouraged by his word, to resist temptation and to choose righteousness. Whether we yield to temptation or resist temptation, the responsibility lies within ourselves. We alone are responsible for the choices that we make in our life, and for the consequences that come with these choices whether good or bad.

1 John 2: 15 – 17,....love not the world, neither things that are in the world. If any man, love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever....

Does God forget about our sins. Yes, He chooses to forgive and to forget. God wants us to understand that his forgiveness includes forgetfulness. When we pray and often times feel that our answers are delayed, then we tend to go back and to reflect upon those sins that God has forgiven. We must recognize that it is Satan, and not God, that is reminding us of past sins. So, therefore we need to forget the past and move on in our spiritual life. We must not go back and dig up past sins that God has already forgotten. We cannot take our sins and do anything with them ourselves. Forgiveness of sin can only come through the sacrifice of Christ and the cross, through his shed blood.

Micah 7: 18 – 19,....who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity....he does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in mercy....he will turn again, he will have compassion upon us, he will subdue our iniquities, and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea....

God is merciful, God is just, his divine character is full of love and grace. He does not delight in manifesting his judgement upon mankind, nor does he rejoice over the self destructiveness of the sinner. What God has revealed unto us in his word, is that his mercy visits the troubled heart, and his goodness and love is displayed through his Son, Christ, and the cross. We must also remember that, even though God is merciful, he still hates sin, and will pour out his wrath against it.

Galatians 6: 7,....be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap....

As Christians, we are to live our life through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, applying it to our spiritual works, the fruits of that spirit. Our salvation is all about Gods mercy and grace, and his goodness which he gives unto us, that we could never earn on our own. As sinners, we deserved death, but through Christ, God gives unto us life and purpose. We must not be deceived, God's grace does not eliminate the consequences of sin. In our life, the decisions that we make which bring about worldly results in our life will also bring about the consequences of those sins. Our earthly choices, will reflect our heavenly rewards.

As those chosen in Christ, washed in his blood, clothed in his righteousness, there is no longer anger in God against the believer, but, there is anger in him against sin. Through Christ, who hung on the cross, and became our sacrifice for sin, offering himself, in our place, which is the reason that God does not retain his anger against us forever.

Isaiah 54: 7 – 8,....for a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy redeemer....

Having a human nature means that, we have a tendency to focus on time, but time means very little to God. For the Christian, the word of God tells us of times in our lives when we will feel that God is not answering our prayers, and we see him, as in the distance, and hiding himself from us. But, due to his mercy and grace, through forgiveness and redemption he promises to show his everlasting love unto us.

1 John 5: 13,....these things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God....

How important it is that we believe on the name of the Son of God. Never forget that it was the blood of Christ that saved us from the penalty of sin, and it was the cross of Christ that saved us from the power of sin. As believers, we are identified with Christ death through the crucifixion, and not just with his death only, but also through his resurrection, we are identified with his life, which is life eternal. Salvation means that we have accepted, and believe, that Christ has paid our sin debt, removing the wall of separation, that stands between us and the Father, giving unto us, our eternal security in God.

Psalm 103: 12,....as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our trespasses from us....

Satan delights in holding up our past sins, and in trying to get us to agree with him, that we are failures. If so then we will begin to feel ashamed and condemned, just as if we have committed these sins all over again. When this happens, we stop holding true to the word of God, feeling sorry for ourselves, giving our glory over to worldlines instead of Godliness. Our sin can only be past sins, if we leave them in the past. Cast into the depths of the sea.

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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