

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

5.9.2021

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.

Elected By God

## Romans 9: 6 – 21

Whether we receive God's mercy or whether we do not receive God's mercy, it has nothing to do with human will. No one person can ever earn God's mercy, so nobody has more of a claim to deserve his mercy over anyone else. God does not owe his mercy or grace to anyone. To understand this, we must know what God's mercy is. God's mercy is something that he gives to those who do not deserve it and have not earned it. If it were anything different, it would not be God's grace and mercy. God's grace and mercy has been freely given to us through his Son, Christ Jesus. Once we begin to understand God's mercy towards us, it is mercy that makes available to us, the unlimited blessings of reconciliation to Christ. We can try, and humanity certainly does try, to work and to provide for themselves, the accomplishment of justification. We soon realize that we will never be able to pay our sin debt on our own, we must look to Christ and the cross for the ability to accept his redemptive saving grace, and to overcome the wall of separation that is between ourselves and the Father.

**Titus 3: 4 – 7**,....but after that the kindness and the love of God our savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us....which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our savior, that being notified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life....

One of the most difficult things for sinful humanity to accept is that there is salvation, and that it is a free gift of grace from God. It is a free gift to all of those who will simply believe upon Christ and the saving grace provided through the cross. There is nothing that we have done or could ever do that would qualify us for salvation, it is exclusively based upon the mercy, grace, and the love of God.

**Romans 9: 6 – 8**,....not as though the word of God hath taken none effect....these are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted for the seed....

Just as it was in the days of Abraham and the children of Israel, God has listed for us through his word, many promises and privileges that will help us to secure, and to strengthen our relationship in him. Sadly, the fact of the matter is that the majority of humanity has rejected Christ as being the savior of the world and the way to salvation. They simply will not believe in the truth of the word of God. As believers, we realize that Gods word has not failed, nor will it ever fail. He will keep his promises, he will not go back on his word. The reasoning behind why not all who believe, ( even though they thought that they did not have to believe ), they believed that they were already grafted in, due to being descendants of those chosen by God. We must realize, as they had to realize is that everyone who is a physical descendant, is not automatically an heir to the promises of God. So therefore, just because we read the word of God, and just because we may be able to recite the word of God, does not mean that we are obedient to the word of God. And if we are not obedient to the word of God, then we are not entitled to the promises of his word. We are not then, the children of God.

**John 8: 34 – 45**,....Jesus answered them....whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin....the servant abideth not in the house for ever but the Son abideth forever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed....why do you not understand my speech, even because ye cannot hear my word....and because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not....

Knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus personally, is the difference between eternal separation and eternal hope. Many people know about Christ, they read about him, they hear about him, they have seen and witnessed his mighty miracles, but they do not know him as Lord and savior of their life. They do not know him as the word of truth, nor do they trust that it was his shed blood that would pay the price for their sin. We are set free from the slavery of sin by the redeeming blood of Gods only begotten Son, so that we may know him, the one who loves us, and gave his life for us.

**Romans 9: 10 – 14**,....for this is the word of promise....and not only this....that the purpose of God....might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth....what shall we say then, is there unrighteousness with God, God forbid....

Our succession does not rest in good or bad works, it begins with Gods sovereign choices. Through our acceptance of Christ, God skillfully places us in our role in his eternal plan of redemption. Therefore, salvation is also not dependent upon our works. God determined that, the wages of sin is death, and that salvation is his free gift of grace, and that nothing in our character would influence or affect our salvation. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, all that we have to do to receive it, is to believe it. Our life is all about the fairness of God and his justice for us. His decisions for our life, is entirely based upon his omniscience presence and sovereign will. God wants us to be assured of our salvation, and he wants us to know that our salvation is secure, because it does not depend upon us, but rather on God's purpose for us. Because he is an omniscience and sovereign God, he will always accomplish what he proposes to do, therefore, some are chosen, and some are rejected. This does not mean that God is unjust, because all deserve his judgement, but due to his endless mercy and grace, all are presented with his love and salvation, then it becomes our choice to make.

**John 5: 24**,....he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life....

Before faith in Christ there is only spiritual death for humanity. However, at the moment that we believe upon him we gain the hope of eternal life and we cease to be spiritually dead. Once we believe, and are sealed, then there is no future judgement which will determine our eternal destiny. This means that, whoever will accept, will with certainty, have the ability to express unto others, wherein their hope of salvation lies.

**Romans 9: 15 – 18,....**for he saith....I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy....for the scripture saith....for this purpose I have raise thee up, that I might show my power....and that my name might be declared....therefore he hath mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth....

There is none of humanity that will escape the consequences of sin through personal merit. This is due to the fact that all are under sin, and in need of a savior. The good news is that the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is available to all who will believe. Sadly though, many will question Gods perfect plan of righteousness, and will use the very word of God to condone their worldly, sinful ways. As we begin to mature in our obedience in the word of God, the more we will begin to leave control of Gods divinely ordered plans and purposes for our life in his hands. We then, with humility, will be thankful to a sovereign God, that our eternal destiny does not depend upon our own will or on the will of man.

God retains the right to give his mercy and grace to whom which ever person he sees fit in accordance to his own divine purpose. As mankind refuses God's request in their life, and continues to refuse his request, then just as he did with Pharoah in the days of Moses and the children of Israel, then God will intervene, and allow this refusal and hardheartedness to continue in order to show his eternal power and glory. God has every right to do this, because he is God, and owes humanity nothing more, for he has given all mercy and grace as a free gift, with no obligation.

**Romans 9: 19 – 21,....**why doth he yet find fault....who hath resisted his will....who art thou that repliest against God....shall the thing that formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus....hath not the potter power over the clay....to make one vessel to honor, and another to dishonor....

When God makes a request, rejection does not start with him, we are the one that says no to the will of God in our lives first. There will be those who will, through deception, persuade others to believe that they are not resisting the will of God, but that God hardens their heart, so that they cannot accept his will. The fact is that mankind repeatedly hardens his own heart to the will of God, and as this worldliness continues, God steps in and allows that hardening to become permanent in our lives. God's perspective on humanity and its worldliness and sinfulness, is more complete than what they could ever imagine on their own. So, then who are we to question God. God who is the sovereign, omnipotent, omniscience, omnipresent God, has the absolute right to do whatever he wants to do with mankind. The creator of all things needs no other authority to decide what he will make, and what he will do with that which he makes. Although this may seem harsh, we must remember that God is loving, kind, and just, and has given unto us the free gift of his grace. Although humanity has rejected it, he still chooses to share with all those who will believe on his name his mercy and grace through his salvation.

**Matthew 13: 15,....**this peoples heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at anytime they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them....

God alone produces character in the lives of his children, but it is our choice to live in humble obedience to his will and direction to accept his character. Through our choice of accepting Gods will, it enables us to carry out the task that he has prepared for us to do. This is only effective if, we follow after the example of Christ, and if we apply his saving grace that comes through the cross, death, resurrection, and in our submission to his word. Continued rejection will result in willful separation from God, which will allow the distance between ourselves, and God, to become farther and farther apart. This will cause the heart to become hardened in such a way that we can no longer see Gods sufficient grace for our lives.

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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