

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

5.16.2021

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.

God reveals himself to mankind

Isaiah 65: 1

From the beginning God wanted for himself a family, a chosen people, those who would willingly worship him. Unfortunately, due to worldly sinfulness and corruption, the family which he chose, did not accept him, and the graciousness of the Father. Through deception, they rejected the means by which he offered unto them his saving grace. That is the one who sacrificed himself by way of the crucifixion, which was appointed by God, so that they might have a savior. This spiritual being, whom they sacrificed, came to the earth, was born of a woman, he was brought into this world as one of their own family, to be their own flesh and blood, one who stretched out his hands to accept his own family unto himself, and he was rejected. God, through his great mercy and grace still responded in kindness, by using this sacrifice which he allowed, to make an offer of salvation to another chosen people that did not ask for him, nor did they seek him, because they did not know him in the same way as the first chosen knew him, but in the same manner they stood before him and said, here I am. For this reason, the word of God shows us how that Christ himself stretched out his loving arms to another chosen people. Not that he set the first completely aside, but that he now not only offered salvation to the first, but also to another nation of people, who was not originally called by his name, who walked in their own ways, a rebellious people, but yet he still stretched out his arms of love toward us, by resurrecting the one, that the first chosen had sacrificed, thereby making a new family covenant with all of humanity.

So, this morning we want to start in the book of Isaiah, and we want to pursue God's plan of salvation, and how that he reveals himself to all mankind.

Isaiah 65: 1,....I was sought by those who did not ask for me, I was found by those who did not seek me, I said, here I am, here I am, to a nation that was not called by my name....

We the gentile people had no relationship with God. But, through Christ and the cross, the opportunity of a relationship was offered up and extended, to all who will believe. The word of God provides the perfect picture, of how that the Lord seeks us out, even when we are hopelessly lost and without any ability of our own to seek him. Still the Lord reaches out to all mankind in an effort, to bring us into his will. So, how do we know God's will for our life. As we surrender our lives unto him through salvation, as we yield our bodies to his service, and as we fervently seek after him in prayer, then God will reveal his will for us in our lives. As we commit ourselves to God, and as we ask him to bring into our lives those things which he wants us to have in our lives, then we are reassured of our salvation, and then his will and his purpose is unfolded in our lives. God wants each of us to be holy and dedicated to him, worshipping him in spirit and in truth.

Matthew 7: 7- 8,....ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for every one that asketh, receiveth, and he that seeketh, findeth, and to him that knoweth, it shall be opened....

For God to reveal himself unto us, we must bring our request unto him. As we sincerely seek him, God will show unto us his willingness to answer our requests. We must remember though, that prayer is not a way to manipulate God in our promises from him. We must be sure that our prayer life does not turn into a prideful, self righteous demonstration, for these prayers will not be heard by God. Prayer is to be our way of humbly seeking the Lord with our whole heart. This means that we earnestly seek the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The more that we seek after the truth, the more our faith will be established in him. The word of God, which is Christ himself, is the greatest asset given unto us in our Christian life, and prayer is the greatest weapon of that asset. Through persistence in prayer, we learn to overcome our unbelief's, we learn to grow in spiritual maturity, and in faith, and we learn to become compassionate in our communications with others.

Mark 9: 22 – 24,....if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, if you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord, I believe, help my unbelief....

Because of disbelief, there are times in our lives that we will doubt the power of an almighty God, this is because we follow after those around us who are doubting his power. This all comes from misinterpreting the word of God. The word does not say that we can accomplish anything that we want if we have enough faith. True faith does not presume that God will do what we want, but that he will do what he wants. Gods will for our life is not just for us to have an emotional high for a few moments, but to have a long term, spiritual relationship, that has eternal value, without worldly consequences.

When we attempt to accomplish something through the power of God that is not in his will, we fail miserably. This in turn, will cause us to question the power of God, and to doubt the abilities given unto us by Christ. In order, for our faith not to be severely impacted, we must seek the will of God. When we do not seek his will, even though we are ready and willing to trust in him, we set limits on God's ability to give unto us the things that he has in store for us in our life.

James 4: 14 – 15,....for what is your life, it is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that....

Our attitude of success, is dependent upon the choices that we make, concerning the abilities that we have to do whatever we put our minds to do. The problem with that, is that we in no way can predict or control the future. We truly have no idea what will happen until God reveals himself unto us. The first thing that he reveals unto us is our ability to understand, and to embrace our earthly limitations. God gives unto us the awareness to see that our every moment, and our every movement, is dependent upon his mercy, his grace, and his will. God wants us to learn how to commit ourselves first and foremost unto him, and above all he wants us to accomplish his will in our life, and not our own. God will reveal himself to us, as our savior, the one who gave his life for us, that we might have life and that we might have it eternally.

1 Timothy 4: 9 – 11,....we trust in the living God, who is the savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach....

Once God reveals himself to us as our savior, he begins to reveal his goodness to us through his word. Sound doctrine is crucial to our life as believers, it is a critical part of our ministry of salvation to others. It is not Gods will that any should perish, that is why he provided the provision for the salvation for every single person. Although this debt has been paid, not everyone will accept and receive this free gift. We must remember, it is not because of sin that many will experience separation from God, because his sacrifice paid our sin debt. Separation from God is due to the choices that we make when we reject him and his saving grace. This is why God continually reveals himself unto all mankind. To make sure that every effort is given, unto a lost and dying world, to share his glorious gospel of grace to all, knowing that whosoever will believe in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.

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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