

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

6.6.2021

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.

Our Life In Christ/ Pursuing Gods Plan Of Salvation

Colossians 3: 1 – 4

As believers in Christ, we have become one with him. And because of this unique union, we then share with him, the same nature, position, destiny and glory. This life in Christ, is the life of God, and has come in unto us, and has become our life. When we realize that we are where Christ is, then we begin to experience Christ as our life. This means that we fill our heart with him, we center our life and our affections on him, and we focus our love, trust, and obedience in him. This intimate relationship with Christ begins with salvation and extends into eternity. Therefore, we should not be content with anything less. Since our relationship with Christ is crucial and directly determines our eternal destiny, then our eternal life needs to be Christ centered. For Christ is our reason for living.

Today we are going to finish talking about pursuing Gods plan of salvation, by looking into our life in Christ.

Colossians 3: 1 – 4,....if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory....

By Gods grace we are forgiven, and therefore now dead to sin. Even though the influence of sin still remains, we have the ability to reject this sinfulness by keeping it nailed to the cross. The moment that we trusted in Christ, not only did we receive his redemptive saving grace and the indwelling Holy Spirit, but we were declared righteous by God. Not only does God want us to submit to the Holy Spirit, but we must submit moment by moment, day by day. We should be focused on eternal matters, setting our minds on things above, where Christ is.

Acts 5: 29 – 32,....we ought to obey God rather than man....him God has exalted to his right hand....to give repentance....and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witness to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him....

As believers, Christ teaches us to follow God's commandments and to proclaim boldly the truth of the gospel. Christ tells us not to worry, because the Holy Spirit will give unto us the right words to minister unto others. Christ poured out the Holy Spirit upon us, to empower us and to be his witness. Sadly, often times this witnessing may not be without controversy and opposition. Therefore, we must pray for the confidence to witness in the face of our adversaries. Our confidence in witnessing comes through obedience to the word of God. Obedience is one of the conditions, or abilities given unto us by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who is our source of authority and power in Christ. True obedience comes from a relationship of trust in God, and this relationship is one of witnessing of the saving grace of Jesus Christ which means that the Holy Spirit is present within us.

Colossians 3: 2,....set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth....

Rather than looking to the world around us for direction, our focus should be on Godly, spiritual, eternal happenings. This happens when we continue to stay associated with Godly activities. In this world in which we live, we are taught to set our minds only upon ourselves and the worldly possessions that surround us. It can be very hard to retrain our thoughts, so that they are of things of eternal value and that they are directed to the one who created us. We are taught to concentrate on the here and now and that which is best for ourselves.

Matthew 6: 19 – 21,....do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also....

Whatever we spend our time doing is proof of what we truly value. What we truly value comes through our thoughts and our feelings of the heart, and are then transferred down to our actions and behaviors. Our actions are only truly righteous when accompanied by a devoted heart. We should only have one ultimate priority in our life, and that priority should be God. The real foundation of our heart as a Christian should be that we are focusing on building our spiritual wealth, which are those things that have eternal value, which is building upon our rewards from God in heaven.

Colossians 3: 3,....for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God,....

Since as believers, we have died to sin, then our life is continued within the life of Christ and we are one with him. Being one with Christ means that our past, present, and future, remains and always will remain where it began, and that is on the cross. We possess eternal life because Christ was crucified and resurrected, and we were raised at the same time in newness of life. Sadly, most people want to try to make sense of their own lives, trying to find true meaning through their own worldly intentions with just enough of Christ to allow them to feel that they are justified in the things that they have done. We learn as believers that our life started with Christ, and it will end with Christ. This includes the consequences of eternal death to those who will not accept his saving grace, but to those who do believe and confess, he gives the gift of eternal life. We must seek life according to the redemption of Christ, which seals our life with Christ, in God, by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1: 4,....whereby are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust....

As believers we have been given everything that we need, to lead the life that God has called us into. We are called to follow Christ example, and we can do so because he has blessed us with his eternal promises. A promise from God is a declaration of his certainty, of his divine power, and purpose, and eternal meaning. As we trust in his word, and by acting upon his knowledge, through faith, do we then believe in his precious promises, that he has granted unto us.

Colossians 3: 4,....when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory....

Christ, who is the source of true life for all who will believe, is not only the giver and sustainer of life, but he is also our life. Therefore, it is very important for us to remember that the old man is dead, and that Christ is now our life, and in him we move and have our being. When we look at the world, we only tend to see the darkness and despair, but through Christ we will see God's purpose and his eternal plan, which will be accomplished and fulfilled when Christ returns for his church. This is the true basis for living a Christian life, which is to see all come to know that saving grace of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of truth....

The word of God allows us to understand just how much of a compassionate heart an, all powerful, sovereign God has. He does not want any of his creation to perish. He longs for the sinner to repent by looking to Christ and trusting in him. He also desires that those who are already justified may grow in grace, live Godly lives, and turn away from all the things that will hinder their spiritual growth. God is indeed a God of love and compassion for all of humanity.

John 3: 16,....for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should 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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