

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.8.2021

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 God's word.

Three Young Men Refuse To Bow

Daniel 3: 1, 8 – 18

It is only through God, that mankind can be saved. Man cannot save himself, because his works are works of self righteousness. Humanity believes that you can ask God for anything, and he will do it. This is not true, because God will not do anything that is out of his will for man. God is powerful, and there is nothing that is impossible with him, but he will not do anything that is contrary to his word. These words confound the minds of humanity today, mankind is astonished when told that he cannot and will not acquire all that he wants in this life. We can only enter the eternal kingdom of God through faith, not by standing upon what we do in the world, which is what we think to be the right thing. Salvation is a supernatural act of a sovereign, omnipotent God, given unto those, who by faith believing, are saved. How careful man should be to rely upon God as his redeemer and savior, and not on his accumulated worldly wisdom. We must not develop a prideful attitude, but to trust in God to provide for our deliverance. The impossible task of salvation and eternal life with God was made possible by God. The impossible task of living a Godly life in our own strength, is only possible when humanity looks to God alone by relying on the crucifixion and the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

John 17: 12,....while I was with them in the world, I kept them in my name, those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled....

Christ, who was born as a man, came, in order to carry out the will of the Father, that whosoever would believe upon him, might have eternal life and become ministers of reconciliation, to a lost and dying world. All who become Christ disciples are the very people who Christ was praying for, and still continues to pray for. Christ protects, loves, and guards, all those who accept him, by turning over their safe keeping and protection to the Father. Just as Christ knew that one of the disciples would betray him, he knows that there are those today that will betray him, but still must be chosen, so as to fulfill the scriptures, that all mankind is given the free will to choose. God knows the end from the beginning, and knows those who will choose not to believe, and those who will betray the redeeming work of Christ and the cross. Through faith believing, we trust in the interceding work of God, who continues to intercede for his own.

Daniel 3: 1, 8 – 12,....Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of Gold....wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews....Thou king hast made a decree....and whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace....there are certain Jews....have not regarded thee, they serve not the gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up....

We start off today's lesson talking about the deceptive sinfulness of idol worship. As in the case of king Nebuchadnezzar, humanity creates self indulged worldly images of themselves, which can either be material symbols or they will be conceited, prideful, opinions of one self, which they use to reflect worldly glory back upon themselves. Human nature means that there is also going to be worldly pride. Worldly pride will bring about self deception and self deception will bring about self exaltation. Self exaltation talks about those of humanity, who believed that they stand on their own worldly merits. It can be described as, self tribute, self praise, self honoring, self glorifying, and self worshipping. This brings forth the "I" out in most, thinking that we are greater than we really are.

James 4: 4,....ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God....

Worldly wisdom instills within a person that in order to be a success in life, we must do whatever it takes to get what we want out of this life.

As Christians we must learn to trust in God to provide for us all that we need. When we begin to put our trust in the Lord, then we begin to understand that it is no longer about ourselves, but it is about the glory of God. We soon learn that we cannot be friends both with the world and with God. Therefore, those who choose to continue to live according to the wisdom of the world, seeking what they want above all else, are not living as friends of God , but as enemies of God.

Daniel 3: 13 – 16,....Nebuchadnezzar....commanded to bring....three men before the king....spoke and said into them, is it true....do not ye serve my Gods, nor worship the golden image....now if you be ready....ye fall down and worship the image....well, but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast....into the midst of a burning, fiery, furnace....they answered and said....we are not careful to answer thee in this matter....

We now, take a look, at how those who have created their self indulged, worldly images of themselves, how that they use the deceptiveness of this worldly materialism and wealth to persuade others to follow after, and to worship these ungodly worldly ways. They will even go as far as to force these wicked ways upon others, in order, to enhance their own worldly glorification. These spiritual battles exist in the lives of all believers. We soon learn that the enemies that we face are not the people themselves, but the sinfulness that surrounds them. As believers, we must always be prepared for all manner, and types of spiritual attacks on our lives. Having the kind of faith that it takes to believe in the deliverance that God can supply is very difficult at times, due to the fact, that we often believe that it is going to cost us something in our life, that we do not want to give up. We must remember that faith takes great effort on our part. In order, for God, to be true toward us, we must be true toward him. We must not compromise our obedience to God. Our battles are against the spiritual wickedness, which is at work, through the disobedience of humanity. This means that we must fight this spiritual wickedness with the weapons that God provides unto us, which is his word, given unto us through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is Christ, who is our salvation, which comes through his victory on the cross, therefore it is his righteousness, that is our faith.

2 Corinthians 10: 3 – 6,....though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God....casting down....every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God....having in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled....

As Christians, we must stop looking to people, to the church, to ministries, to religions, and to our own understanding, if we are going to overcome the perceptions, intentions, lies and deceptions, that humanity is trying to force upon us. Our intent and obedience should be to focus our hearts, and our minds on Christ, and his word, for this is where our spiritual strength lies. We must reject, resist, and rebuke, wicked and worldly thoughts, that will cause us to put something or someone in our life in place of Christ. The greater our thoughts are concerning Christ, the less we think about ourselves, and the ways of the world. If God is the central focus of our minds, then we will bring every imagination that we have into obedience to Christ.

Daniel 3: 17 – 18,....our God whom we serve is able to deliver us....but if not, be it known....we will not serve thy Gods....

God knows that we can endure, so we must understand that our faith in God may not always be an immediate victory, but our faith and obedience in God, will give unto us strength to serve him no matter what the cost. As we look past the persecutions in our lives, and as we look to Christ, who is the source of our salvation and strength, we will then see that these persecutions become opportunities for the glory of God. If God always gave unto us immediate victory, we would have no need for faith. We should be faithful to serve God no matter the consequences. Our eternal reward is worth any, and all suffering, that we may first have to endure.

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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