

## *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

9.26.2021

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.

Victory over Death

### **John 11: 17 – 32**

When Christ speaks to us, it is immediate and direct. Now we will not always understand, because worldly fear gets in the way. Through obedience to God's word, we begin to understand that Christ has power over all things, and that he will grant this power unto us. This power reveals unto us, that he has conquered death and hell, and that neither of these things can have any hold on us, because, Christ now has control over life and death. When we begin to think, and to see things on a more personal level, it becomes easier for us to see that our lives are truly gifts from God, and that, we do not need to have worldly fear. God loves all mankind and there is a reason for each of us to be here upon this earth. God wants us to be grateful for our lives, and for the future that is promised unto us by his Son. By his saving grace, we are born again, we are spiritually healed, we are guided through our life upon this earth, by his Holy Spirit, so that one day we may be resurrected, and have eternal life.

**John 11: 21 – 27,....**Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth then this, she saith unto him, yea Lord, I believe that thou art Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world....

Christ does not want us to see death as our end. Death does not have to be our greatest enemy. Now death is something that most would rather not think about, nor talk about, and we would prefer to pretend that it will never happen to us, or to those which we love. So therefore humanity lives in denial of death, which is so true for the non-believer and also for many believers as well, and it is all due to our worldly train of thought, focusing on physical death. The word of God teaches us that there are more valuable principles in this life, than our physical being, as Christians, we must learn to see our spiritual self worth.

Everything in the life of a Christian, happens for a reason, and it is used by God, for our spiritual growth and eternal benefit. Although at times our faith is weak, if we put it in the hands of the right person, who is Christ Jesus, then our trust in him is expanded. As we come to trust in God and his word, he then becomes always present in the everyday circumstances in our lives. No matter how small or great our faith in Christ may be, God is working within us every day, to strengthen our trust in him, so that we may grow in grace, and learn to depend upon him, remembering that God's word, stands firm and forever.

**1 Corinthians 15: 54 – 57**,....than shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting, O grave, where is thy victory, the sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ....

Without the death and resurrection of Christ as payment for our sins, we would have never been able to experience the joy of Gods salvation. The power of death and hell would have never been broken. Christ victory over the grave, is God's pledge to us, that the sting of death and sin, has no power over us as believers. We will be raised, our perishable bodies will be replaced with imperishable bodies, our mortality will put on immortality. All who believe and trust in Christ will be edified in his eternal truth.

**1 John 5: 11 – 12**,....and this is the record, that God hath given to us, eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life....

God's words will stand faithful and true forever. God and his word, which hath given unto us eternal life, through his Son, is for all who will come unto him for salvation. Christ came to the earth, for the sole purpose of the cross, to be the savior of mankind. Eternal life is a gift from God, to all who believe on Christ. It is not a reward for our work, or payment for our merits. Eternal life is not just from Christ, but it is in Christ, whoever does not have Christ, does not have life, God has given us eternal life, and this life is his Son.

We must be willing to put our trust and faith in Christ, especially in the midst of trials, tribulations, and persecutions. Our faith is in the fact, that Jesus died and rose again for our salvation. But it does not stop there. Faith involves a definite decision of choice, a person's will to commit to Christ alone. To have this belief, means, that when we die to self that we will live to Christ. Death is not the end, but the way to Christ.

**John 11: 32,....**then Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hast been here, my brother had not died....

Sooner or later every believer will ask the question, where was God, why did he not take care of our circumstance and why did he not allow us to overcome. This type of thinking comes from our worldly emotions, but God is above these worldly emotions. The debt that we owe to Christ, should be a never ending grateful love, that fills our heart and soul, knowing that he was made sin for us, so that we could become the righteousness of God. While on the cross the eternal Son was separated from the Father, and time was embraced by eternity. God turned his face from the Son, whom he loves, so that for all who believe on him, through faith, would be reconciled to God, eternally saved, and would never have to experience the same eternal darkness and separation that Christ had to experience on the cross.

This means that there will be times in our lives as believers, that due to the miseries in our life and because of oppression, we will find ourselves, calling upon the Lord, according to the emotions of the flesh, instead of through our faith in Christ. It is not that we believe that God has rejected us, for if we did, we would not trust in his care and protection, and we then, would not call upon his name, for help. Because of allowing ourselves to be troubled by the worldliness of the flesh, we become very forgetfull in where our faith lies. But rest assured, that due to his grace, mercy, and faith in us, that God will not be unattentive to our requests.

**Mark 11: 22 – 26,....**and Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God....and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith should come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith....Therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire, when we pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them....if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses....

Christ, here by his illustration, teaches us about a religious system that has stopped bearing spiritual fruit. This worldly religion, which plays upon our worldly emotion, takes away our belief in God's grace and mercy, replacing our humble faith in Christ and the cross, with a false sense of deception, causing us to believe in false rituals and happenings, being led astray into a false sense of security. Those worldly, emotional, interactions, will cause us to question whether God still in our midst. To overcome this false sense of direction, we must have the ability to recognize this worldly deception. We can only do this through obedience to God's word, which comes by the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in Christ Jesus.

**James 1: 5 – 8,....**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing waivering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall remove anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in his ways....

Recognizing our lack of Gods wisdom, is a great step toward our spiritual understanding, and maturity. The world is full of false, sinful, deception, and due to these temptations, we tend to make wrong choices. No matter what foolish choices that we have made, we can go to the Lord, and ask for Godly insight, and spiritual understanding. We must all desire, what God desires for us, and that is to do the work that he has given unto us to do, and to learn the lessons that he wants to teach us along the way. As we learn to grow, in the grace and knowledge of Christ, as we submit to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will began to walk in spirit and in truth.

God knows our weaknesses, and our strengths. He also knows that, at times we may become unsteady in our Christian walk, but God will provide all the wisdom, knowledge and understanding, that we will need to maintain an unwavering, uncompromised, faith in him, and in our obedience to his word.

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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