

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

10.24.2021

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.

Christ Challenges Our Spiritual Motivation

## **John 6: 53 – 65**

Many people, who follow after Christ, will only show a small interest in what his saving grace is all about. This is why that throughout the word of God, Christ challenges our spiritual motivation by helping us to understand the scripture, and to see what it really means to have complete faith in God. Salvation is not difficult to understand, but it is difficult for many to accept. Faith in Christ is the one and only way to accomplish salvation. The challenge to every believer, which comes through worldly difficulties, and the lack of understanding in God's word is due to the fact that, what he is showing us in his word, conflicts with our own human perceptions. We must learn to trust in God, and in his word for all things in our life. For his word is life, and hope, and peace, and his salvation is eternal.

**John 6: 53 – 58, 60,....**many....of his disciples, when they heard this, said, this is a hard saying, who can hear it....

In our Christian life, the truest things that we must learn comes from within the word of God and can be the hardest things to discern. Christ will make sure that those who desire to seek after him has knowledge of the sacrifices involved. For this reason, he challenges each one, to fervently pray, to study, to meditate, to ask for Godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding, so that we may rightly divide the word of truth.

**2 Timothy 2: 15,....**study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth....

Christ understood, and still knows, that many people take offence to his word and the true teachings of his word. Even though this is the response that he received upon this earth, and often times the same response in which we receive in our life today, Christ did not change or alter in any way his teachings, which came from God the Father. In this manner our reaction in our Christian life today is not to respond with confrontation and confusion to those around us, but to confront others, by challenging their understanding of the word of God. So, what does it mean to rightly divide the word of truth. We must learn to accurately handle the content of the word of God. To do this we correctly learn, and then teach everything that God has revealed unto mankind through his word. This means that the word of God should not be taken out of context or twisted in such a manner as to fit the worldly ways in which we are living in the moment. The word of God is meant to show the unchanging nature of God and the devastating effects that sin has upon all that God has created. The word of God is its own interpreter, which comes through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, as it teaches us as believers to walk in spirit and in truth. We as Christians must present ourselves to God as an approved worker who does not need to be ashamed of how we handle his word.

**1 Corinthians 1: 18, 21 - 25,....**for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God....the world through wisdom did not know God....we preach Christ crucified....a stumbling block....and foolishness, but to those who are called....Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men....

This message of the cross which tells of the shed blood of Christ which paid the price for the forgiveness of sin and the glorious resurrection that gives unto those who believe the promise of eternal life, is to us the power and the wisdom of God. It conforms us day by day into the likeness of Christ Jesus, so that we may preach nothing other than Christ and him crucified.

**John 6: 61 - 65,....**does this offend you....it is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing, the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life....but there are some of you who do not believe....therefore I have said to you that no one can come to me unless it has been granted to him by my Father....

True belief in Christ requires one to accept the truth of who Christ is, to receive it fully, and absolutely within their heart. God the Father gave his only begotten Son to die for all humanity. Christ the Son, paid the penalty of our sin debt on the cross, taking away that which was a wall of separation between us and God. The Holy Spirit transforms us, by indwelling within us through Gods redemptive saving grace and bringing with him the abilities of Gods goodness and greatness, which provides unto us the qualities of our spiritual life.

**John 3: 4 – 7,....**unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God....do not marvel that I said to you, ye must be born again....

Our tendency is to rely upon everything but the spirit. Wealth, possessions, physical pleasures, relationships with the world which makes the idea of salvation, as a free gift of God, difficult for many to grasp. True salvation comes through the spirit. It regenerates us, it transforms us, and so our new life in Christ begins. The spirit that gives us life, draws us to Christ, it exalts him as Lord and Savior over our life, it empowers his word within us, to strengthen us, and to help us mature spiritually. We worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who provides within us, the fullness of our salvation.

**John 14: 6,....**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me....

Christ, simple, yet profound statement, is one that calms the troubled heart, and fulfills God's joy within us. Christ in his word, not only tells us, of the way to the Father, but shows us the way, and that way was the cross of calvary. His shed blood, his selfless sacrifice, took away the immovable barrier between mankind and God. Without Christ we do not know where to turn. Christ, who is the eternal God, is a life giving spirit and he is the truth that opens up our understanding of God, through his wisdom and knowledge. We must be willing to share the good news of Christ saving grace with all those whom the Lord may place within our path.

Faith must be present for the works of Christ to be manifested. It is by faith in him, that we have eternal life through his salvation. We know that believing must come before knowing. So, we place our faith in him, we trust in him, we come to know him, the Son of the living, almighty God. We must strive to share the good news of our salvation with others. It is only God's grace that allows us to labor more abundantly for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 3: 10,....**that I may know him and the power of his resurrection....

We thank God, that we have in our life a living, resurrected, glorified Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father in all his glory. As members of the body of Christ, we are eternally identified with him through his finished work on the cross.

We must persuade others to see through spiritual eyes, and hear through spiritual ears, the entire message of the word of God. We should not limit ourselves to that which is physical and material in the world. A life lived in that which is fleshy and worldly is worthless and hopeless and will never lead to eternal life. Our inability to comprehend and to understand God and his word reveals our unbelief. It is possible to know all about Christ and his life, and still not trust in him as Lord and Savior. Although humanity thinks that they can come to Christ on their own terms, the truth of reality is, we must come to Christ on his terms. God, through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit causes mankind to come to the saving grace of Jesus Christ through his grace and his mercy, in which we as believers fervently pray, that in this we may play an active role all to the glory of God.

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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