

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

10.10.2021

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.

Our Testimony of Truth

## **John 1: 15 – 28**

Sinners are those who are sceptic about true salvation, and because of this truth, will tend to ask questions that are not really questions that show interest in the truth, they are just questions of probing, which they will use against believers in trying to promote their own ideas over Gods saving grace. We as Christians must be clear about who we are, and who we are not. We are his workmanship, and through salvation we have a new life in Christ. We have not been raised to this newness of life for no purpose but have been given the ability to carry out Gods works through our new abundant life in Christ, governed and guided by the Holy Spirit, that is working within us. Once given this understanding about who we are, we then must also be clear about who Christ is, so that we may be able to point others to Christ, who is the only one that can provide Gods saving grace. Remembering that we may be the single messenger that someone might hear, a single voice, sent by Christ, through the working of the Holy Spirit, to announce the word of the gospel of salvation and eternal life.

**John 1: 22 - 27,....**then said they unto him, who art thou, that they may give an answer to them that sent us, what sayest thou of thyself....he said, I am the voice of one crying....make straight the way of the Lord....he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoes latchet I am not worthy to unloose....

As we look at this passage of scripture, we see a man, whose intentions should be the same as our own, and that is that we, who by the word says bares witness of Christ. Christ who is eternal, existed from the beginning with God, and because he is the second person of the holy trinity, he is the preferred one over all humanity. We as believers, through salvation, have become a type of John the Baptist. We have accepted, and understand the salvation of God, and the plan of God. We are commissioned by Christ to teach the basic principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ saving grace. We are to be obedient, humble, and dedicated to the word of God and his eternal plan.

**2 Timothy 1: 8 – 9,....**therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord....who has saved us and called us with a holy calling....to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus, before time began....

Many believe that God chose certain individuals to receive eternal life, and that everyone else is sentenced to a state of eternal condemnation. Even though God has predestined us, this does not mean that he chose the ones that he is going to give eternal life to, and who he is going to condemn to an eternal hell. God's election to us, is to choose eternal life, we must accept that through salvation, his election to us is to have servitude, in his plan and purpose of eternal life, once that we have accepted salvation.

**Jerimiah 1: 4 - 9,....**before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto all nations....for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak....be not afraid....for I am with thee to deliver thee....behold I have put my words in thy mouth....

God knew us before there was an us to be known. Even though we did not deserve it, God consecrated us, and set us apart. Therefore, we pray for mercy, for grace, for courage, for strength, in all things in our life, and in the body of Christ. We must learn to trust in him and his purpose for ourselves, because we are his workmanship. No one should be counted true and faithful, except those whom through God speaks, which means that we must not invent a doctrine of our own, we must not speak according to our own self righteousness, be we must faithfully deliver that which God has committed unto us.

If we back up to verse twelve of chapter one of John:

**John 1: 12,....**but as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in his name....

First and foremost, I am a child of God. If we do not believe in him, if we do not receive him, then we are not in Christ Jesus, because he is not in us. Salvation is the key to our life in Christ. I am a child of God, I am a servant of God, but due to spiritual maturity, which has come through the obedience to his word, I have gained wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, which has allowed me to surpass any meaningless relationship that I might have had, so now I am called a friend of God, because I share in all things. Or, what do we have to say for ourselves, or about ourselves. When answering this question we stop and pause for a moment to allow God to speak to our heart in this matter, because to many of us find ourselves basking our self worth, and on how others see us, and the accomplishments in our lives. We must learn to see ourselves as God sees us. This means, we must adjust our thinking, to be conformed as to the foundation of the word of God. Not only should my words be Gods word, but my actions should be Gods word as well.

**1 Peter 1: 13 - 16,....**gird up the loins of your mind....hope to the end....as obedient children....but as he who called you is holy, you all be holy in all your conduct....because it is written, be ye holy, for I am holy....

We should live our lives to show Gods love to others, not so that others will love us, and that we may determine our worldly self worth because of it. Nothing is based upon what we do, but what God has already accomplished in Christ Jesus. We must not allow worldly actions to control our lives, it is very important for us to identify in these situations, whether we are experiencing worldly emotional feelings, or healthy spiritual conviction from the Holy Spirit. This conviction helps us to see those things in our lives that are not pleasing unto God, and will prompt us to confess our sins, and once again experience the love and forgiveness that God has provided for us in Christ Jesus. The greatest honor that we have in our salvation, is to deny oneself, and give that honor to Christ, who is the fullness of God in us.

**Matthew 16: 24,....**if anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me....

Our testimony should be that we are quick to point out, that we are no more than one voice chosen to profess Christ and his coming. We must live our lives in a way that will point others to Christ, for Christ is our only access to God. In order, to do this, we must really get to know him, learn of him, and follow after him. A true disciple not only believes in Christ and salvation, but also trust in him to break the power of sin in our lives, which can only happen as we deny ourselves. Denying oneself does not necessarily mean giving up everything, for there are things which God wants us to have, but it does mean, giving of ourself completely to the Lord, living unto him, fully identifying with his suffering, death, and resurrection.

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

Christ did not just say that he would show unto us the way, but that he is the way. He did not say that he would just speak unto us the truth, but that he is the truth. There is no way to live life or to face death without Christ. How is this possible to us today, it is possible through his word, the word which became flesh and dwelt among us is the word in which we have. This word, in which Paul tells us in the book of Romans, is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart. We must seek to grasp the true meaning of what it is to be saved by grace, and to allow this simple truth of salvation to become who that we are, and that our testimony might be true.

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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