

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.28.2021

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.

Enter Into the Presence of the Lord

Psalm 100

It is the will of God that we are thankful in all circumstances. No matter how difficult our circumstances seem to be, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will find reasons to be thankful to God. So, what are we to be thankful for, the word of God tells us that we can be thankful that all things work together for good to them that love God, we are thankful that God's grace is sufficient to sustain us, we are certainly thankful that as believers nothing can separate us from the love of God, and we can be thankful that even when our trials and tribulations upset our communication with God, that the spirit will make intercession for us. As children of God, and as we grow in his grace and in the understanding of his word, the more that we should be genuinely sincere in our thankfulness to the Lord. Our spiritual maturity should reflect within us a greatness of heart of thankfulness and praise for all that the Lord has done for us. As believers, we have spiritual benefits beyond our understanding, and as we enter into the glory of God, we give thanks, for this is the will of God.

Psalm 100: 1 – 5,....make a joyful noise unto the Lord....serve the Lord with gladness....know ye that the Lord he is God....Enter into his gates with thanksgiving....be thankful unto him....for the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations....

So, what does it mean to enter into the presence of the Lord.

Psalm 100: 4,....enter into his gates with thanksgiving....

All mankind, at some point in their life, is summoned by God to enter into a binding covenant with him by believing upon his Son, Jesus Christ. Christ is the only one in whom the promises of eternal life are brought into existence, therefore, we must not be careless in our faith. Lack of belief will destroy our God given ability to fulfill the destiny that he has in store for us. Because of disobedience and unbelief, mankind will not get to enter into the rest that God has promised unto them unless we are able to complete our spiritual work, by obtaining a more excellent life in Christ through salvation. We are called to believe in Christ, remain in Christ, abide in Christ, and submit to Christ, depending entirely upon him. Entering into the presence of God means that he will guide our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4: 9 – 10,....there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his....

As Christians, we will miss out on our rest in the Lord when we fail to complete our work in him. We must strive to complete the work that God has given unto us to do. This work is Gods plan of redemption for the fallen state of humanity, which is the cross, crucifixion, and the resurrection. One day God will complete his work, he will give unto those who believe upon his Son, rest from their labor. This should provide great hope to the believer as we look forward to Gods promised rest. Gods promised rest will be established when Christ hands over the kingdom to the Father but only after he has abolished all worldly rule, authority, and power. Christ must reign until he puts all his enemies under hid feet.

1 Corinthians 2: 9,....as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him....

Entering into the presence of the lord means understanding the difference between the wisdom of humanity and the wisdom of God. Human wisdom is based upon what can be observed by worldly human senses and worked out through worldly logic and reasoning. The problem with worldly human wisdom is that it has no way of accessing God's wisdom. God's wisdom must be rewarded through faith believing and can only be established by believing upon the sacrifice of his only begotten Son. Because man fails to know God, his wisdom is hidden from them. But God through his grace has revealed unto us his love, so that those who receive the blessed hope of Christ may choose to discern these hidden truths, which is the very elements of our eternal future. True wisdom can only be received and understood through the revelation of Gods word, by the spirit of God. This is the only way to find true peace of mind.

Colossians 3: 15 - 17,....let the peace of God rule in your hearts....and be ye thankful....let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom....whatsoever you do in word or in deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him....

Believers should be living in peace, which we have received through the blood of Christ and the cross. Peace with God is a permanent possession given unto us when we believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ, but to experience the peace of God is conditional upon our relationship with Christ. Whether or not we abide in Christ and trust in his word means following the guidance of the Holy Spirit and dying to oneself. Our peace with God can never be removed, but the peace of God which rules our heart and minds is dependent upon us maintaining a right relationship with God. This is achieved as we humble ourselves, study, pray, and give thanks.

Hebrews 13: 15,....by him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name....

As Christians we should expect to have persecutions in this world. In order, to endure these temporary hardships as we live our life upon this earth, we must trust in God and be thankful. The sacrifice of praise that we offer unto God should be done out of gratitude and obedience. Christ offered up his sinless life willingly so that all who would believe on him would receive the forgiveness of sin, which he died in our place for. When we give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and grace it should come forth from a humble, truthful, spirit filled heart. This requires personal sacrifice, which is our willingness to lay all that we do not understand before God. When we choose to be thankful in spite of our trials and tribulations then God is glorified, and we grow in faith and in spiritual maturity.

Nahum 1: 7,....the Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble, and he knoweth them that trust in him....

God is protective of his people who are those who trust in him. He shows unto us his perfect love, not only through blessings, but also through chastisements. Our God is one of comfort, hope, joy, and love, but also one who avenges evil and judge's the wickedness of all those who sin against him. In the midst of the uncertainty that we live in, we must never forget that God is in control and will take care of his own. He is our salvation, and we are thankful that he will judge the world in his righteousness, for his name sake.

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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