

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

12.26.2021

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.

A Humble Lord is Born

## Philippians 2: 5 – 15

It is true, that when people come together, often time, there is the possibility that there will be discord, which usually comes about because of our selfish human nature. The bible teaches us that we should come together and be of one mind, and of one accord, and that nothing should be done out of personal pride. In order, to avoid this situation, we must not focus on our own individual interest, but we must put the interest of others ahead of our own. As we become united in God's love, then will we become united in his purpose and in his motivations. In order for all believers to be united together we must let the mind of Christ dwell in us so that we may portray the same character and disposition that Christ displayed while he was here upon this earth. As we become transformed into the likeness of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will acquire the spiritual ability to discern what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Only as we remain in God's perfect will for our lives, will we become willing vessels, with the power and strength to encourage others, and to show forth the way of salvation to all humanity.

**Romans 12: 2,....**and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God....

As Christians, we should respond to God's mercy, and the way that we respond is to offer our entire life to him as our basis of living. It is born into mankind, by default, to chase after worldly desires as we pursue happiness and wealth. Through salvation, we are changed, our hearts and minds are renewed, and we begin to see and to understand God's will for our lives. In order, for us to pursue his will, we must continually ask ourselves, what does God want me to be in my life. Our own sin nature rebels against the Holy Spirit that dwells within us as believers, therefore there must be a daily transformation process, where we are being changed from glory to glory. This transformation does not take place overnight, it is dependent upon the values of our heart, and is a freewill choice, either to resist that which is evil or to honor and glorify God. How important it is therefore to keep our focus on Christ, to train our hearts so that we might follow heavenly things that are true and honest, just and pure, lovely and wholesome, Godly and of good report. As we turn our spirit and soul toward Christ, then we will automatically begin to turn away from the things of the world.

**Philippians 2: 5 – 11,....**lest this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus....who being in the form of God....made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant....he humbled himself, and became obedient....to the death of the cross....God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name above every name....that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow....and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord....

The word teaches us that the mindset of Christ should be the same mindset that we have as believers. Christ's concern was always about others, and so it should be within ourselves. Christ's humility gave unto him his greatest willingness to obey the Father's will, die upon the cross and bear the sins of the world. Only the perfect Son of man could have died in the place of the fallen sons of man. Only the eternal Son of God has power over death, and only the risen Son of God could give his resurrected life to those who would believe upon his name. It was the Father who loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten Son to become our sin substitute, and it was Christ who willingly humbled himself to pay the price for man's sin. We must learn to follow after his perfect example, and humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

**1 Peter 2: 21,....**for even here unto were you called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps....

All Christians are called to endure suffering for doing what is good in the Lord. Enduring pain and sadness for unjust suffering is commendable before God. Many believe that when we become Christians that it will guarantee us a life of simplicity and comfort, but the word tells us that all who desire to live godly lives in Christ will suffer persecution. As a matter of fact, not only does the word tell us that we will suffer persecution but that we were called to suffer for righteous sake. Christ suffered without complaint, and so we are called to do the same. We have this ability by walking in spirit and in truth and depending completely upon God, as we are instructed by the Holy Spirit. We are to be patient in tribulation, devoted in study and in prayer and full of grace and truth, as we learn obedience by the things which we suffer. Our position in Christ is our motivation to live godly in Christ Jesus, for the glory of God, by the glory of God, and through the glory of God. We cannot do this by our own strength, but through the sufficient strength of Christ. As we abide in him and he is us, then our life becomes a reflection of him.

**John 13: 12 – 17,....**after he had washed their feet....he said unto them, know ye what I have done to you....Ye call me master and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am....I....have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one anothers feet....I have given an example, that ye should do as I have done to you....the servant is not greater than his lord, neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him....if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them....

As Christians, we should never allow ourselves to get to the place in our life where we cannot love and serve others. We must always have an attitude of humility and self sacrifice, regularly placing the needs of others ahead of our own needs. Just as we need cleansing and forgiveness from Christ to maintain our unity in our Christian life, so also do we need to extend to one another forgiveness to maintain this unity with others. It is difficult at times to forgive, because the natural man loves the feeling of revenge. To justify our means, we tell ourselves that we are rightfully demanding our God given rights, but the word tells us that what we are doing, Christ himself would not do. Most Christians know more of Gods truth than what they live. This does not mean that we should not seek after more of Gods truth, but it does mean that we need to practice the truth of what we know.

**Ephesians 4: 32,....**and be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christs sake hath forgiven you....

What is true compassion for our fellow believers. It means forgiving one another. Forgiveness is a unique characteristic of our faith. Our compassion and kindness come from the immeasurable mercy and forgiveness that we have received through Christ and the cross. The more that we come to understand the grace that we have received of God, the deeper our gratitude will be to forgive others. Our kindness is grounded in God's kindness, our compassion is modeled after Christ compassion, and most importantly our forgiveness is made possible by the sacrifice of Christ. Because of this we should not look to see the faults of others as unpardonable. If we are unable to forgive, then we have not yet experienced forgiveness through the likeness of Christ. We exist because God exists and he spoke and we came into being, and because of this his plan for us, all mankind should desire to accept his saving grace. This brings about true happiness in the lives of those who have believed and accepted. This true happiness comes from following, serving, and obeying Christ and his word. We experience true happiness by knowing that the Lord is with us, and that our heart is in tune with the priorities of Christ, and we will one day reap the rewards of a faithful servant of Christ.

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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