

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

12.19.2021

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 Mission from Birth

Luke 2: 25 – 35, John 12: 23 – 26

As believers, are we eagerly anticipating the coming of the Lord. Too often, our lives become routine, and we find ourselves going through the motion of serving God, but we are completely disconnected from the promise of Christ return. Having our mind focused upon Christ return humbles our thoughts and keeps our time of prayer and meditation on his word, spiritually meaningful. As we live our lives in this world that is filled with sin, remembering his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection from the dead will help us to anticipate his return. Anticipating the return of Christ will change the way that we look at our relationship with others and show us how affective our witness of salvation can be. We should not look at our opportunities of service to the Lord as just mere chances to spread the word of his saving grace, but we should see them as deep, meaningful connections with spiritual purpose. We must not focus on our own spiritual resources or our own worldly treasures and temporary joys, but rather we should endure each day with the reality of Christ coming.

2 Peter 3: 11 – 12,....what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming day of the Lord....

What sort of people should we be. We must be one that our labor should not be in perfecting the things of this world, but one of perfecting our relationship with Christ. To know him more clearly, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more closely, day by day. Therefore, we must set aside, and continue to set aside, and then continue working to keep setting aside, every kind of worldly sinfulness in our life. We have been set apart by God, for his specific purpose, and we must live holy lives, making different choices than the unbelievers make. It is not about self improvement, but it is about living as a child of God.

Luke 2: 25 – 35,....there was a man....whose name was Simeon....the same man was just and devout....and the Holy Ghost was upon him....it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord Christ....he came by the spirit into the temple....when the parents brought in the Christ Jesus....then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God....lettest thy servant depart in peace....for mine eyes have seen thy salvation....a light to....the gentiles....and the glory of....Israel....Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things....Simeon blessed them, and said....behold this child is set for the fall and rise....and for a sign....that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed....

Today, just as Simeon was waiting in his time to be comforted by the appearing of Christ, the church is waiting to be comforted by the return of Christ for his church. What makes this time of waiting a time of spiritual patience is the comfort given unto the church by the presence of the Holy Spirit. This presence is due to that, each individual in the body of Christ is filled with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Because of this, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of Christ. For this reason, God brings us into just the right place at just the right time, so that we may witness the fulfillment of his promises in the lives of mankind. Since we can celebrate the birth of Christ, which brought forth the crucifixion and the resurrection, it allows us to accept the free gift of God's saving grace, so that when our time of departing this world does arrive, then we are assured of the blessed hope of our eternal life with God. Through salvation, we die to worldliness, and gain the peace of God which passeth all understanding, which will keep our hearts and minds through his Son, Christ. Having this, means having experienced the greatest privilege of our life. Through this, just as it was with Simeon, we can boldly declare that our eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord. Now then is the time to take the message of salvation to all the world, and make disciples of all those who will believe, this is the benefit of anticipating the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 4,....blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God....

As Christians, we must not run from God to seek comfort in our lives, but we must run to God. Where does our comfort begin, it begins with prayer, through the word of God. God will freely give his mercy to those who will come to him, by faith, in Christ. God gives mercy and will continue to always give mercy. The word of God is more than just comfort, it is also encouragement for our life, and it is our strength in Christ. God's comfort allows us to overcome, not by striving in our own strength, but by striving in the strength that is given unto us by the saving grace of Jesus Christ. God, who comforts us in all our troubles, does so, so that we might with the same comfort that we receive from him, retain the ability to comfort others that are in their time of tribulation. This all happens in God's timing and in his place.

Ecclesiastes 9: 11,....I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill, but time and chance happeneth to them all....

We must learn that we are not in control of circumstances, happenings, or events that transpire, that we do not have anything to do with, but often time these events will have huge impacts on our lives. The longer that we live our lives here upon this earth, the more that there will be events that impact our lives. We would like to pretend that these events are not reality, but in fact, they are very much a reality. No matter what we think or what we do, we cannot prevent time and chance. We cannot control the outcome of our life, only the destination. For this reason, God tells us that it is far more important for us to live for eternity, because it is his eternal plan that replaces the impact of worldly time and chance with the certainty of his power and glory.

John 12: 23 – 26,....Jesus answered....the hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified....he that loveth his life shall lose it, he that hateh his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am, there shall my servant be, if any man serve me, him will my Father honor....

Now is the time to bring forth and to spread the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and our anticipation of the return of Christ will show unto us the urgency of this service to God.

2 Corinthians 6: 2,....for he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee, behold, now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation....

It is our spiritual duty to warn humanity not to receive God's grace in vain. This will impact how that they respond to hearing and accepting the gospel of Christ crucifixion and resurrection, which only by faith in this alone and nothing else can we be saved. The invitation to mankind to accept Gods saving grace through faith in Christ is a limited time offer. God will never speak to humanity and tell them it is OK to be saved, someday, for no one knows the days that are left in this life. Eventually, time will run out, and when this time comes, it will be too late to be reconciled to God. God does not want mankind to hesitate, but to put their faith in his Son, Christ, for their salvation.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth....

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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