

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

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.

Christmas

Luke 2: 1 – 7

Christmas is a time of year that mankind looks upon as a celebration of giving. We, as believers, also see it as a celebration of giving. The difference between the two is that, humanity sees it through worldly eyes, and as Christians, we see it through the eyes of Christ. The celebration of the true meaning of Christmas, must start within us. Mankind will celebrate the birth of Christ, in a manger, in Bethlehem, a thousand times over, but until we experience the new birth of Christ within us, our celebration will be short lived, and the outcome will be one that, we will be eternally separated from God. Truly understanding, the birth of Christ can only take place through salvation. Even though the birth was a natural birth, it was a spiritual rebirth of the truth of the word of God, which is in Christ. Our acknowledgement and acceptance of this truth, will be our new beginning in the birth of Christ.

Luke 2: 1 - 7,....and she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger....

By Gods grace, through the birth of Christ his son, salvation entered into this world. Therefore, through this salvation we have the privilege to behold his glory.

1 John 1: 14,....and the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth....

This salvation, that Christ came into the world to bring forth, he did so, that we might experience his saving grace, and also experience the transformation from worldliness to Godliness. Sadly, mankind found it easy to disregard this free gift from God and therefore continued in sin. This was due to the desire to, continue to live in the pleasurable sinfulness of the world. Our desire should be one of, to accept, and to serve a living God and to allow him to control our lives, and to live for those things, that have eternal value. Our desires should not be one that is of the world, for living our life through worldly desires can only lead to spiritual death. This result is one of separation from God, with the sentence being one of eternal damnation. Celebrating the birth of Christ, through salvation, allows us to experience, the glory of God within us.

Zechariah 9: 9 – 17,....rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your King is coming to you. He is just, and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey....Then the Lord will be seen over them....The Lord of host will defend them....The Lord their God will save them in that day....For how great is his goodness....

Gods people missed out on the goodness of Christ during his first coming upon the earth, not because they were not looking for him, but because they had the wrong concept of what they were looking for. Mankind was looking for a mighty King, which is exactly what God brought unto them, only in the image of a newborn baby, born as we all are, helpless, vulnerable, powerless, and dependent upon his mother and father to sustain his mortal life here upon this earth. Humanity could not relate to a savior who came and suffered and died, one who offered himself as a sacrifice to all mankind.

In the world that we live in today, mankind is still missing out on Christ and his saving grace. Humanity is looking for a supernatural power that will grant their every desire, that will instantly solve all their problems, and that will allow them to live a healthy and prosperous life, with no expectations. This creates within us confusion that makes it very difficult, for us to find that which is a free gift from God, due to the desire to live our own life, with no boundaries, or no one to rule over us.

John 17: 20 – 26,....I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word....that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me....Father, I desire that they also whom you gave me may be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory....

There is but one way to heaven, one way to be free from sin, one way to have a relationship with God, because salvation is found in no one else. There is no other name under heaven given to mankind, by which we may be saved. Christ birth, his sinless life, his death on the cross, was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Overcoming death by his resurrection provided salvation and eternal life.

Micah 5: 2,....but you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the one to be ruler in Israel, whose going forth are from old, from everlasting....

Even though, we celebrate the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, this was not his beginning in the world. Christ has, and always will be a part of what we know as an eternal relationship between God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christ has existed from eternity past and will continue to exist through eternity. There has never been. Nor will there ever be a time that Christ did not exist.

In this world of confusion, a day of peace was provided to all humanity. God himself, came through Christ his Son, to take away the guilt of sin, to fulfill all hope, to defeat Satan our enemy, and to provide a way of salvation, through redemption in Christ, forever.

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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