

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

1.9.2022

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.

Abide in the True Vine

John 15: 1 – 8

How often, do we have a feeling of disappointment with life. With that in mind, what do we feel it would be like to be God in such a world as this. Do we think that we would find a God who feels the pain of humanities condition with the way that his world has become. Has God become disappointed with his people in the since that he has given unto mankind every opportunity to get things right, but man not done so. God desires the fruit of his righteousness in our daily lives, but all that he sees and hears is cries of distress. God looks upon mankind to find his ownership and value that he has placed within us, but all that he finds is iniquity. This is fruit that is full of unrighteousness which is grasping for worldly possessions at the expense of others, and living in the pleasures thereof, making light of Gods people. The word of God explains this as lusts of the flesh, but God is looking to us for good fruit, which can only come through his indwelling Holy Spirit. God will allow those that are his to feel the consequences of their choices, but will not leave us there, as we come to him and repent. This week's lesson shows us that those who bear good fruit can only do so, as long as we remain obedient to God and his word. This is the secret of bearing good fruit, and God's desire is for us to be fruitful.

Isaiah 5: 1 – 7,....my well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill....he fenced it....gathered out the stones....planted it with choice vines....built a tower in the midst....made a winepress therein....he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes....what could have been done more....that I have not done in it....I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard....I will take away the hedge....and break down the wall....and I will lay it waste....and he looked for judgement, but behold oppression....for righteousness, but behold a cry....

As God brings each person into this world, just as he did in the beginning with Adam and Eve, all mankind has been put in a placement of prosperity. Now, humanity does not see their situation as being one of prosperity, due to the fact that we only see through the eyes of the sinfulness of the natural man, which brings about the feeling of disappointment in our lives. When we say that God brings each one into this world in prosperity, we are talking about the spiritual purpose that he has brought us into. Gods every intent and reason for us is to flourish and grow in the environment in which we were born, which is his gift of eternal life, but we must choose to live in this environment. Not only has God placed us in a place of prosperity, but he has also placed within us the means for growth and success in our spiritual life. All of this he has done in great expectation of a crop of good fruit. Sadly, despite all the tedious care, not all the fruit is good. So, with this we are presented with the question, is the bad fruit due to his preparation and planning, or does it lie within the choices that we have made. Now we must come to the understanding, that for the one that is responsible for the bad fruit, then, there must be a deserving judgement. God gives unto humanity all that is needed to prosper and to produce justice and righteousness, but instead mankind produced cares of distress and sinfulness. Therefore, it has prompted God to bring forth judgement upon all who will not believe, and also upon those who believe, but are disobedient to his word.

John 15: 1 – 4,....I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman....every branch....that beareth not fruit he taketh away....every branch that beareth fruit , he pruneth....that it may bring forth more fruit....ye are clean through the word....abide in me, and I in you....the branch cannot bear fruit of itself....except it abide in the vine....no more can ye, except ye abide in me....

People who may appear to be followers of Christ but are in fact dead to Christ because they have not accepted his saving grace, are imposters. Those who have accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ have become clean in the righteousness of God, and through obedience to his word they will become abundantly productive. We must come to trust in the Lord through obedience and humility. Christ came to the earth to produce the fruit of righteousness, which God requires for the use of the church so that the church might be his mouthpiece to a lost and dying world. Daily, we are to grow in God's grace, and this is achieved as we abide in him and he in us. We are cleansed by the truth of his word, and we are to continue to be washed by the purifying effect of his word throughout our life here upon earth.

2 Peter 3: 18,....grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ....

As we lead the life that God has called us to live, we begin to grow in the wisdom of God which provides us with the opportunity to grow stronger spiritually. This allows us to understand what it is to live in a close relationship with Christ, which means that we are growing in God's grace. Our spiritual maturity must be a continuous daily process of walking in the spirit and truth of the Lord. As God adds grace, the more that we mature in our faith, the more Christlike we become.

1 John 3: 2,....we are the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is....

Will we ever grasp the greatness of our position in Christ. We have been permanently adopted into Gods family through salvation. We are positioned in Christ and one day we shall be like him, which means that we will fully resemble his grace and truth, with all of his godly attributes and characteristics.

John 15: 5 – 8,....I am the vine....he that abideth in me....the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing....if a man abide not in me, he is cast forth....if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you....herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit....

Our decision to come to Christ. And our ability to remain in Christ is dependent upon his divine power. To remain in Christ means to stay spiritually connected to him, otherwise, no fruit can be produced. Even people who do not believe in Christ can accomplish many things, but with no spiritual value. Many of these may profess faith and show forth many abilities that could be perceived as Godly, but this does not mean that they are a true believer. Only by believing upon the Lord Jesus Christ can one have eternal life with him. Bearing spiritual fruit is reflected in our willingness to be obedient to the word of God. Our words and our works should always be for the purpose of glorifying God. We cannot bear fruit for the Lord if we are living apart from Christ. Our desire should be to accomplish as much for the Lord as possible because this is God's desire for us.

Romans 8: 38 – 39,....I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord....

Because of Gods perfect plan of salvation, and because of our eternal union with Christ, God has promised unto us through his word that he has given unto us eternal life and that we shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck us out of his hand. God, which, gave us unto Christ, is greater than all, and no man, is able to pluck us out of the Fathers hand, because Christ and the Father are one.

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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