

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

2.6.2022

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.

Trials and Denials

## **John 18: 15 – 27**

Living comfortable in worldliness will result in an inactive relationship with God. What this means is that a relationship with God that is based upon self-righteousness, which would be the performance of what we did or did not do, is a relationship without the understanding of God and his unconditional love, and the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This lack of understanding causes us to allow the works of the world to take the place of the works of Christ in our life. Religion is the cause why many Christians do not allow Christ to be Lord of their lives. We can only come to understand and accept the grace of God as we allow the Holy Spirit to open our spiritual eyes, so that we may realize that our self-righteousness cannot make God love us. The truth of the gospel is that God does not love us because his Son, Christ died for us. Christ died on the cross for us because the Father loved us. God loves us more than we could ever know, this is the characteristic of God. As Christians we are to put our complete trust in Christ, so that we may continue to accept his mercy and his grace into our lives.

**Colossians 1: 9 – 14**,....ye might walk worthy of the Lord....strengthened with all might....giving thanks unto the Father....who hath delivered us from the power of darkness....in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins....

Humanity seeks answers to problems in many ways, and in many different places. There is only one answer to sinfulness, and the consequences of the sinfulness and that answer lies in a savior, and that savior is Christ. All that it takes is a simple act of faith, believing in Christ's finished work on the cross, secured through his resurrection.

**John 18: 15 – 18**,....Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple....and went in with Jesus into the place of the high priest....Peter stood at the door....then went out the other disciple....and brought in Peter....then saith the damsel....art not thou also one of this mans disciple....he saith, I am not....

We do not always realize it, but God gave man purpose. With this God given purpose, he also offered guidance and direction. God has specific places for us, and places where he wants us to be, at certain times in our lives. We must trust that he will guide and direct us to those places when he is ready. God did this so that we would seek him, and reach out unto him, and find him. God is trustworthy, he gives life and breath to all. Sadly, because we allow Satan to overwhelm us with worldly fear, our claim to be a follower, or servant of Christ begins to diminish. Therefore, we seek our comfort by standing with the world, instead of seeking after the will of God and reaching out to him. Like Peter, our denial comes due to a lack of spiritual preparedness and maturity.

**Mark 14: 38**,....watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak....

We are commanded through the word, to pray, to study, and to be a witness of Christ saving grace, which comes through the crucifixion and resurrection. We must learn to pray for the strength to endure trials and tribulations before they come into our life. When we wait until trials and tribulations take place in our life, to study and pray, we find ourselves falling into a weakened state of spiritual adversity, and therefore we cannot endure. To endure, we must remember that our strength comes from our faith in God.

**1 John 5: 4 – 5**,....whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.... Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God....

Spiritual endurance mean's overcoming the works of the flesh. To do so we must walk in the spirit and adhere to the truth of Gods word. It is our faith that saves us, and it is our faith that continues to give unto us the strength to overcome the world, but our faith in what. Our faith must have an object to it and that object is Christ. So, by faith in Christ are we saved, and by faith in Christ are we able to endure. All that we do, we must live and work, all to the glory of God.

**John 18: 19 – 23,....**asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine....Jesus answered....I spake openly....in secret have I said nothing....why asketh thou me....ask them which heard me....they know what I said....one of the officers....struck Jesus....if I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil....but if well, why smites thou me....

How important is it, that as believers, that we are always truthful in doing and saying the right things concerning the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We do not do the right thing because it saves us, we do the right thing because Christ saved us. It is Gods love for us that motivates us to obey Christ. Knowing that we are doing it all for the glory of God....

**1 Peter 3: 14 – 15,....**but and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye, and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled....but sanctify the Lord in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to everyman that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear....

Christians have a secure eternity with God, therefore we are called to live differently from the world. Even though there will be suffering for the sake of righteousness, we are commanded through the word to fear God rather than men. This encourages the believer to focus on the future, not just the hope of our eternal future with God which gives us joy and peace of mind, but also our future upon this earth, and the willingness, and the desire to serve the Lord, which helps to ensure the eternal future for others who will come to know and believe in Jesus Christ. As believers, we are challenged to teach and to preach the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, to be a living testimony of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**John 18: 24 – 27,....**Annas....sent him bound unto Caiaphas....Simon Peter stood and warmed himself....they said....art thou also one of the disciples....he denied it....and said, I am not....did I not see thee there in the garden with him....Peter denied again, and immediately the cock crew....

Many people make promises to the Lord. This includes believers and non-believers alike. Many make promises to God without realizing the promises that they have made, and many make promises without ever intending to keep those promises. It is not until the Holy Spirit opens our eyes, either through salvation, or through trials and tribulations do we realize, and come to the remembrance that God's grace is sufficient. Regardless of what we have done, we are not too far gone, that God cannot save us, or restore us. Yes, sinfulness brings consequences, but sin does not have the final word in our lives. When we repent, and allow the Holy Spirit to once again guide us, then is God able to make us, and mold us into that which is of spiritual value in the body of Christ.

**Jeremiah 18: 1 – 4,....**the word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord....go down to the potters house....I will cause thee to hear my words....I went down to the potters house....he wrought a work on the wheels....the vessel that he made....was marred....so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it....

God, through his word, teaches us, so that we may understand why hard times come upon us. For this to happen we must wait patiently for the Lord to form us, so that we may carry out his best purpose in our lives, which is that which is best pleasing unto him.

For this reason:

**1 Peter 1: 7,....**the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing 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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