

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

4.3.2022

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.

Concern for a Weaker Brother

1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 13

As believers, we must come to realize that we are all at different places in our walk with Christ. It is very important for the believer to understand their position in Christ Jesus. This understanding makes a difference in how that we live our daily lives. Our position in Christ can only be known when God reveals it unto us, and we can only grasp its meaning by believing in the truth of Gods word. Our spiritual life begins to mature as we discover the promises given unto us by God, then through faith believing we begin to put our complete trust in the truth of these promises, for these truths are eternal. Daily, we are given the ability, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to enter into new experiences of Gods love, but only if we, by faith, accept all that God has done for us in Christ. Now, as believers, we must learn how to express these new experiences to others in the body of Christ. To do this, we must come to the knowledge and understanding of what it is that we are experiencing. There are two ways to acquire this knowledge and understanding, either through man or through God. Knowledge that comes through man can only lead to selfishness and worldly pride which may lead us to impose upon others a false sense of truth, therefore leading them in the wrong spiritual direction, causing them to feel inferior to ourselves and to others in the body of Christ. On the other hand, knowledge that comes from God not only seeks the benefit of others but will also help in building up one another's faith in Christ, leading them to a greater relationship with God.

Galatians 5: 13 – 14,....brethern, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another....for all the law is fulfilled in one word....thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself....

Sadly, there are those that abuse the wonderful freedom that we have in Christ and seek to use it for an opportunity to indulge in worldliness. If, as believers we allow the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life to dominate our life, not only is it harmful to our spiritual maturity, but it is also hurtful to others in the body of Christ, especially to those who may be weak in the faith. This week's lesson is going to portray unto us that the love, knowledge, and understanding of God is greater and stronger than any wisdom and knowledge that can come from man or from mans interpretation of the word of God, especially when it comes to the spiritual well being of others in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 3,....we know that we all have knowledge....knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth....if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know....but if any man love God, the same is known of him....

Without God, knowledge can lead to self-righteousness. Righteousness that does not come through the will of God can tear down other believers rather than encourage them or build them up. Satan's deception will bring one to become overconfident about how much they really know, and cause them to fall prey to sinfulness, based upon a limited amount of knowledge, which is an interpretation of their own wisdom. To overcome, the believer must understand the truth concerning their relationship with God. God alone is our source of grace and peace. The greatest knowledge is the knowledge of God. It is better that one gains knowledge and understanding from God than to follow the self-righteous opinion of man.

2 Peter 1: 5 – 7,....besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity....

God has given unto every believer all that we need that pertains to life and godliness and it is appropriated through the knowledge of Christ. This means that he has already equipped us with the power to live a victorious Christian life. What is it that enables this divine power to be manifested within our lives, it is his precious promises that are recorded for us in his word. By believing in these great promises and by trusting in his word are we able to partake of his divine power.

1 Corinthians 8: 4 – 8,....we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one....to us there is but one God....and we in him....one Lord....and we by him....there is not in everyman that knowledge....and their conscience being weak is defiled....meat commendeth us not to God, for neither, if we eat, are we better, neither, if we eat not, are we worse....

Idols are manmade objects; they do not possess knowledge, nor do they love God or possess the love of God. In our lives today the majority of our idols are created images in our minds. For this reason, many believers find it difficult to walk away from these idols or deceptive beliefs that have been taught to us all our lives. This is because not all believers take the time to allow the truth of the gospel to transform their lives into what Christ would have us to be.

Romans 14: 1,....him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations....

The world makes it very easy to continue to fall back on and follow those things that we are comfortable in, even though they are contrary to the word of God. For this reason, it becomes easy to look down upon, or treat those who may be weak in their faith with a prideful arrogance, expressing our own opinion in a way that may damage all the more another person's faith. As believers, we are never to condemn others, but simply to teach the truth concerning God's love, and the freedom and liberties that relate to that love, according to the will of God. There are those believers that continue to struggle with and are convinced that the idols that they have created in their minds, are not real entities. The word teaches us that it is not necessarily the images that we have created in our minds that is sinful, but it is taking action concerning these things without having the faith to see if it is acceptable to God. As Christians, we must be willing to give up these things that sometimes we strongly believe in, so that we may not lead others in the body of Christ into sinfulness.

1 Corinthians 8: 9 – 13,....take heed lest....thus liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak....through the knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for who Christ died....wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I made my brother to offend....

The images that we create in our minds are just that, images. These images are not actually other Gods, because what they represent do not truly exist. We sin when we follow after these images with a clear conscience without concern to whether God approves of these activities in our life. Because of this carelessness there also comes the possibility that it will cause others in the body of Christ to stumble and fall into sin as well.

Romans 14: 13,....let us not therefore judge one another anymore, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brothers way....

Just because one feels that what they are participating in is not sin, does not mean that they should go ahead and do so without any thought for the effect that it might have on those with less spiritual understanding. If there is any chance that the things in which we participate in will cause another to stumble into sin, we must simply not do it. This is another way of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Anything that will help us to avoid causing others to sin is worth eliminating from our lives. This is part of our responsibility as a believer, to educate and also help to train those that need to mature in Christ.

The world has influenced each of us in different ways, and we must understand that everyone has a different level of spiritual maturity. If we judge, it only shows our weaknesses when it comes to God's love. What we believe to be the truth should never be used in a selfish way, but we should always be willing to help those who are weak in faith. How we moderate our knowledge by the truth of God's love is very important when living our life as an example to those around us.

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3177 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

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