

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

3.13.2022

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.

True Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1: 17 – 31

The reason humanity fails to believe in Christ's death on the cross as the only way to salvation has nothing to do with the idea of being too hard to understand, it is because it is so easy to understand. With salvation being so easy to understand, humanity cannot bring themselves to see the truth in it, therefore, they continue to follow worldly wisdom. Worldly wisdom and knowledge could never bring someone to faith in Christ. Sadly, the world takes pride in itself as having vast knowledge, extensive understanding and great wisdom. With this in mind, they proclaim that here is no God, or that they themselves are God. But, God, through his infinite mercy and grace, is pleased to save all who will believe upon the saving grace of his Son, Jesus Christ. For this reason, for those who believe in the cross of Christ, the message of the gospel of salvation is glorious. It is wisdom, and knowledge in justification, sanctification, glorification, and eternal life with the Father and the Son.

Proverbs 4: 4 – 7,....he taught me also, and said unto me, let their heart retain my words, keep my commandments and live....get wisdom, get understanding, forget it not....forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee, love her and she shall keep thee....wisdom is the principle thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding....

Wisdom comes as a result of learning, which leads to knowledge. Knowledge in turn leads to the ability to act according to a truthful, godly perspective, which is understanding from God. God's desire for us as believers is to absorb wisdom, so that we might have the ability to pass it on to others.

1 Kings 3: 5,....ask what I shall give thee....

1 Kings 3: 9,....give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to....discern between good and bad....

Christians must acquire Godly wisdom to develop good judgement. We specify Godly wisdom because, there is wisdom of man and there is wisdom of God. Therefore, as we gain spiritual wisdom, we must never forget what we have learned in the word, nor should we turn away from spiritual knowledge, or leave our first true spiritual love, Christ Jesus, our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1: 17 – 25,....Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words....the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God....I will destroy the wisdom of the wise....and....bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent....where is the wise....hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world....the world by wisdom knew not God....the Jews require a sign....the Greeks seek after wisdom....we preach Christ crucified....Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God....because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men....

Starting off this week's lesson, we learn the importance of preaching the gospel of salvation over teaching the rituals of the product of salvation. It is not that expressing forms of our salvation is not important, but there is no saving power in these events. The only way to salvation is through faith believing in Christ and his work on the cross, everything else is an act of spiritual expression that follows salvation. However, there is controversy among the body of Christ concerning baptism. There is a physical baptism and there is a spiritual baptism. Physical baptism by water means that the believer is telling the world that God has done a work of transformation in their heart. Spiritual baptism is that work which has taken place. Water baptism is a physical experience that we seek after, spiritual baptism is a godly truth that we have believed in through faith. Outward emotional expressions should not be the focus of our ministry, but rather our focus should be the preaching of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3: 21,....the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us....not the putting away of the filth of the flesh....but the answer of a good conscience toward God....by the resurrection of Jesus Christ....

With this in mind, we now focus on the truth of this wisdom, which is given unto us by Christ, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The first thing that we must understand when it comes to preaching the gospel is that those who have not yet believed, do not understand the need for redemption. Therefore, because they do not understand the need, they reject the message of Christ and the cross, considering it to be foolish.

Titus 3: 3 – 7,....after that he kindness and love of God our savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost....

True wisdom means that our sin debt was paid by Christ on the cross, and, at the moment that we trusted in Christ, by faith believing, through his shed blood he redeemed us from those sins, we were then given life everlasting. Salvation did not come to us because of any good deed done or any good merit that we had gained, it is a free gift of grace from God to those who simply believe. There is nothing that we have done or that we could ever do, that will qualify us for salvation, and in the same manner, nor could we do anything that would disqualify us for salvation.

2 Peter 3: 9,....the Lord is not slack concerning his promise....but is longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance....

Christ crucified is salvation. The crucifixion and resurrection did not fit in with human wisdom or human reasoning. Through the true wisdom of preaching the message of the cross, the word of God puts to death the self-righteous, self-confident, self-seeking, self-sanctifying, wisdom of the world and brings to life the righteousness of Christ, which establishes our confidence in Christs finished work on the cross.

Romans 1: 16,....for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth....

1 Corinthians 1: 26 – 31,....for ye see your calling, brethren....God hath chosen the foolish things....the wise things....things which are despised....and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are....that no flesh should glory in his presence....but of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption....that according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord....

Humanity as a whole, does not understand the preaching of the cross, and most do not care to understand it. This means that mankind has their opinion of what Christ and the cross means, and God gives unto us the wisdom through his word, concerning Christ and the cross. Those who despise the message of the cross, follow worldly wisdom, which has no truth, and is full of deception. Those who accept the work that Christ has done on the cross, now have the ability to focus on the true wisdom of the gospel of the saving grace of God. Therefore, we must purpose in our heart to glory in nothing but Christ and him crucified, for he is the only one that is able to save sinners by grace. He is the power of God, and the wisdom of God, and by faith we become one with him. For this reason, God uses his people to bring glory to his name. The Lord can use anyone who has come to faith in him, he is not limited by our weaknesses. By faith Christ is our strength.

Philippians 4: 13,....I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me....

God sees value in those whom the world rejects. Our salvation is completely the work of God. By the grace of God, we live and walk in the world, everything that is worth having is found in Christ. God chooses each believer and makes his power evident in our lives.

Habakkuk 2: 4,....the just shall live by faith....

Through salvation we are called to live the rest of our life by faith. We have this ability because we trust in the word of God. We live by the assurance that eternal life is already ours because we have been justified by faith.

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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