

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

5.1.2022

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.

A Man Justified

## **Luke 18: 9 – 14**

Humanity believes that the way of the world is the right way. In this, there are many who want others around them to believe that they are better than any other. The word of God shows us that due to this sinful way of thinking it takes mankind away from the truth of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. As believers, we understand, and we must live by the example that the only way to enter into the kingdom of God is to have faith and believe in Christ. To get to this point in our sinful life we must learn that there is nothing that we can do on our own to save ourselves. Sadly, there are those who do not recognize the need for the mercy and grace of God. So, what does it take for a man to be justified? It takes faith.

**Romans 10: 17,....**so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God....

Everyone born on this earth, from eternity to eternity, was born with a purpose and a plan from God.

**2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 14,....**God hath chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth, whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ....

Through the deception of Eve, and the transgression of Adam, mankind did not just enter into this life with God's purpose and plan, but he also entered into life with a sinful nature, therefore a choice must be made. A choice between living in the sinful nature of the world, or the choice to believe upon the saving grace of Jesus Christ, which comes through the cross, the crucifixion, and the resurrection, which means living in the obedience and righteousness of God, and this choice starts with prayer. Prayer is the key, and faith unlocks the door, for if we do not pray in faith believing we will never receive anything from God.

**Luke 18: 9 – 14,....**and he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves....two men went up into the temple to pray....the pharisee stood and prayed with himself....the publican....saying God be merciful to me a sinner....I tell you, this man went down to his house justified....for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased....he that humbleth himself shall be exalted....

In our life in Christ, one of the first things that the Holy Spirit must teach us is the importance of praying with the right attitude. We must learn the importance of humility before God. It does no good to talk endlessly to God, or about God, if we do not know the righteousness that comes from God. Self-righteous people trust only in themselves, and seek to establish their own, without submitting to God.

**Luke 18: 9,....**he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves....

Here in this scripture, we see three things about those who trust in themselves.

First, they think themselves to be righteous and moral.

Second, they believe that their own self-righteousness is religious.

Thirdly they believe their righteousness comes from God.

Self-righteous people try to earn their own salvation. They are morally upright, they are religiously devoted, and they believe that God has made them this way, therefore, this is what they put their trust in, so as to be justified. This is why that many in the body of Christ turn away from justification by faith alone in Christ. We are not accepted by God on the basis that we have justified ourselves through self-righteousness. We are accepted by God because we trusted in Christ alone and all that he has done for us. This all comes through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8: 24 – 28,....**for we are saved by hope....if we hope for what we see not, then do we with patience wait for it....the spirit helpeth our infirmities....the spirit itself maketh intercession for us....he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God....we know that all things work together for good to them that love God....

As believers, our new life in Christ has given unto us the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the ability to commune with this Holy Spirit, who is able to guide us into all truth in God. It is living in the spirit and truth that allows us to enjoy fellowship with the Lord daily. The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of our heart and longs to lead us and guide us in the will of God. Often time, we hide the desires of our heart deep within so that we do not understand what our hopes are, but, in time, they will become a thirst, for our soul. Therefore, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand these weaknesses and then intercedes for us in a way that is pleasing unto God. This is why we pray thy will, not mine be done.

**1 Peter 4: 16 – 19,....**if any man suffer as a Christian....let him glorify God on his behalf....let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him....as unto a faithful creator....

To allow Gods will to be done in our life we must have a Christ like faith, and an unbreakable trust in the word of God. We should always be willing to not only gain blessings, but also to suffer persecutions for Christ's sake. In doing so we bare an ongoing witness to those who are unrepentant and spiritually dead in their trespasses and sin. Our testimony therefore becomes the hope of all salvation. This not only brings glory to Gods name but will also be an example to those who have yet to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 2: 12 – 16,....**as ye have always obeyed....work out your own salvation with fear and trembling....it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure....that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God....hold forth the word of life....

Works of our own will and strength, are works of the flesh, of the old sin nature, and these are works that God will not accept. In order for Christ to live the life that he lived upon this earth and still be subject to the will of the Father, he had to submit to the spirit. For believers to do the work of God we must also submit to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we abide in Christ, and trust in his word, then we are growing in our faith in Christ, which is pleasing unto God.

**Hebrews 11: 16,....**but without faith it is possible to please him....

When we abide in Christ and his word, even though we will go through trials and tribulations, and suffer persecutions, for Christ's sake, we will do the work of the Lord, not the work of our own self-righteousness.

**Galatians 2: 16,....**a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith of Christ....that we might be justified by the faith of Christ....

**Galatians 3: 24,....**wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith....

By Gods grace we do not receive what we justly deserve, by God's grace through faith in Christ, Christ freely gives unto us that which we do not earn. For it is only by Christ death and resurrection that we are justified by grace through faith and given the hope of eternal life with God. Therefore, we can truly say, I am a man justified.

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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