

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.24.2022

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.

Do you now believe

John 16: 29 – 33

True peace only comes from knowing Christ. All of humanity is looking for, and longing for, peace of mind. Mankind, would like, to always have the ability to enjoy themselves, and not to be burdened down with worldly worries. When peace of mind is all but lost, then anxiety becomes ever-present, and depression takes over our every action. This uncertainty can make it difficult to maintain a positive attitude and outlook on life. It is never easy to be completely sure about the unknown outcomes in life. Everyone needs assurance that things are going to work out. Turning to Gods word will help us in finding hope, by encouraging spiritual healing through Gods promise of Christ and his saving grace.

Philippians 4: 6 – 7,....be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God....and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus....

Because of the crucifixion and resurrection, believers have direct access to the Father. Therefore, there should be no worldly fear, or anxiety, or worry, because God is in total control of every situation. Maturing in prayer means addressing life's difficulties, by humbly approaching God with the concerns of the heart, asking for help in those areas in which we are struggling, and thanking him for what he has done. Prayer is the privilege that is experienced by those who are saved by grace through faith in Christ, which comes through his sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection. By this, Christ tore down the wall of separation between God and man, giving to those who will believe, access to the throne of grace. Worrying has a detrimental effect on the believer's fellowship with the Father. In worry we talk to ourselves, in prayer we talk to God. In worry we focus on the circumstances of life, but in prayer we focus on the heavenly Father. Worry is self-centered and selfish, rooted in sinfulness and unbelief. Prayer, is centered on God, trusting in his word, and depending upon him for all our needs. Therefore, as faith increases, worry is eliminated. True prayer comes from a heart full of thanksgiving, looking to the Lord and trusting in him for all things.

John 16: 29 – 33,.... his disciples said....now speakest thou plainly....now we are sure that thou knowest all things....we believe thou camest from God...do ye now believe....behold the hour cometh....ye shall be scattered....I am not alone, because the Father is with me....these things have I spoken....that in me ye might have peace....I have overcome the world....

Even as Christians we do not always understand what Christ is trying to show us through his word. Even though he already knows what is on our mind, he is waiting for us to speak up and let him know the desires of our heart. Through his crucifixion, Christ was hidden from humanity for a short time, but through his resurrection, he would reappear, but this time in a glorified body. In the same manner, mankind, was born into a sinful nature which made it so that the glory of God was hidden from us. Because of the crucifixion and resurrection, the wall of separation, that hides the glory of God from us, will be removed, when we accept that which Christ has done for us, and then will the glory of God appear unto us from within, to provide comfort and peace unto us. Therefore, all of the grief, doubts, and emotional anguish that we have experienced living in worldly sinfulness, which is spiritual death, will turn into rejoicing, realizing that Christ is the savior of the world.

Ephesians 3: 2 – 6,....ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you ward....that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery....whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ....it is now revealed....by the Spirit....

The mystery of God's will is revealed to those who believe in Christ. Which are those who have become a new creation in him, having broken down the wall of partition, giving all who are in Christ, direct access to the throne of God. Through the revelation of God's word, we are instructed concerning this grace dispensation period, where Jews and Gentile believers alike, are to be one in the body of Christ, a mystery which had been kept hidden from principalities and powers, then revealed through the crucifixion and the resurrection, so as to carry out his redemptive plan and purpose, to the world, through the church.

2 Corinthians 5: 17,....therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new....

The crucifixion paid our sin debt, the resurrection opened the door so that all who would believe could come boldly to the throne of God, so that we may ask in faith believing, for the Father to provide for things needed, as we live this life upon earth. Before the crucifixion and resurrection, mankind had to make their request known to God by means of the priest in the tabernacle, but now, believers are encouraged to do so, through faith, by grace so that their joy may be full in the Lord. Our joy comes not from that which we receive from the Lord, but from the close growing relationship we have with the Father, due to answered prayer. Through that which comes by the indwelling Holy Spirit, we now have the ability to understand the teachings and promises in the word of God. Through our spiritual maturity we will see the plain, simple truth of salvation and how easy it is for us to bear.

Hebrews 10: 19 – 20,....having....boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way....

Christ was the sin offering, given by God, to take away the sin of the whole world. Christ, had to bear on the cross, the wrath of all sin, and at that moment, when he cried out it is finished, the veil in the temple was rent in two, opening the way for all, who would believe on his name. This promises the believer access to the throne of grace. Because of this, the spirit gives unto us the confidence to accept the privilege to enter into the holy place of God, by a new and living way.

Hebrews 9: 28,....so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation....

Through redemption, through justification, through sanctification, finally at last, we now begin to understand Christ more clearly. We now acknowledge that he knows all things. Our spiritual growth leads us into a fuller realization of the meaning of what Christ has done for us through the crucifixion and resurrection. Christ wants us to always anticipate the time of his coming. At the moment, that we begin growing in our faith and we begin to mature spiritually, this is the time that we begin to experience God's peace of mind. This peace only comes from knowing Christ. Knowing Christ comes from the study and meditation on his word. As we gain wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, the more we will apply his word to our lives and the stronger God's peace will grow within us. We have peace because Christ, through the cross, has overcome the world.

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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