

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

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.

Gods Comfort in Trouble

2 Corinthians 1: 1 – 11

When the burdens of the world begin to overwhelm us, when trials and tribulations seem to be too much to bear, when everything seems to be against us, God longs to comfort us with his mercy, his grace, and his love. As Christians, we should not allow worldly fear to become that which controls our lives. Often time, we all face anxiety and worries, we must therefore take precautions to protect ourselves and one another. To do this, we must remember that God is always with us and will always remain close to us no matter what uncertainties in life, we must face. Through his word, we will find comfort, strength, and hope in the midst of all our concerns and worldly fears. As our faith grows, and as we mature spiritually in our Christian life, we come to the understanding that we do not have to face all of life's struggles and uncertainties by ourselves. We can either live in worldly fear through our tribulations, or we can see these tribulations as an opportunity to draw us closer to God. It is through these tribulations that our character and our values in life are truly revealed. So, we must find our comfort and strength in the Lord Jesus Christ, because it is only Gods love that remains forever.

James 4: 14,....for what is your life, it is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away....

We truly have no idea what will happen in the next moment of our lives. Our lives are temporary, and very emotionally fragile. Through life's trials and tribulations, we must understand our human limits and become aware of our dependence on God's grace, his mercy, and his will for our lives.

2 Corinthians 1: 1 – 4,....Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God....grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ....the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort....who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them....in any trouble, by the comfort....we ourselves are comforted of God....

In the world, we can find many things that will temporarily satisfy our trials and tribulations. As we look to God, we come to understand that he comforts us in all our afflictions, not just some of them. Only God can provide true comfort. God comforts us while we are going through our afflictions, not after the affliction is already past. God is our source of all spiritual consolation. His characteristics of divine qualities and eternal attributes allow our hearts to rejoice and quiet our anxious souls. What gives us the assurance that Christ is able to comfort us in all our afflictions? Christ, who came to this earth, born as a man, lived as one who learned obedience to the Father by the things that he himself suffered, so that he could identify with our pain and comfort us in our sorrows and suffering. By doing so he also instilled within us and equipped us with the characteristics and abilities to comfort others who are in any kind of affliction. Christ's example to us is not just to be used for what we feel to be spiritual needs, it is to be used for any and all trials and tribulations that we might be going through. God's strengthening is available for whatever may come up against us.

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5,....comfort ye, comfort ye my people....

How do we comfort each other? We encourage one another in the Lord, which will help us to strengthen our spiritual maturity and instill a sense of security not only within ourselves but also within others. We must encourage people at all times, this means not only through blessings, but through trials and tribulations, and through transgressions, which are due to falling prey to temptation and deception. The comfort of God's word gives us the strength to endure.

Romans 3: 23,....for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God....

As Christians, we are members of the body of Christ, children of Gods kingdom. Therefore, God has a loving plan for each of his children and this plan is brought to light through his word. Study and meditation on the word of God will help us to better understand the work that God has in store for us, which will make us more loyal and effective servants.

2 Corinthians 1: 5 – 7,....for as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth in Christ....whether we be afflicted, it is for consolation and salvation....whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation....our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation....

We are given the assurance through the scripture that Christ alone knows how to comfort us, for he has suffered more than anyone. If we share in his suffering, then we can also expect to share in his comfort, and this comfort comes through suffering that is intended to bless others. When this happens, then God is using our suffering for his glory.

Christ suffered for the sake of righteousness, and he warned that we too, as believers, would suffer tribulation. We understand that all in the body of Christ, who live godly lives, and share the good news of the gospel of Christ, will be a challenge to those who pervert the truth, and therefore will suffer persecution. But the Lord is able and willing to give comfort and encouragement to all who are in any kind of worldly difficulties. Just as the suffering of Christ brought justification to those who would believe, so too will the suffering that we endure for righteousness' sake, will be beneficial for sanctification in the spiritual growth of others, and also to their joy of salvation.

Habakkuk 3: 17 – 18,....although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no head in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the lord, I will joy in the Lord of my salvation....

As being apart of those who are faithful to the Lord, sometimes we do not understand why God does not punish the iniquity of those who are disobedient to him and his word. We want God to punish those who rebel against him. Even though Gods judgement will be inevitable, we must pray for God to be merciful, and that his never-failing faithfulness towards his people would prevail. We have all compromised the truth of Gods righteousness, and we have all embraced many worldly ways in our life here upon this earth. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the body of Christ to pray, and to confess, and to be humble, and seek Gods mercy and grace, then and only then will we be able to joy in our salvation no matter the trials and tribulations that surround us.

2 Corinthians 1: 8 – 11,....for we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble....that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead....who delivered us....in who we trust that he will yet deliver us....helping together by prayer....that for the gift....thanks may be given by many....

Often time, it may seem like there is no way out of our suffering, but we must persevere in our faith in God. Persecution and suffering are going to come to all believers in the body of Christ. God allows these things in our life to keep us close to himself, so that we may see the power of God at work. Spiritual courage will never come from our own self-righteousness, but through our faith in God. The key to perseverance is to turn to God. No one is immune to suffering, so we must pray for the church, and the church must pray for us.

Acts 14: 22,....confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God....

Even though our troubles may seem overwhelming, Christ will give unto us the mercy and grace to endure them all.

2 Timothy 3: 12,....yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution....

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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