

## *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

5.15.2022

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.

Christ Liveth in Me

### **Galatians 2: 20**

The word of God challenges us as believers to examine our hearts and behaviors, to see that we continue to truly live a life of faith. We are called to do this so that we will not one day find ourselves trusting in someone or something else. To examine oneself means that we are searching for the results of our faith to see if it is according to the truth of God's word, and if we are following the will of God in our lives. What marks a true Christian? A lot of humanity feels that it is joining a church or living according to a Christian moral standard, or even reading your bible from time to time. None of these will ensure Christ saving grace within us, or give unto us the hope of eternal life. It will only cause us to hope that one day we will make it to heaven. A true Christian is someone whom Christ dwells within.

**Romans 8: 16,....**the spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God....

With Christ dwelling within us we have a sense of inner peace, we have a sense of inner destiny, we have new desires to become obedient, and to follow the will of God. This inner change will produce an outward change, which will be evident to others around us. Continually examining ourselves will ensure that our salvation does not become lifeless, which could lead to drifting back into the old pathways of worldliness. This will also give us the confidence to know that we will not experience feelings as others do, who think that because of their actions, they have surrendered themselves to God, but in fact they never have. For this reason, we should always submit to the Holy Spirit who guides us in holding true to our faith in God.

**Galatians 2: 20,....**I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

What exactly happened when, as Christians, we were justified by placing our faith in Christ? We became so closely attached to Christ spiritually that we began to understand what took place on the cross. We understand that our sin debt was replaced by the righteousness of the resurrected Christ. But, make no mistake, we continue to live in the flesh, but our lives are now being directed by our faith in Christ, through the indwelling Holy Spirit and not by our own self-righteousness.

**Romans 8: 10,....**if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Here we see two things. First, the body is dead because of sin. This means that this temporary body is dying because of sin. When God removed Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden due to sin, it was so that humanity would not live forever in that sinful state.

**Genesis 3: 19,....**for dust thou art, and to dust shalt thou return....

The second thing that we see is that the spirit of life ( or the spirit that gives life ). Having Christ within us means that we are spiritually alive, for without Christ we are spiritually dead. This does not mean that we are righteous, because living here upon this earth we have not yet been renewed, but we have been given credit towards the righteousness of Christ. As we learn to live in dependence upon the Lord, and not to rely upon ourselves, then will we enjoy the fellowship of the Father.

**Ephesians 3: 17 – 19**,....that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God....

Gods chosen dwelling place is in the heart of man. It is the inner being of our new nature in Christ. It is Gods will that Christ dwell within us, and it is Gods desire that the spirit of Christ abides in each of us. We are convicted of our need for Christ, because he is our bread of life. Sadly, there are those in Christ that cannot comprehend the sovereignty of God. The more that we comprehend the love and grace God, the more that we will recognize the righteousness of God, the more that we will grow in understanding, mature in faith, and become strengthened by the power of the holy Spirit.

**Colossians 1: 26 – 29**,....the mystery which hath been hid from ages....to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery....which is Christ in you, the hope of glory....warning every man....that we may present every man perfect in Christ....striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily....

Christian maturity starts with faith in Gods grace, then comes the glory of justification and afterward the many levels of sanctification until at Gods specified time we will be glorified. At salvation we are positioned in Christ, at salvation we are seated with him in heavenly places, at salvation we become a new creation in Christ, at salvation Christ gives unto us life, at salvation we are given the righteousness of Christ, at salvation we receive the eternal life of Christ, at salvation we receive power over sin, and we are set free from the penalty of death.

**2 Corinthians 4: 6 – 7**,....for God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts....we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us....

As Christians, we should see ourselves as mere servants called by God, to deliver the true gospel, and to proclaim Christ as Lord. It is only the light of the gospel that can penetrate the darkness of unbelief. Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this light, who God gave to mankind, first, on the cross, and secondly in our heart when we believed and accepted his saving grace. God, in his mercy and love has provided all mankind with a knowledge of the truth of the gospel, through the witness of the nature that surrounds us, and the inner witness of our own conscience.

## 2 Corinthians 4: 7,....we have this treasure in earthen vessels....

We ask ourselves what do we value most? Is it to see the glory of God, which is Christ, and to be given the opportunity to share in that glory forever? God has chosen to keep this valuable treasure in a place that is fragile, and vulnerable because he wants mankind to see its limitless power and glory, by portraying it through that which is limited, and humble, and common to man. Now we learn that it is not for us to proclaim ourselves as something special, but to proclaim Christ as Lord, with ourselves being merely servants for Christ's sake. This is Christ living in me.

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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