

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

6.26.2022

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.

The Service of Godly Leaders

Ezra 6: 13 – 22

The word of God is very clear that the ultimate purpose of humanity is to bring glory unto God. Since we were all created by God, then there will be times that he will use those who have not yet believed, as well as those who have believed for his purpose. All of humanity, at some point in time, whether in this life or when standing before God will realize that living for oneself was useless, and that the ultimate purpose of the created man is to live a life of obedience to God. As believers, we understand that when in our natural, sinful state, we are unable to glorify God. We are only able to glorify God when God first gives unto us his glory and his honor as we believe upon his Son, Jesus Christ. The more that we come to know God the greater our love for him, and the more that we will understand his plans and purposes for all mankind. The most important thing to remember is that Gods plans, and purposes are laid in place for all humanity and will ultimately result in his glory.

Galatians 1: 15 – 16,....when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen....

God has set all mankind apart for the role of service to himself, even before we were born. Therefore, we are chosen by God and not by man. It is Gods will that we will respond to his calling, by faith, believing in Christ, his Son. It is only by Gods amazing grace that we can be saved. Then he can reveal his Son in us, so that by his witness through us, many might find salvation. Not only are we set aside by God from our mother's womb, but through faith believing, God is pleased to reveal his Son within us, so that we might preach Christ and the cross to all will hear our voice. Through Christ and the cross salvation is made available to all humanity.

Ezra 6: 13 – 15,....the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying....and they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of God....and this house was finished....

Often time, believers are lax in completing the work of the Lord due to the fact that they place their own worldly interest first. When this happens, we must then face the consequences of our actions, which may remove the resources which we have tried so hard on our own to establish. The key to completing the work that God has in store for us to do, is to do it according to the commandments of Gods will. There is joy in finishing the work that God has prepared for us to do.

John 17: 4,....I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do....

Christ himself teaches us the meaning of working to accomplish the will of God, while there is time left to do so. Christ came to earth, lived his life as God had intended man to live, which was perfect in Gods sight, fulfilling every aspect of Gods word, submitting to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and depending entirely upon the Father, desiring to do his will. This he done so that the life of God might be lived through a man, starting with his Son, Christ, so that for our sake, we might learn obedience through the things that he suffered. Christ finished the work of salvation through the cross and the resurrection, the work that the Father had given unto him to do, so that we might set aside our old self and live our lives as unto the Lord, and the finished work, which God had prepared ahead of time for us to do, so that we should walk in his mercy and grace, and thus glorify him.

Ezra 6: 16 – 18,....and the children of Israel....kept the dedication of this house of God with joy, and offered....a sin offering....and they set priest....for the service of God....

Through salvation, God completes his temple within us and dedicates it with the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This takes away the division between us and his glory and restores the relationship that sin had destroyed. Sin causes destruction, but God, through salvation intends to put that behind us so that we might commit ourselves to godly worship, and that we might be restored to the fullness of his glory in Christ. Our obedience to his word is crucial in giving unto us the hope of eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 18,....therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things become new....and all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation....

Those in Christ are those who have had faith in Christ, the cross, the crucifixion, and the resurrection. Our identity has changed from the fallen version of ourselves to a new creature in the righteousness of Christ. This is because the old is not reconcilable, therefore the old is gone and the new has come. We are made new, without the possibility of becoming the old again. Trusting in Christ, means trusting that the gospel of his saving grace is for anyone and everyone. Everyone is given the opportunity to become a completely new person in Christ. We are identified with him, and we have become one with him. We have received the Holy Spirit to lead us and to guide us into all truth. This new life is an abundant life with an eternal destiny. Our new life is to live in Christ and for Christ, only saying and doing those things that we receive from him, delighting daily to do his will. As Christians, we must accept Gods truth, and his righteousness in holiness by faith and in everything that we do.

Ezra 6: 19 – 22,....the children of captivity kept the passion....for the priest....were purified together....and the children of Israel....came again....to seek the Lord God....and kept the feast....for the Lord had made them joyfull....to strengthen their hands in the work of the Lord....

Humanity from the beginning and throughout time have not observed, nor have they been obedient to the will of God. What a joy it is, that through salvation we began to worship and enjoy the blessings of the Lord. Now, as true worshippers, we begin to grow in faith and mature in the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of Gods purpose and plan, not only for our life, but also for the body of Christ.

John 4: 21 – 24,....ye worship ye know not what....but the hour cometh....when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth....God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth....

With the old covenant being replaced with a new and everlasting covenant, symbols of earthly worship were exchanged for temples not made by mans hands. Believers now will worship and glorify God in the truthfulness of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Christ himself came and demonstrated to all mankind what God the Father desires from all those who accept and believe upon his saving grace. We must follow after this example and live as Christ himself lived. We must delight in the desires of God, walking in spirit and in truth, living in total dependence upon the Father in willing submission to his spirit. Our inner character should be a feeling of reverence, gratitude, and love towards God, which is the result of who God is in us and who we are in him. Each temple has a different role in carrying out and following Gods commands according to his good will and purpose, which is the eternal hope of the body of Christ, and the glory of God.

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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