

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

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.

True Fellowship

Hebrews 10: 23 – 25

What is the importance of Christian fellowship? To understand this importance, we must first understand what Christian fellowship is. Most Christians believe that Christian fellowship is showing up occasionally and worshipping with one another in a church setting. If this was the case, then there is not very much fellowship going on. For most Christians this is only two or three hours a week. Christian fellowship is a beneficial relationship between the believers in the body of Christ, and it is enabled by the grace of God. For the believer, who is united to God by the indwelling Holy Spirit, in the same manner so is each member of the body of Christ. To have complete unity with Christ and the Father, we must have complete unity with one another. Christian fellowship reinforces our spiritual mindset as we help one another to focus on Christ and his desires, and his eternal plan in our lives.

John 17: 20 – 23,....neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word, that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us....and the glory which thou gavest me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one, I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one....

Just as Christ prayed for the unity of all believers which comes through his indwelling Holy Spirit, so should we pray for that unity. Gods desire for the church, which is his body, is that all would be unified in his spirit and in his truth. Our characteristics should reflect those of the Godhead itself, which is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Unity in the body of Christ is the spirit of his love within us, which is the love of God indwelling within us. This means that we are to consider the needs of others before our own. Christ himself prayed that our lives would be so in tune with one another that our relationship with other believers would reflect the relationship between himself and the Father.

We are going to go to the book of Hebrews and learn what it means when Paul said, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.

Hebrews 10: 23 – 25,....let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering....let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works....not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....but exhorting one another....

The truth of the profession of our faith is shown by the way in which we live our Christian life. Our Christian life goes far beyond just ourselves. We are part of the family of God, made up of many individuals, who are joined together, to edify one another, support one another, worship together, and work together to express to all humanity Gods purpose and plan, which is the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth in the body of Christ is accomplished as we eliminate all worldly conversation, which causes doubt and confusion, our spiritual growth begins when we put our focus upon the word of God.

To do this, we must:

Colossians 3: 1 – 2,....if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above....set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth....

Our salvation should not be based upon our emotional feelings but on the truth of God's word. Although we still live in a sinful body, through the indwelling Holy Spirit we identify with Christ. The spiritual nature of our salvation should be outwardly demonstrated by the truth of Gods word.

Romans 12: 1 – 2,....I beseech you therefore brethren....that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice....and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God....

As believers, we are called to be a reflection of Christ. If we are to overcome the worldliness, then we must continually, which is daily, through the word, and prayer, allow the Holy Spirit to influence our thoughts, so that we may be mindful of Christ, so that the desires of his heart, becomes the desires of our heart. The importance of focusing on Christ, focusing on things that are true and honest is necessary to bring our every thought into the perfect will of God. It is so true that we become like the one in which we spend the most time with.

This brings us to the topic of our text:

Hebrews 10: 24 – 25,....let us consider one another....not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....

Although we use this text to profess that Christians should gather together in a church setting to worship and to learn about Christ, as I stated, if we only relied upon the time that we spend together in church to secure our own spiritual faith and maturity, I do not believe that this can be done in two or three hours a week. So, what does this text mean? It speaks of every individual of the body of Christ and the concern that we should have for one another so that we do not allow worldliness to overcome our faith and that we should put our hope in the promises of God. As believers, we are to encourage one another, to love, and to do good works in God, looking forward to the glorious appearing of Christ at his return.

2 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 3,....we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word....as that the day of Christ is at hand....let no man deceive you by any means....

We are not to forsake this assembling, but we are to comfort one another one another in the hope of Christ return. This means that we are not to forsake, but comfort one another in the hope of gathering together at Christ return. To forsake this would mean that we are forsaking the very thing that our salvation is all about, which is not only our eternal life in Christ, but also that of all humanity.

Titus 2: 12 – 14,....teaching us that....we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world....looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ....who gave himself for us that he might redeem us....and purify unto himself a peculiar people....

This blessed hope is a privilege that is given to all who are saved by grace through faith in Christ. This should motivate all believers to encourage each member of the body of Christ to steadfastly anticipate the Lord's return. This anticipation should inspire us to work the works that God has given unto us to do. Our blessed hope is in the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of God's word, and the trust that we put in his promises.

Romans 8: 38 – 39,....for I am persuaded that (nothing)shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord....

How important is our fellowship as Christians? It is what keeps the deception of worldliness from putting any doubt in our minds that Christ will one day return for his church. Our fellowship with one another is of no less importance than our fellowship with Christ, which should be daily encouragement, and if not in person or in an assembly, then through prayer, praying always for the strength of the body of Christ to be a witness of the hope of his resurrection and his return, and our eternal life with him.

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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