Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.24.2022

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.

Ezekiel Brings Hope to Israel

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14

When all hope seems lost, we can look to God and to his word for understanding and know that there is no lost causes with God. This comes from our understanding of what God has already provided and done for us, because as believers, we already know the blessings of our salvation. But there will be times, when deception, and the enticements of this world will blind our eyes to the glory that we have in Christ. This is due to our lack of obedience to Gods word, which causes us to wonder why our Christian life is not working according to our expectations. God wants us to know the necessity and requirements of our salvation, which will give unto us the assurance of our hope, and the eternal perspective that we need, to endure and persevere in our spiritual life in Christ. Even though God has opened our eyes through his Son, we must still seek him through his word, so that we may come to a greater understanding of the truth.

Psalm 42: 11,…..why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God….

There are times, that the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit will encourage us to combat our negative thoughts and feelings, and to tell ourselves, not to get upset, and not to let our feelings get the best of us, but to have confidence in God. Confidence is not about what the future holds, it is about the one who holds the future. The best wat to overcome self-pity is to offer up thanksgiving to God. Confidence is not built on our feelings; it is built on trusting in Gods word. No matter what our worldly emotions tell us, we can hold fast to Gods word, for his word is alive and never changing.

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 2,….the hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit….and set me down in the midst of the valley….full of bones….there were very many….they were very dry….

God gave the vision of the dry bones as a sign. Israel was dead as a nation, deprived of the land that God had promised to them, they were divided, and dispersed, their restoration seemed impossible to them. This vision symbolized Gods plan for Israel’s future restoration, which could only happen by Gods power.

So, what can we learn from this vision given to Ezekiel?

How important it is for us to understand our need for the hand of the Lord to be upon us as we continue daily in his will, being led by the power of the Holy Spirit. This power is revealed unto the believer so that we might thrive in our spiritual maturity, and live a life of faith, enjoying the victory of the promises of God.

1 Peter 5: 6,….humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time….

All believers long to be glorified, this is because we are made in his image, and he has instilled within us the desire to be exalted. In order for this to happen, we must trust God to exalt us at the right time and in the right place, as he sees fit. As we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of the Lord, he will set us in the place where our willingness to serve will glorify him the most, which will be in the midst of those, who are spiritually dead. As we look at the world around us, there are many who are spiritually dead, and due to the deception of the sinfulness in the world, the need is very great.

Ezekiel 37: 3 – 6,….he said unto me….can these bones live….I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest….he said unto me, prophesy….and say….hear the word of the Lord….thus saith the Lord….I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live….and ye shall know that I am the Lord….

As believers, we are called to speak the word of the Lord and to proclaim the message of Gods saving grace to those who are spiritually dead. Those who are spiritually dead can only be brought back or revived by the word of God. This means being freed from the bondage of sin and brought into the security of the body of Christ.

Often time, we may feel that this is an impossible task, but God assures us through his word, that in faith believing, the Holy Spirit will come and indwell within us and bring newness of life to those who once were spiritually dead.

2 Timothy 4: 2,….preach the word….

Romans 10: 8,….the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that is, the word of faith, which we preach….

As Christians, we are instructed to proclaim the truth of Gods word, for his word is life, and to preach the truth of Gods word is to preach Christ, and Christ crucified and resurrected, with no compromise. Preaching the truth requires us to be obedient to the truth, which encourages the body of Christ to reflect the character of the grace and mercy of God.

Ezekiel 37: 7 – 10,….So I prophesied as I was commanded….and behold….the bones came together….the sinews and the flesh….and the skin….but there was no breath in them….then said he unto me, prophesy….come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these….that they may live….so I prophesied….and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet….

There is no limit to what God can do when we are obedient and proclaim his word. We are created by the power of God, but we remain lifeless, spiritually, until we believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and receive the indwelling Holy Spirit. Once we are saved and we receive the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit, then we become a vital part of the body of Christ, an invaluable asset to God.

Proverbs 3: 1 – 4,….forget not my law….let thine heart keep my commandments….let not mercy and truth forsake thee….write them upon the table of your heart….so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man….

Our faith in the word of God is his will for our lives. God is the beginning and the end of all knowledge. Trusting God means setting aside our own desires and doing his will. The plans that God has for us as believers goes far beyond our knowledge and understanding. His wisdom and knowledge are above our limited thoughts, and we should take him at his word, for his word is quick and powerful and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ( Hebrews 4: 12 )

Ezekiel 37: 11 – 14,….these bones are the whole house of Israel….therefore prophesy I say….I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel….you shall know that I am the Lord….and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live….I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord….

Even though this prophecy is not about the church, as believers we can use it as a lesson learned concerning what the power of God can do. Because of sin, humanity is separated from God, spiritually dead. Through Gods plan of salvation, we can be made spiritually alive in Christ, restored into a newness of life in him. Through the resurrection, Christ has given unto us power over the grave just as he himself was given power over the grave by his heavenly Father. Gods promise to us is himself, through the Son, guaranteed by the indwelling Holy Spirit. With this comes the truth of the promises of his word and the hope of 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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