

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

7.3.2022

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.

Loving God

Matthew 27: 37

In **1 John** chapter **4**, verse **9**, it says:

In this was manifested the love of God toward us because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him....

As Christians, we know, and we understand that God is love, that God loves everyone, and that God's love is so great that he gave his only Son to die for mankind's sin and was resurrected. His word provides us with the evidence of just how great his love is for all humanity. And although God has given unto mankind the greatest possible example of his love, in this mortal body, we will never understand the depth of God's love for mankind. God gave his best so that mankind might be enabled to live his life in God's great love. This great example should motivate all of humanity to believe, to accept, and to serve in the full capacity of God's love. For this reason, we find many promises in God's word that shows his love toward mankind. But, what about our love for him? God's love does not consist of our love for him, but our love does consist of his love for us. We have the choice in our life to either receive or to reject the love that God has to give. If we choose not to accept his gracious love, then we will have no love to give. We must not only recognize our need for God's love, but also our need to give love unto others. All of this starts with God's love toward us, and the expression of his love within us for him.

Matthew 22: 37,.... Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind....

Love for God and his love for others is the fulfillment of our salvation. In order to love God, we must truly come to know God. True love does not come through worldly emotions, but it comes by trusting in God in every part of our being.

1 John 4: 19,.... we love him, because he first loved us....

It is only because of God's love for us that we are able to love him. This perfect love has no beginning and no end, for it is eternal. God's love for us comes from the perfection of his character, therefore our love for him can only come from the perfection of our character in him.

Christ himself told his disciples:

Matthew 5: 48,.... be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect....

Our perfect character in God is not a sinless perfection, for a sinless perfection cannot be achieved while living this mortal life here on earth. This perfect character that Christ speaks about is our growth in our spiritual maturity to godliness. Only in Christ Jesus can we become mature and complete, lacking in nothing, as we reach toward the goal of our calling in him.

1 John 2: 5,.... but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected, here by we know that we are in him....

Our love for God means that we hear his word, we know his word, we trust in his word, and we keep his word. The only way that we can love God is to let the love of Christ dwell within us and this comes by the word of God.

Hearing his word:

Romans 10: 17,....so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God....

Knowing his word:

Psalms 119: 11,....thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee....

Trusting in his word:

Romans 1: 16 – 17,....for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ....for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith....

Keeping Gods word:

John 14: 21,....he that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me....

The word helps us to demonstrate Gods love, which is a pure, perfect love. It is our faithful obedience to the word that gives unto us the ability to follow after the will of God, which is influenced within us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Those who reject the word, reject Christ, those who reject Christ, reject God. Those who truly love God are those who accept him in faith believing and receive the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Loving God is self-sacrifice, which means that we are seeking him and not our own.

Romans 12: 1,....I beseech you therefore, brethren....present your bodies a living sacrifice....

There is no comparing the salvation that we have received from God to anything else. This is because, through salvation, we are the very being of the likeness of the living Christ. The only way that we can ever repay God is by offering ourselves to him through love.

John 3: 16,....for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life....

1 John 3: 16,....herby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren....

Christ laid down his life so that we might have eternal life. Through his sacrifice, his shed blood paid the ultimate price for sin so that we no longer should be separated from the Father through the sinful nature of the fallen man. In like manner we are to lay down our lives, giving up the sinful nature of the fallen man, and taking upon ourselves a new spirit filled nature in Christ. This then shows us, by example, that Gods love abides in us. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit we can now show Gods love by showing the love of his salvation to all humanity.

Deuteronomy 7: 9,....know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keepeth his commandments to a thousand generations....

Loving God means knowing God and often time, this not only means sacrifice, but it means being faithful, showing mercy and grace, by proclaiming the love of God to all mankind. Gods promises to us, who are his body, the church, that his promises stand sure and firm. As we trust in him, and turn everything over to him, then he can work in us by his power, his strength, and his love. By this, the Holy Spirit conforms us into the likeness of his Son, Christ. To understand this means that we know that God is the true and living God and shows unto us what it means to love the Lord our 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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