

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.21.2022

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.

Ananias Heals Saul

Acts 9: 10 - 20

Having faith in the Lord means doing that which he has commanded us to do, even if we do come up with what we believe to be good reasoning for why that we do not think that his commands is a good idea. It is at these times in our lives that we must share our doubts and fears with the Lord, and he will give unto each of us the strength to carry out his will. God wants us to come to him, convinced that he is the one true God, and that the wisdom in which he bestows upon us through the indwelling Holy Spirit is trustworthy. Doubting Gods wisdom will likely result in our looking to worldly wisdom for the answers that we are searching for, which will result in sacrificing our service unto him. Humanities response to difficult situations in life will either cause us to doubt Gods goodness or it will increase our trust in his grace and power. Trials that we face are designed to test our dependence on God, and to strengthen our faith in him so that we may receive his mercy and grace in time of need. Through his word, we will come to a deeper knowledge of Christ and a more secure trust in God.

Psalm 138: 8,....the Lord will perfect that which concerneth me, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever, forsake not the works of thine own hand....

When God takes our life in a direction that we were not expecting, we can easily become frustrated and discouraged. We then begin to worry and wonder how that this direction is going to affect our life. Through the promises of his word, God will show unto us that the reality of our life is that he will work out his plans for us. As we put our confidence in him, he will work all things together for his purpose.

Acts 9: 10 – 14,....there was a certain disciple....named Ananias....to him said the Lord....Ananias, and he said, behold, I am here, Lord....the Lord said unto him, arise and go....for one called Saul....hath seen in a vision....Ananias coming....Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he has done to thy servants....here he hath authority....to bind all that call on thy name....

Although we are eager to serve, we often allow temptation and deception to hold us back through worldly fear.

1 Peter 3: 13 – 14,....and who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled....

As Christians, we should always seek to do good, even to those who we feel may want to harm us. We have security in knowing that God is paying attention to those that are doing his righteous works, even in the midst of our persecutions and sufferings. As believers, we will face trials and tribulations, but we are to continue to strive after that which is good, because we have the assurance that the indwelling Holy Spirit is greater than all that is in the world.

1 John 4: 4,....greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world....

Romans 8: 31 – 39,....if God be for us, who can be against us?....for I am persuaded....(nothing) can separate us from the love of God....

Even when we are faithless, God is faithful, because he does not deny the promises in his word to us. Nothing is beyond Gods control, and nothing can separate us from his love. As we recognize Gods calling on our lives, our reaction is either one of spiritual joy, or worldly fear. Christ wants to build up our confidence in him, as his servants, and as his servant he has invested many talents and gifts in us. God has given unto us these unique gifts, so that we can use them to direct lost souls unto him. Through the word, God challenges us to be more Christlike, which means less of ourselves, and more of his love, because it is his love that will help us to overcome our worldly fears and live the life that God has called us to live.

Acts 9: 15 – 20,....the Lord said....go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto me....I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my names sake....Ananias went his way and entered into the house....the Lord, even Jesus....hath sent me, that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost....immediately....he received sight....and arose, and was baptized....and when he received meat, he was strengthened....and straightway he preached Christ....that he is the Son of God....

The power of God can transform even the toughest of sinners, and we must receive and encourage these new converts to follow after the will and the love of the Lord. What a remarkable showing of Gods power, when he takes someone that is very destructive in the world and transforms them into a servant that can be used by him. We are chosen vessels of God, predestined, and prepared for good works. It is a great motivation for us to know that God has chosen us, and has given unto us his mercy and grace, and has made us his workmanship, designed to fulfill his purpose, and glorify him.

John 15: 16,....ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain....

In order for us to receive the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we must, by faith, choose to believe upon Christ and his crucifixion and resurrection. Once this transformation process takes place, then we begin to understand the meaning of Christ choosing us. Gods desire, and intent, is that we abide in his Son, Christ, eagerly committing to the work that he has called unto us to do. This comes through his word that abides in us, his word drives our thoughts and our desires, and it aligns our will with Gods will. We are chosen by God to bear fruit and we are to become his witnesses, appointed to spread the good news of the gospel of Gods word to all who will hear and believe. All who have been saved by grace, through faith in Christ, are called upon to abide in Christ, and by this, we have been given the responsibility of bringing forth the gospel of Christ, in any place, where and when he has appointed us.

Jeremiah 1: 4 – 8,....the word of the Lord came unto me, saying....before I found thee in the belly I knew thee....before thou camest forth from the womb I sanctified thee, I ordained thee....then said I....I cannot speak, for I am a child....the Lord said....thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee....be not ashamed....for I am with thee, to deliver thee....

Like Jeremiah, we are called, and once that we have made the choice to receive, only then can God choose us to be commissioned to minister unto others the love of his saving grace. We then have the assurance that the Lord knows us, and that he has scheduled each day of our life in him. Even though, often time, we may doubt our ability in God, he reassures us that the calling on our life is by his divine revelation. And, although we will experience many hardships, loneliness, pain, and rejection, the Lord is still going to use us to help further Gods redemptive plan of salvation. Gods calling is on the lives of all who will trust in Christ by faith, and God will use all whom he calls upon to help in the furtherance of his redemptive plan, but only if we are willing to submit to him and submit to be used by 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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