

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

8.14.2022

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, Loving Thy Neighbor

Mark 12:31

God has showed unto us just how much that he loved us when he sent his only begotten Son into the world to become a sacrifice, and pay our sin debt, so that we might have eternal life with him, which comes through him. This is true, unconditional love, that can only be received from the Father, who commands all believers to express this love unto others. Now when God commands us to do something, even though there are times that we will second guess his authority, there should be no misconception concerning his authority, and therefore there should be no debate on whether his authority is right or wrong. Once we have accepted Gods love, then we must learn to spiritually loves others. We must find our own self worth in the Lord before we can begin to find it in others. We come to the understanding that it is very important to love others just as God has loved us, but we also understand that this is not a simple task. Loving others requires the entirety of our righteousness in God, we must not let self-righteousness get in the way. In order to love others, we must show compassion, kindness, and forgiveness because loving others means loving everyone.

John 13: 34,....a new covenant I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another....

When our sorrow seems so intense that we cannot go on, remember this commandment of divine perfection that Christ gave unto his disciples and that is the commandment to love others as I (Christ) has loved you.

Just like the disciples, the reasoning behind our sorrows is the lack of understanding concerning the new life of Christ living within us.

Galatians 2: 20,....I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

However hard that we may try, no one can love us as Christ hath loved us. Humanity will try to do this through the power of their own sinful flesh or through their own human imperfections, but with no success. It is only by submitting to the leading of the Holy Spirit that we are able to follow after the will of God while we still remain in this perishable body. But God also promises that one day we will exchange this mortal body for an immortal body.

1 Corinthians 15: 53,....for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality....

This is the greatest mystery revealed unto us as believers, that the moment in which we trusted in Christ as our savior, our new life in Christ was born. When this old nature was crucified in Christ and our new life in Christ was born, it was with the promise that it will live forever more. This comes from a love that even though we will never fully understand it, God still wants us to share it with others.

Mark 12: 31,....and the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself....

Loving others is a command given unto us that fulfills the part of the law that relates to the last six of the ten commandments. This means that when loving others, we do not steal from them, we do not murder them, we care for those who are in need, we protect those who are vulnerable, and we do not persuade others to participate in something that will enslave them. As we begin to understand the meaning of love thy neighbor as thyself, it is then that we will begin to understand the spiritual meaning of these last six commandments, and we will take into consideration how that they encompass all that God has in store for us to do when it comes to loving our neighbor.

Today we ask ourselves this question, how do we love our neighbor as ourselves?

1 Corinthians 10: 24,....let no man seek his own, but everyman another's wealth....

A believer's example of salvation, and his influence toward others should not be guided according to his own comfort or gratification, but it should be guided by his concern for the salvation of others. This means that we are to seek the spiritual well being of others and we are not to pursue our own good works over another's faith in Christ.

Philippians 2: 3,....let nothing be done through strife or vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other before themselves....

A common problem in the world today is division, this is due to being taught that we should only look out for oneself. False teaching will bring this misconception into the church, which corrupts the unity in the body of Christ. The unity in the body of Christ is that which allows each member to value each other above themselves. Living a life centered in Christ means living by the leadership of the Holy Spirit which helps us to show others love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, which are the fruits of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Philippians 3: 10,....that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death....

Humility is the key to overcoming the temptation of sin so that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ. It is his resurrection power that works in the lives of all those who believe upon his name. As we remain steadfast to the obedience of God's word, it is then that we will learn the greatness of our life in Christ, and what it means to know him, and also what it means to be likened unto him.

1 John 4: 10 – 11,....herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (atonement) for our sins....beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another....

God's love is past, present, and future, and it is a divine love that cannot be compared to any other. As we learn to love others, can we truly say that it is a love that is divine and only comparable to God's love. Being redeemed and indwelt with the Holy Spirit means that we are transformed from a non-compassion able, unsympathetic, antagonistic sinner into an obedient and mature servant of God, having the same godly nature as Christ himself, full of his mercy and his grace.

1 Corinthians 15: 10,....by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me....

The simple, saving, gospel truth is Christ and him crucified. We are not only chosen by God, but through the scriptures we are shown the many mysteries of God's word so that we might be enabled to faithfully present the saving grace of Jesus Christ to all those who will hear and believe. We must be willing to suffer, and also to be ready to affirm, not crediting to ourselves any accomplishments by our own might or our own power, but that by God's grace that he has granted unto us we are to be ready to affirm our salvation for God's greater glory.

All around us are sinful works that are there to distract us, and to deter us from experiencing God's eternal plan. If we allow this in our life it will cause us to lose sight of the vision that God desires for us in our life in Christ. Understanding our purpose according to the promises of God's word means having the ability to know who that we are, why that we are here, where it is that we are going, and what it is that we should be accomplishing according to God's perspective in our life, which means that we are not only to love the Lord thy God with all our heart, but we are to love thy neighbor as thyself.

Let us Pray.

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