

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

9.11.2022

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.

Christ Brings Eternal Purpose to Our Lives

Ephesians 3: 8 – 12

The word of God, if we are obedient, will reveal unto us, Gods plan and purpose for us, within the body of Christ, and this is all determined by God the Father himself. More than just an accumulation of stories and religious teachings, which those who just read the scriptures view it as, Gods word reveals unto us, that before the foundations of the world as we know it, God determined a plan of salvation for all of humanity. Through the study and meditation of his word, the Holy Spirit will help us to see the eternal purpose that Christ, through his saving grace, will bring into our lives. Gods eternal plan required Christ to come and to live upon this earth as a man, give his life as a sacrifice for our sin, and then was resurrected by the Father, and now sits in his eternal glory, at the Fathers right hand. Therefore, we can be redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, and where some will receive the eternal kingdom prepared for them, others will receive eternal punishment. So, God had a purpose, determined before the world began, and this purpose involved a plan whereby all mankind can be forgiven of their sins.

Hebrews 6: 17 – 20,....God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath....that by two immutable things....it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation....to lay hold upon the hope set before us....which hope we have as an anchor of the soul....ever Jesus, made an high priest....

Gods' oath, or the promise of his word is absolutely reliable, because these promises are based on the very nature of God. God is the sovereign (or supreme) God of the universe, he is omnipotent, which is all powerful, he is omniscience, which is all knowing, and he is omnipresent, which means that his presence is everywhere, and at all times. He is the creator of all things, master of all things, ruler over all things, he is the giver of life, which is to say our physical life here on earth, and if we believe upon his Son, by faith believing, he is the giver of eternal life with him. He is the head of the body of Christ.

So, what are these two immutable things that will give unto us our eternal purpose. The first thing is Gods promise of Christ living within us, which means that through the crucifixion and the resurrection, God has given unto us the ability to receive the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The second thing is Gods promise of his word, which is founded upon the unchanging truth of his righteousness. These two immutable, which is unchanging things are represented by the entirety of the scripture.

Ephesians 3: 8 – 12,....unto me, who am less then the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach....the unsearchable riches of Christ....and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery....to the intent that now....might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God....according to the eternal purpose which is purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord....In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by faith of him....

All of humanity are specifically appointed by God, had we not been appointed by God we would not have been born. Sadly, not all who are appointed accept their appointment. For those who do accept their appointment, we do understand that we have received it by grace, through faith. We also understand that Gods ways are beyond our understanding, therefore, our ministry is from God and not by our own design. As we recognize Gods incredible mercy and grace, it is then that we judge ourselves to be the very least of all who are in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11: 31,....for if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged....

As believers we can avoid the judgement of God if we judge ourselves first, but it must be with sincerity, according to our obedience to the word of God. This means that we must search our own lives, by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, so that we may see the sinfulness that separates us from our fellowship with God, and then we must accept the opportunity to confess these sins so that we might be forgiven, and our fellowship with God restored. If we fail to judge ourselves, and if we fail to honestly confess our sin to God, then will we face the consequences of that sinfulness through his righteous discipline. It is only because we are redeemed and identified with Christ that we have the privilege to fellowship with him.

Hebrews 12: 1 – 2,....let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us....looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....

The proper response of a Christian is to purposefully repent of our sin with its selfish righteousness and strive to fulfill the plans that God has in store for us. Christ as our ultimate example, shewed unto us the possibility of living a righteous life in God. He did so by resisting all of the temptations that were put before him, with the firm understanding, that his suffering was a part of Gods eternal plan.

1 John 1: 9,....if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness....

Even though we are justified by grace through faith in Christ, sin still seems to retain some authority in our lives, and often time, we are willing to be influenced, through the temptation and the deception of this sinfulness. Although nothing can break our union with God, sin severs our communion with God and breaks our fellowship with him. If we take every thought captive and walk in the light of our life in Christ, and if we confess our sinful acts and attitudes, then Christ will forgive us, and cleanse us, and restore us into his righteousness.

Ephesians 3: 11,....according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord....

God has always known his plans for us and has revealed them unto us through his word exactly the way in which he has prepared them for us to live by. Therefore, God will work all things according to the counsel of his will. This plan was revealed in Christ, who is the fulfillment of the scripture. Even though mankind has always known about Gods eternal plan, they did not understand it, nor did they want to understand it. Many in the church today still do not understand the significance of Christs sinless life, and his sacrificial death and resurrection.

2 Timothy 1: 9 – 10,....who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began....but is now made manifest by the appearing of our savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel....

Salvation is not the basis of great deeds, but only comes by the power of God. It is Gods purpose and grace that is revealed in the calling of every person. We must all come to recognize that our work is not based upon our own self-righteousness, but on the divine calling of God on our lives. Because we have been saved, we have a holy calling. We are called to be set apart unto God, and to live a godly life that is well pleasing unto him. God saves us, and then calls us to live a holy life, and he did this not because we deserved it, but because this was his plan for us from the beginning of time, so that Christ, by Gods mercy and grace might bring his eternal purpose into our lives.

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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