

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

10.30.2022

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.

Building A Christians Life, Part 1 What To Do

A Continuation of If The Lord Will

James 4: 13 – 15

Do this, don't do that, there are many people today who will tell us that in order to be a Christian there are certain things that we must do, and certain things that we must not do, and we are talking about man made rules, regulations, and rituals. Because of this, many have turned away from the gospel of Christ, due to man's own self-righteous interpretation of the word of God. Christianity is not based upon what man tells us that we should or should not do, but it is based upon the truth of God's word. God did not give unto us his word so that we may interpret it as a checklist to get into heaven, but he gave it unto us as a schoolmaster, to lead us into a relationship with his Son, Jesus Christ. To show unto us that we are all sinners in need of a savior.

Galatians 3: 24 – 26,....wherefore this law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith....but after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster....for ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus....

False teachings will portray that all of humanity are children of God, and that all are Sons of God, and therefore, all one day will live eternally with God, but nothing could be further from the truth. Only those who are saved by grace through faith in Christ are given the right to become Sons of God. There are two types of people living in this grace dispensation period, believers, and non-believers. The believers are those who are saved by grace, being made alive in Christ, and are at peace with God, eternally freed from condemnation. Non-believers are those who have rejected Gods saving grace, and if they continue to reject him, they will remain lost, dead in their trespasses and sins, facing Gods righteous judgement of eternal condemnation. Now, when the gospel is preached, and the truth of God's word is distorted, it is then that the characteristics of God are twisted in such a manner, that the love of God and his eternal blessings is all that is being taught. This is being done with no regard or teaching of the consequences, and of the judgment of God, that will fall upon the sinful man, who has rejected the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Those who falsely proclaim the word of God will be judged for portraying their lack of knowledge as the truth, in order to gain worldly stature, which came at the expense of the truth of God's word.

So, are there do's and don'ts when it comes to living a Christian life, absolutely, but these do's and don'ts must not be derived from man's opinion or interpretations, but they must come from the truth of the word of God.

So, according to the truth of God's word, what would be at the top of the to do list when it comes to building a Christian life.

That would be becoming a Christian, for there is no way to build something if it is not a reality to begin with.

John 3: 1 – 7,....there was a man....named Nicodemus....Jesus....said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God....marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again....

Humanity, no matter how good they are, cannot win salvation from God by all the good deeds that they do. Salvation can only be gained through faith in Christ and believing upon him.

Ephesians 2: 8,....for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God....

Becoming a Christian is a free gift that is available to every person, and it comes from God. Salvation has nothing to do with a man's self-worth nor does it have anything to do with man's worthlessness. Salvation also has nothing to do with our merits or good deeds, and it has nothing to do with anything that we have done, nor does it have anything to do with that which we think that we can do to please God.

However, Salvation has everything to do with Christ, and the work that he has done for us on the cross. To begin building a Christian life, all that we must do is to trust in the Lord, have faith in him, and believe upon him.

Becoming a Christian is just the beginning of our spiritual life, now we must begin to build on our life in Christ. There are some, who would say that we cannot build a Christian life without first receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. The truth of God word tells us that when we are saved, we are indwelled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1: 12 – 14,....who first trusted in Christ....in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance....

The moment in which we believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit, which was a promise given unto us by God the Father. This comforter produces in the hearts of the believer our security in Christ and our eternal safety in the hands of God. This seal cannot be broken, for we were bought with a price, covered with the redeeming blood of Christ, stamped with the seal of ownership, unto our eternal inheritance.

Since we are indwelled with the Holy Spirit when we are saved, this means that the next step we must take in the right direction to building our life with Christ would be to listen to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1: 12 – 13,....unto who it was revealed....unto us they did minister the things....unto you by them that preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven....wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ....

As Christians, we are to live our lives in a Godly manner, with the responsibilities and duties that come with being saved by grace through faith in Christ. Listening to the Holy Spirit will help us in our preparation for every circumstance that will try to overcome us in our Christian walk. When we are faced with difficulties, our hearts can become unsettled, and our minds can become confused. As we listen to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are given the power of self-discipline and self-control. This will give unto us, stability, in our walk with Christ, for it strengthens our trust in God, and will help us to rest securely in the promise of the hope of Christ and his return for his people.

Building a Christian life, which is our life in Christ, through listening to and abiding by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit can be summed up with two commandments.

Matthew 22: 37 – 40,....thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind....thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself....

The truth of God's word is most important in our life in Christ. Mankind will always have an opinion, a rule, a regulation, a ritual, but God's word stands true.

Psalm 119: 89,....forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven....

Therefore, we must refrain from listening to the gospel as spoken by the knowledge of man, and we must learn to follow after the word of God, for it is the word of God that is the gospel of the truth.

Let us Pray.

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