

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

10.9.2022

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.

Upon This Rock Part 1

Matthew 16: 13 – 19

As Christians, we have perceived, and believed, an essential truth about Christ, and that is, Christ is the fulfilment of Gods promise of a savior, Christ is also the Son of God, and is the divine glory of the Father. Not knowing this truth about Christ would mean that we are living a lie. The outcome of that which humanity believes about Christ will be the consequences of their own eternity, which means either eternal life with God, or eternal damnation in hell. Since everyone has sinned, then everyone will face the death penalty, because death is that which mankind has earned according to their deeds. Therefore, all humanity needs salvation, which means that through the saving grace of Jesus Christ we are delivered from a fate that surely would bring eternal death. Even though it is possible for mankind to go through their life doing good works, still all have sinned.

Romans 3:23,....for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God....

So, how do we escape the deserving wrath of our sinful state, because even when we know the consequences of our sinfulness, it is still not enough to keep us from sinning. This means that no one deserves heaven, for we all have earned separation from God as a result of our own actions, but God has given unto us the opportunity to be redeemed.

Romans 3: 24,....being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus....

Through God's grace, it is possible for humanity to be justified, it is a free gift of receiving that which is good, when we deserve only that which is bad. This is our opportunity to be included in his family and to participate in his divine glory, and it all comes through his Son, Christ, when on the cross he paid the ransom debt owed, because our sin had us held captive, and we were unable to be included in the family of God. As mortal human beings we will never be able to comprehend all the cost that Christ had to pay so that the world could be saved. All we can do is to accept his free gift, by faith believing, in who he is and what he has done for mankind.

This morning we are going to be asking ourselves the same two questions that Christ ask of his disciples, and he did so, that they might understand in part, what it was that needed to take place, so that mankind might choose to follow after God and accept his eternal life.

Matthew 16: 13 – 19,....Jesus came....he ask his disciples....whom do men say, that I the Son of man am? Some say....John the Baptist, some Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets....he saith....but who say ye that I am....Simon Peter answered and said, thou art Christ, the Son of the living God....Jesus answered....blessed art thou....for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven....and I say....thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church....and I will give unto thee the keys....of heaven....

The first question that Christ ask his disciples concerning humanity and their state of mind as it portrays Christ was, whom do men say that I the Son of Man am? Why would Christ want his disciples to understand what others thought, and why would Christ want Christians, in today's grace dispensation period, understand what others think, and it is quite possible, that our attitude today, even as Christians, would probably be that of, why would I care about what others think.

First, we must remember, and realize that Gods reasoning is far beyond our understanding. With this in mind, God wants us to see mans reasoning so that we might compare it to the word of God, because many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24: 11 – 14,....many false prophets shall rise, and deceive many....because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold....he that shall endure to the end shall be saved....

This was not only what the disciples were to expect, but also what we should continually be expecting, and others after us, even to the end of the ages. These false prophets will not only persecute man, but they will distort the truth of the word of God and deceive many. They will be convincing, and they will distract people away from the truth of who Christ truly is.

Secondly, we must know who Christ is for the reason of prayerfully keeping others in our thoughts and in our hearts, so that God may work a work through us, so that we may become an example of his saving grace to others.

1 Timothy 2: 1 – 4,....first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men....for this is good and acceptable in the spirit of God....who will have all men to be saved,,,,

The word of God expresses the importance of the need for the church to pray for all of humanity. As Christians, our burden for all who are struggling in disobedience to Christ, and for all who are perishing without Christ, should be motivation for us to pray always that God would use not only ourselves but also others in the body of Christ, so that all might through some effort come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Prayer is for our benefit, so therefore prayer is a necessity.

Jeremiah 33: 2 – 3,....thus saith the Lord....call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew them great and mighty things, which thou knowest not....

If we are to be involved with Gods eternal plan, then we must be praying in line with his eternal plan. Not only do we need all kinds of prayers ourselves, but we also need to pray for all kinds of people, so that all may know who Christ is. There is no person who is to lost and undone in sin that God's grace cannot reach them, and even if there is no opportunity to speak to someone about Christ, there is always opportunity to speak to God about others.

Ezekiel 18: 23,....have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God, and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

So, who do we say that God is? The word of God explicitly points out that there will be people that die from their sins and die in their sins. However, God does not take pleasure in the eternal death of the sinner. God would rather see sinners accept his Son through faith believing and live eternally with him. God is a God of love, not of judgement and destruction, and he would that every believer should seek salvation, for all of mankind. Our desire in the will of God is to be an example to every person no matter how good or how wicked that we think that they might be. Our prayer should be one that God can turn the hearts of the non-believer, through faith believing, and bring salvation rather than eternal death.

John 17: 20 – 24,....neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word....that they all may be one....Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am....

Christ truly is the Son of the living God, and we are certain of this because his word is faithful and true, and we stand fast in his unbreakable word. As we live our lives as an example of the gospel of grace, may it overflow into the lives of all of those around us, to the glory of 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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