

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

10.16.2022

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 2

Matthew 16: 13 – 19

Salvation today, means the same as it did yesterday, and will still mean the same tomorrow, and forever, and this means that salvation is when we fully rely upon Jesus Christ as our savior. There is no one else on whom humanity can depend upon for salvation. With this then being the truth, it is up to us to choose, whether or not to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and then it is also up to us to choose whether or not we will live our lives differently from the world, due to our faith in him. It all comes down to having faith, and believing, that Christ truly is the Son of the Living God.

John 14: 9,....have I been so long with you, and yet hast thou noy known me....he that hath seen me hath seen the Father....

Just as we profess Christ as the Son of the living God, Christ desire for us, is to profess within ourselves, the characteristics of the living God. Christ actions are perfectly in accordance with Gods plan and his will. As Christians, our actions should be in accordance to the will of God. Nothing that Christ said or done was a contradiction to the sovereignty of God. As believers, we must always be in sink with Gods eternal plan. Christs actions were always a confirmation of the Fathers will. Our actions through the obedience of God's word, confirms the justifying will of God. We also understand as Christians that everything which Christs speaks unto us, is a statement from the Father himself. Our speech should always be, God speaking through us by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then there are the works of God, everything that Christ does is consistent with the nature of the Father. We must ask ourselves, is everything that we do consistent with the nature of God. In order, for us to profess Christ as the Son of the living God, we must posses the characteristics of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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....

As Christians, we should understand that Christ is our promise of salvation and eternal life, and he is also the divine holiness of God. This means, that like Peter, we do not come to this conclusion out of our own worldly knowledge, or the knowledge of others, or even the knowledge that comes through book learning, we come to this reasoning through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and by choosing to participate in the revealing truth of Christ, and then by believing upon him. Through our willingness to testify about the truth of God, are we then blessed with an understanding heart, that in our obedience to study and meditate upon his word, we might grow in our faith, and spiritual maturity, into the knowledge of our place in Gods eternal plan.

We live in a world of distrust, and a world full of adverse opinions, opinions not only of things happening in the world around us, but opinions concerning the religious and eternal standings of mankind. As Christians, we are called to recognize the authority of the truthful teachings of Gods word, and to live our lives in recognition of the promises and commandments' which come from God. The word of God is to be the basis of our authority, and we should allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in using it appropriately in our life.

Matthew 16: 18 – 19,....and I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it....and I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven....

What a great honor and privilege it is for us, that through salvation, we are blessed with becoming a part of the church, which is the body of Christ, of whom Christ himself is the head. We must always remember that we are building blocks in the body of Christ, and it is Christ himself that is the rock and the foundation. Satan will try and deceive us into believing through the word of God that we can be the foundation upon which the kingdom of God is built, and there are those who will believe this, but Christ is the only foundation. When Christ told Peter, thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, he was acknowledging Peter for having the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of knowing that Christ was the Son of the living God, and therefore Christ made unto him the promise that because Christ himself was the Son of the living God and the foundation rock of the church, that Peter would be blessed in becoming a part of the building block that made up the church or the body of Christ. We have that same promise from God, if we will believe upon his Son, Christ. Contrary to what some might teach, God would never build, or base his church upon a mortal man, the foundation of the church must be based upon that which is pure and sinless.

Deuteronomy 32: 3 – 4,....I will publish the name of the Lord, ascribe ye greatness unto our God....he is the rock, his work is perfect....all his ways are judgement, a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right he is....

If God is faithful and he is, and if his promises never fail, and they do not, then why are there times in which we live a defeated life instead of a victorious one. It is because when we are saved, we entered into a covenant with God, and this is a covenant where God gives unto us the entirety of his word, full of promises and commandments, and we, through salvation, promise to live in obedience, according to Gods word. As mortal men we tend to break our promises to God, and therefore fail to honor and glorify his name. God keeps his promises and commandments, everyone, and the outcome and the consequences of this is that God blesses us when we are obedient, and he chastises us when we are not obedient. This is all part of the covenant contract which we agreed to when we had faith and believed upon Christ for eternal life. And in the same way in which we react in many of life's applications, we do not take the time to read and understand the contract that we signed, which was sealed with the blood of Christ, and therefore we suffer the consequences of our mistakes.

1 Corinthians 10: 4,....and all did drink from the same spiritual drink, for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Crist....

No matter who it is, no matter where it is, no matter the time period in which we live, all mankind is saved by grace through faith in Gods promised messiah. Failure to become a sanctified people, failure to mature spiritually, failure to gain Gods promised rest by living the spiritual life for in which we are saved, this will result in our not living a victorious life, but living a defeated life. Every individual is saved by grace through faith in Gods word, so therefore every individual must eat the same spiritual food, and drink the same spiritual water, which is the indwelling Holy Spirit.

John 6: 51,....I am the bread which came down from heaven, if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever, and the bread that I give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world....

Everyone who is saved by grace through faith in Christs finished work on the cross, is part of a new creation, and is given access to live a victorious life through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We are given everything that we need to live a life of goodness through faith in Christ. This means that we all eat of the same spiritual food and drink of the same living water of life. To learn the lessons of godly living, which are laid out in Gods word, we must die to self, and live for him with hearts full of faith, trust and thanksgiving.

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

