

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.20.2022

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.

Following the Example of Christ

Ephesians 5: 1 – 2

Christ love is endless, and available to any who wants it, he is also the greatest teacher that ever lived. Christ's words teach very important lessons, and these lessons describe everyday people in everyday situations, and they are easily understood. God's word touches the hearts of all humanity, and motivates believers to follow him, and to serve others each and every day. God's intention for believers is for us to use his Son, Christ, as an example for every decision, and for all circumstances of our lives, as a guide for that which we should do in our spiritual life. In order, to be successful in our calling, we must continue to grow in following the example of Christ. In this, Christ will live his life in us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we submit ourselves unto him.

So, what does it mean to follow Jesus? Following Christ begins when we repent and believe in faith, the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we turn our attention to the word of God and become obedient to following Christ in our daily lives, then will we learn the fundamentals of following after Christ. Building our life through obedience to God's word, and his wisdom, this then will sustain us in the challenges that we will encounter in our life.

1 John 2: 6,....he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked....

Our goal in life, as believers, is to become like Christ, and the key to following Christ is to consistently, and prayerfully, study and meditate upon the teachings of the gospel of Christ.

Ephesians 5: 1 – 2,....be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children....walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour....

As Christians, we are called to reflect the kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness of God. These qualities come through living a life in spirit and in truth, under the leadership and guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Because of our union with Christ, we are encouraged to follow Christ in our attitudes, and in our actions. We are called to be Christlike, imitating his life and his character, growing in his faith, mercy, and grace, being conformed to his likeness, transformed into his image. The only way that we grow and mature in Gods grace, and in our faith in him, is to put side the characteristics of the old nature that influences the choices that we make, which are unacceptable to God.

Hebrews 12: 1,....seeing we are compassed about....let us lay aside....the sin which doth so easily beset us....

Do we as Christians, imitate Christ in thought, in word, in deed, and in motive. If our life is hidden in Christ, then God, has given unto us the ability to do just that. Our inner life, and our outer behavior and attitude reflects the characteristics of God. Humanity lives in mortality, but our lives can reflect immortality through the saving grace of Christ Jesus. We are to strive to be Christlike, so that others may be able to measure the stature of the fullness of Christ through us. We are the representatives of an omnipotent, omniscience, omnipresent God, as we live our lives here upon this earth.

Colossians 3: 3,....for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God....

The basic aspect of our life in Christ is that we are one with him. This means that every sin that we have ever committed, past, present, and future, was dealt with on the cross, and because of the resurrection, we now share in the same life that Christ has. As believers, we possess eternal life, because just as Christ was raised from the dead, so are we, who are in Christ, raised into newness of life with him.

1 John 2: 6,....he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked....

Our ultimate goal as Christians, is to live like Christ lived in his humanity, and that is in total dependence upon God. This means we are to live as God desires us to live, no matter what circumstances that we face in our life. God knows the importance of our life, but more so he knows the importance of abiding in his Son, Christ. Therefore, we are called to abide in Christ, for without him we can do nothing, and we are powerless to do anything that is of any eternal value that will glorify God. Failure to abide in Christ, means living an unfruitful life, which is of little or no value to Gods eternal purpose and plan. Only as we abide in him, rest in his love, trust in his word, and seek after his will, can we walk in his ways, and bring glory unto God. As we abide in him, we will then be empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, and become an outward example, and a living testimony of the saving grace of Jesus Christ to humanity.

John 15: 4,....abide in me, and I in you....as the branch cannot bare fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me....

It is very important that we have a clear understanding of our relationship with Christ. Through the word of God, we are to understand that Christ is our connection to the Father, and that we must remain attached to him. As part of the body of Christ, and our union with him, we become fruitful, holding fast to him through trusting obedience. Believing in the truth of Gods word gives unto us the assurance that his promises are sure, and that he alone is the sufficiency of our life. We seek to rest in his love, and abide in his grace, moment by moment, day by day. By this will he give unto us the wisdom and the strength that we need to face all of life's circumstances.

John 5: 19,....then answered Jesus and said....I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do, for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise....

John 12: 49,....for I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak....

The word of God is given so that we might believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing in him, we may have life through his name. In order, to show forth the will of the Father, Christ had to humble himself unto death. In order, for us to accept the will of the Father, and carry it out in our life, we must be humble, and we must be willing to sacrifice that which we value in the world and seek after those things that have eternal value.

Christ is the living word, which was made flesh, so as to show unto us the glory of the Father through the life that he lived here upon this earth. Therefore, we are to study, and meditate upon that living word, so that we might retain Christlike characteristics, and show unto others the glory of God. Our willing submission to Christ, to carry out his perfect will, and maintain an uninterrupted relationship with him, will demonstrate a life lived, that is full of spiritual understanding, and harmony, that allows us to show unto others, that following, and living by the example of Christ, is the only true means of ever experiencing the hope of our eternal life.

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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