

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

1.8.2023

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.

Blessing of Forgiveness and New Life

1 John 1: 1 – 10, 2: 1- 5

Even though we have come to trust in Christ for salvation, everyday we battle against the tendency to continue in sin. It is our inability to stop sinning, even when we want to do good, that brings about frustration in our Christian life. Through prayer, and the study of Gods word, we begin to understand that only God can give unto us, as Christians, the power to set aside our desire to sin, and follow after his will, so that we may know what is spiritually good, and right in our lives. Walking by the spirit of God, in his power, instead of living by our own self-righteousness, is the only hope that we have in serving God.

God shows unto the believer, through his word, how to have victory over our slavery to sin. This means that we learn how to grow in grace, how to progress in holiness, how to grow in faith, and how to spiritually mature. Faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross is the key to living the Christian life that God desires for us. Holding to our fallen sin nature, causes us to do the things that I do not want to do, but also stops me from doing things that I do want to do. So, what is the conclusion to the eternal problem of living a holy life that is pleasing unto God? We must realize that without Christ, we can do nothing, but in Christ I can do all things. In doing so, we are enabled to live a life that is pleasing unto God, with the ability to break free from the bondage of sin, and the consequences thereof.

1 John 1: 1 – 4,....that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen....our hands have handled, of the word of life....the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life....that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you....these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full....

The reasoning behind this passage of scripture, is to bring to light the false teachings that are infecting the church, or the body of Christ. Teachings of disbelief, that a holy God would not come in human flesh, therefore Christ could not have come as the deity of God in human form. Furthermore, it was taught that the spirit of God did not come upon Christ until he was baptized of John. Christ, who was always God, from the very beginning, was not a created being, nor a separate being, but was identical to God, and the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 4: 3 – 4,....the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers....they shall turn away their ears from the truth....

It is very disheartening, that believers, would grow tired of the truth of the gospel, and reject it. This is due to those who would rather hear those things that are to their liking, rather than listen to those things which are true to Gods word, therefore they find teachers, and preachers, who will say the things that they want to hear. True believers must stand firm in their belief, and that belief is that there is no universal salvation, where everyone is eventually saved due to the many ways to God. As Christians, we must teach the plain truth of the gospel of grace, and that is that salvation triumphs over sin, and Christ is the one and only way to be justified by God.

1 John 1: 4,....theses things write we unto you, that your joy may be full....

Our joy in the Lord, is our thirst for the knowledge of the gospel, which provides within us a spiritual wellbeing. As we grow in our faith, our joy in the Lord will mature, and steadily move toward completion in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5 – 10,....this....is the message which we have heard....and declare....God is light, and in him is no darkness....if we say....we have fellowship....and walk in darkness, we lie....if we walk in the light....the blood of Jesus....cleanseth us....if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves....if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us....if we say we have not sinned....his word is not in us....

The simple message, that God is light, tells us that his light exposes sinfulness. As Christians, we must recognize, that we cannot enjoy fellowship with God, if we allow sin to continue in our lives. As we live in obedience to Gods word, it is then that we are living Christlike, and the more Christlike we become, the less that sin will affect our faith, and our spiritual maturity. Mankind is sinful, and rightfully so, because of humanities fallen condition. But God wants to forgive us when we commit these sinful actions, but we must, through the conviction pf the Holy Spirit, agree that we have done wrong, and repent. God then cleanses us, because he is always faithful to his promises that he has made unto us in his word, and therefore, everything that he does is according to his righteousness. Yes, through salvation, we have become new creatures in Christ, but we still live in the flesh, which means that the old nature still remains in us. This is why, that as Christians, we still stumble, and fall due to the sin that we have accepted in our life. Through prayer, and the study of Gods word, we are reminded of the presence of sin in our life, and we are granted, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the ability to deny, and to overcome this sinfulness.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 20,....if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature....and all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself....to wit, that God....reconciling the world to himself....hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation....we pray....in Christ....be ye reconciled to God....

All who believe in Christ have become new creatures with a heavenly destiny, and a glorious inheritance. We are identified with him, and united with him, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, which we have record, and this is to lead us and to guide us, into all truth. As believers, we are to live in communion with Christ, and accept the truth of his righteousness in all that we do.

1 John 2: 1 – 5,....these things write I unto you, that ye sin not....if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father....he is the propitiation for our sins....we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments....he that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, he is a liar....whoso keepeth his word, in him....is the love of God perfected....hereby know we that we are in him....

As Christians, while we have been forgiven, once that we have confessed our sins, this does not mean that we have the freedom to continue in sin whenever we want. God is faithful, and just to forgive us, but we do not have the right to commit sin, just because we know that we can confess our sin and be forgiven. Sin is a constant threat in the life of the believer, this is why that we are constantly reminded, through Gods word, that we should do our best, not to sin. Obedience to Gods word, and to the desire to do his will, is one of the ways that we are assured of our salvation. We must continually be mindful of Gods commandments and live by them. Disobedience means ignoring Gods word, which will cause us to act according to our sinful desires. As we mature in Gods love, we will grow in the understanding of his ways, but let us remember, that we will not reach total freedom from sin, as long as we live in these mortal bodies.

Romans 7: 14 – 25,....for we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin....now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me....for I delight in the law of God after the inward man....I thank God, throughChrist....so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin....

Even though we are obedient to the word of God with our mind, sin is still present in our flesh and will manifest itself without our approval. These could be worldly thoughts, or feelings, or even temptations that we have to battle in our life. Through spiritual maturity, we come to realize that these things are not according to Gods will. As Christians, being in Christ, we serve the word of God with our minds. This is all a matter of being a servant of the Holy Spirit, who will point out our sin, and will lead us into the truth of Gods word and give unto us the power to overcome worldliness. The more obedient we become to the spirits leadership, the more we will overcome our sinful human nature as times goes by.

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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