

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

1.1.2023

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 Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5: 11 – 21

Religious movements all around the world are continually expressing new ways to please God, and in doing so they give lists of things, that according to their religious practices, must be done in order to gain Gods approval. When we are born again, we die to our former lives, and we are born into the family of God. We are brought into a right relationship with God, not by our own efforts, but by faith. Sadly, not everyone is ready to commit to the truth of Gods word, which is God changing us into who he wants us to be, which has nothing to do with man's religious rules and regulations. It is only through identifying with the death and resurrection of Christ that we can overcome sins deadly hold on our lives.

John 14: 6,....Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh to the Father, but by me....

Today's lesson is all about being reconciled unto God, with the willingness and desire to help others see the need for salvation. It is because of God's love for humanity that we can not only grasp the truth about the saving grace of Jesus Christ, but we can believe upon it, and act upon it, so that our troubled hearts might be filled with the fullness of Gods blessings. Christ said: he is the way, the truth, and the life, this means that everything that is not of Christ is a lie, a deception, and a distraction of the truth. Without Christ we have nowhere to go and without Christ there is no way to live our life, and there is no way to face death.

Christ through his word, gives unto us wisdom, and knowledge, and he opens up our understanding of God. It is through faith in Christ, that we are made a new creation in him, and it is by faith in him that we are indwelt with the spirit of God. Christ is the way that we all must follow, he is the truth in whom we must believe, and he is the life that we put our eternal hope in. No other religion, faith, or philosophy can lead a sinner to God.

2 Corinthians 5: 11 - 16,....knowing....the terror of the Lord, we persuade men....for whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God, or whether we be sober, it is for your cause....for the love of Christ constraineth us....that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again....wherefore....know we no man after the flesh....though we have known Christ after the flesh....

We are moved to fear God, or reverence God, because we know that one day, we will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. As believers, we understand, that we will answer to God concerning our talents, our abilities, and the opportunities given unto us, and how that we have used these gifts in our service to God. This is our motivation to challenge others to see the need for repentance. One of the obstacles that we will have to contend with in our service to God, are those who teach a false, or questionable truth of religion, who have only praise for themselves, and who exalt their own reputation and character over that of Gods. These false prophets will also bring into question those who teach the truth of Gods word, in order to diminish their spiritual credibility, so that they might bring glory to themselves, these are those who are only concerned with their own outward or worldly appearances. For this reason, the word of God teaches us to focus on Christ instead of relying on the wisdom of man. We are to be genuine in our ministry, not serving ourselves, but serving God and serving others. We serve the Lord, in order to please the Lord, even if it means doing it at the cost of our own suffering. Christ died on the cross to represent the sin of all humanity, and to give unto all who will believe upon him, give unto us a new life in Christ. For this reason, we should commit our lives to serving him, because he saved us to serve him.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 19,....therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature....and all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ....to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself....

Anyone, who by faith believing, has accepted the finished work of Christ on the cross has been made a new creation in Christ. This means that the gospel of Christ is for everyone who will trust and become obedient to his word. All who have believed, have accepted the opportunity to be born of the spirit and become a member of the body of Christ. This indwelling Holy Spirit is given unto us, to lead us, and to guide us into all truth. Our new life in Christ, is a spiritually abundant life with an eternal destination of great eternal value.

John 5: 24,....he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life....

How important it is to follow the instruction of God. Just like as Christ has shown unto us by his example, that his whole life was to do the will of the Father, and so it is the will of God that we would follow his instruction and carry out his instruction through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we might not only please Christ, but also glorify the Father. The more that the gospel of Christ becomes a part of our being, the more that we will truly trust in it and become obedient to Gods word. For this reason, we hear the word, and believe upon the one who sent the word unto us, so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 5: 20 – 21,....now then we are ambassadors for Christ....we pray you in Christ stead, be ye reconciled to God....for he hath made him to be sin for us....that we might be made the righteousness of God in him....

Our mission in life as believers, is simple, and that is to take the message of salvation, which comes through faith believing in Christ, to as many people as possible. As Christians, we represent Christ and his message of salvation to the world. We must explain to a world of non-believers, that for those who will come to God, through faith believing in Christ, he will not hold their sin against them. This reconciliation with God is a free gift of grace, and is achieved by believing upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and trusting that his sacrifice is sufficient to pay the sin debt that we have accumulated in our life.

John 6: 44,....no man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him....

Through the Holy Spirit, God is continually drawing people to him, drawing them to the saving grace of his Son, into a relationship that will last forever.

As Christians, we represent Christ, and therefore, we have been given the task of asking others to trust in Christ, and to be reconciled to God. Out of our love, and fear of the Lord, we should not just live in a way that reflects our faith in Christ, but we should willingly, with the boldness of the Holy Spirit, convince others, concerning the saving grace of Jesus Christ. It is up to all Christians, who are of the body of Christ, to do their part, to spread the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that all that might hear, and might believe, and become reconciled unto 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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