

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

12.18.2022

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.

Christmas, A Spiritual Love

Micah 5: 2,....but thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting....

Christ birth immediately brought hope to many, and fear to all others. Most of humanity, believers, and non-believers alike, can tell you that at Christmas, it is a time of remembrance of the birth of Christ, and usually that is the extent of their knowledge, because everything else is lost in the busyness of the holiday season. In order to reconnect with the birth of Christ, and God's plan for our time here upon this earth, we must involve ourselves completely in God's word, so that there will be no end to the wisdom and knowledge that we possess, concerning the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The more that we involve ourselves in God's word, the less we will become distracted by the enchantment of worldly desires. Christ birth is significant because of his death, it was the beginning of God's redemptive plan for all humanity. Without the birth of Christ, salvation would not be possible, neither is salvation possible without his death and resurrection.

Isaiah 9: 6 – 7,....unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given....the government shall be upon his shoulders....of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end....

Through the comfort of God's word, we understand that Christ rules in the life of the believer through his infinite wisdom. We are assured that we do not need to search aimlessly for God's understanding, because it comes through trusting in him, and allowing him to control our lives through his word. Through the characteristics of God, we will understand that Christ takes a great interest in having a personal relationship with all mankind, and he will show his mercy and his grace by supplying the needs of all those who will believe upon his name. This means we have unity with God, with no worldly fear, and we have inner peace and rest in Christ.

John 1: 14,....and the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory....

The incarnate word of God (or the spirit of God) was made in the likeness of human flesh, bringing the truth of God's eternal plan to all mankind. Therefore, we understand that Christ existed with God, and the Holy Spirit, from the beginning, all three being involved in the creation of the earth, before being born upon this earth. We also, understand that Christ is the light to all mankind, bringing the message of God, in its entirety to earth. God, who is completely just, holy, sovereign, infinite, and loving, was born into humanity, and lived among us, not as Christ, but through Christ, Christ, who was both God and man. Christ fulfilled the scripture, concerning God's promise to his people in the tabernacle, through the Holy Spirit, by making a way for every individual to become a temple, in the body of Christ.

James 1: 7,....every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights....

Through salvation, we learn the meaning of every perfect gift from above, which is a gift from God, and even though it is undeserved, it is not the end of the gift, only the beginning. After receiving the saving grace of Jesus Christ, so as we choose, God's gifts will continue. Every situation in our life, no matter how good or how difficult, it is a gift from God, designed to bring us eternal blessings, and bring glory unto God.

This means that we cannot boast that we are saved by our own power, because we have no power to save ourselves, or any other. Salvation is from God, a free gift through Christ, and through this free gift of salvation will come numerous other eternal gifts.

Luke 2: 4 – 19,....Joseph also went up from Galilee....to be taxed with Mary....being great with child....while they were there....she should be delivered....she brought forth her first born son....unto you is born this day....a savior....Mary kept all those things, and pondered them in her heart....

Christ came to the earth in order to pay the price for those things which man had done. Sinful acts that are not pleasing unto God. Christ came, so that we would not be eternally separated from God, the Father. Therefore, the true meaning of Christmas is love, spiritual, eternal love.

John 3: 16,....for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life....

All that Christ done, he done because humanity needed a savior. Humanity did not recognize or realize their need, nor did they accept it, but out of love, God supplied the need, for without it all of mankind would perish.

Romans 5: 8,....God commanded his love toward us, in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us....

God loved his own, and provided a way, which is the only way, for all of humanity to spend eternity with him. Christ paid the price for sin in full, so that we may be free from condemnation when we accept his free gift of love. This Christmas season and every season, because of the love of God, should be, and can be, a season of great joy, because of Gods ultimate gift to mankind.

1 Peter 2: 24,....who his own self bare our sins in his body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed....

Christ died for us, as becoming us, and in our place, because they were our sins. He bore the punishment, so that we would never need to be punished. By doing so, he identified with all who will believe upon him, so that we through faith believing might have the ability to announce that we have died to sin, and now we live to Christ. This takes faith, and this takes trust, so that as we suffer for doing good, and we will, we will do so, without retaliation and fighting back, so that we might fulfill the purpose of God within us. If Christ had not willingly endured, we would have remained lost in our sin. Christ endured suffering so that we could die to sin. Now, as Christians, we can live righteously, we no longer need to sin, we are free to make right choices, choices that please, honor, and glorify God. This means that we no longer live according to our physical conditions, but we live according to our spiritual destiny.

Philippians 2: 10 – 11,....that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow....and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father....

The word tells in:

Acts 4: 12,....neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved....

Christ is the one that is full of grace and truth, the one who walked the entirety of his life on earth in willing obedience to the spirit of God, therefore as Christians we are called to follow his example by denying our worldly selves. Receiving Gods favor, by faith, is a simple act on our part. We must get into Gods word, we must put it in your heart, we must speak it out of our mouth, we must believe it, and we must act upon it. Whatever we may face in life, we can overcome it by faith, in God's word. Our life, will never be the same, when we claim Gods favor as our own.

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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