

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

1.29.2023

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.

Being prepared for the Lord's return

2 Peter 3: 11 – 14

As believers, we must remind each other daily of the coming of Christ, and as believers, we must tell others daily of the coming of Christ. We must not be judgmental concerning those who do not understand his coming exactly as we do, but we must instruct them concerning the importance, and the necessity of being prepared for the Lord's return. So, how can we prepare for the Lord's return? Our first thought is that the preparation for the Lord's return appears to be very difficult.

Mark 13: 32,....but of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father....

Our difficulty comes because we do not know the day or the hour that Christ will return, but we must continue to live our daily life, as usual, until that moment arrives. This is because we live in a world where humanity lives their life for today, looking toward a future, that they never prepare for. Therefore, as Christians, we must never doubt the Lord's return, but we are to always watch and be ready.

1 Corinthians 15: 58,....therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord....

As Christians, we know that death has been conquered, and eternal life with Christ is a free gift of grace, therefore, we should delight in doing his will, and we should never waiver in our faith, so that our service for God will not be ineffective. If our trust in Gods word is steadfast, and our faith in Christ is immovable, it is then that we have the understanding, of the sure hope of the inheritance that is laid up for us eternally in heaven.

2 Peter 3: 11 – 14,....what manner of persons ought ye to be....looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God....nevertheless we, according to his promises, look for....seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless....

Having an understanding, not only of our immediate future, but of the coming of Christ and the millennial reign of Christ, and of the time when the world is destroyed, along with the new heaven and the new earth, this will help to motivate us, as believers, to separate ourselves from sin, and worldly desires, so that we might stive to live godly lives. We are to watch and wait, with expectancy, and the eager desire to know the secure knowledge of Gods word, so that we may earnestly look for the coming of Christ, all the while, through prayer and supplication, preach and teach the truth, and that truth is, the day of the Lord's return is at hand. We see here in this passage of scripture, five things that are necessary in our preparation for the Lord's return, and those five things are: looking for God, hasting unto God, diligently seeking God, being spotless, and living blameless.

Looking for God.

1 Chronicles 22: 19,....now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God....build ye the sanctuary....bring the ark of the covenant....and the holy vessels....into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord....

Although this passage of scripture was written in a time and place for the children of Israel it has a significant meaning for Christians today, and its meaning was meant to motivate Gods people to devote themselves completely to him. Very few people are fully devoted to anything. Most will start something, and as quickly as they start it, they let it go and move on to something else. Being devoted to something means committing our full attention and effort to it. Seeking God in an emergency, and ignoring him in times of prosperity, is not living Christlike in our Christian life. Devotion to God means seeking him at all times, and in every situation. Therefore, every action, every word, and every thought, we must do it with God in mind. Every part of our being must be focused on looking for God and looking to please God, with everything that is within us.

Hasting unto God.

Psalm 143: 7 – 12,....hear me speedily, O Lord....cause me to hear thy loving knowledge....in thee do I trust....I lift up my soul unto thee....deliver me....I flee unto thee....teach me to do thy will....lead me....quicken me....bring my soul out of trouble....for I am thy servant....

As believers, we have the spirit for our guide, who encourages us to seek to overcome our sinfulness, which is our worst enemy, so that we may be complete in our service unto God. Hasting to God does not mean that we ask him for the easiest, and most pleasant pathway to walk in our Christian life, but we are to ask for the right pathway of truth and walk in it. God clearly lays out the pathway which we are to follow, which comes to us through his word, so that as we journey along this pathway, we may grow in his grace, and in his knowledge, for this is the will of God in our lives.

Diligently seeking God.

2 Peter 1: 10,....wherefore....brethren....give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if ye do these things, ye shall never fail....

As Christians, we cannot avoid our commitment to live Christlike and then still claim to have a righteous place in the body of Christ. Having no commitment will cause us to become ineffective and unproductive in our spiritual life. Believers should confirm their salvation for themselves, and unto others, which shows confidence in their relationship with Christ. If we diligently live as God has empowered us to live, then we will not have a reason to doubt or stumble in our faith.

Being spotless.

Ephesians 4: 22 – 24,....put off....the old man, which is corrupt....be renewed in the spirit of your mind....put on the new man....created in righteousness and true holiness....

As Christians, we are to be spiritually alert so that we might identify sinful deception, and expose temptations, so not to become ensnared by them. This ability comes through our new nature, given unto us directly from God, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, at the time of our salvation. This new nature is the image and likeness of God. With this will we have the ability to make the right choices in our life in Christ, so that we might seek his righteousness, and live holy lives unto him.

Living Blameless.

How does the bible explain blameless before God?

Psalm 15: 2 – 5,....he that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart....he that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor....he honoureth them that fear the Lord, he that sweareth (or take responsibility) to his own heart, and changeth not....he that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent....he that doeth these things shall never be moved....

Being prepared for the Lords return means dwelling with him now in the present by walking in faith and having fellowship with God. It is the work of Christ that makes us acceptable unto God. Through his shed blood, we are atoned for our sins, and now we are in unity with him. Now that we are united with Christ, God looks on us as having the righteousness of his Son. Through this we seek to dwell with God above all else. It is the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of Gods word that creates within us a hunger for the Lord's return. The more willing that we are, the more prepared we become, and this brings to light the promise that God will acknowledge the righteous pathway of those who are faithful unto him.

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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