

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

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.

Blessing of Belonging in Christ

## **1 Corinthians 12: 14 – 31**

Every believer needs to understand their role in the body of Christ. This means that God does not save us and then just turn us loose, to aimlessly wander about until his return. The moment that you and I were saved, God gave unto us, through his indwelling Holy Spirit, knowledge, that defines his purpose and plan for our life, so that we would never have to wonder, or worry about what is that which we should be doing in our service to him. Our part in all of this is to gain understanding, and to do this, he has given unto us his spirit, and his Son, which is his word. So, how do we begin to gain the understanding of what God has already given unto us, we simply ask.

**James 1: 5 – 7,....**if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him....but let him ask in faith, nothing waivering....for let not man think that he shall receive anything of the lord....

One of the greatest challenges that we face as Christians, is not that we expect too much help from God, but that we expect too little, we do not trust God enough to provide for us. If we doubt, that God is the source of all that we need, then we will not be able to accomplish all that he has in store for us in our life. Therefore, recognizing our lack of spiritual wisdom is a great step toward spiritual understanding. Yes, there will be times when we do not know what to do, or which way to turn, but through God's word we learn the lessons that he desires to teach us, as we submit to the guidance of his Holy Spirit and walk in spirit and in truth. God will provide all that we need to maintain patient endurance and unwavering faith to all those who belong to him, and he delights to give generously to all who will ask in faith believing, but we must be prepared to listen to his voice and become obedient to his word. This is all part of the blessings that we receive by belonging in Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12: 14 – 18**,....the body is not one member, but many....if....because....I am not....is it therefore not of the body....now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him....

The church is a body of members with the need for diversity, in order to achieve its spiritual goals. What would happen if those in the body refused to accept their proper functions. This happens when many use their spiritual gifts to exalt themselves, and those who are not deceived, and do not follow after them, they become discouraged, and give up on their service unto God, assuming that they have nothing to contribute. We should welcome the diversity of spiritual gifts as long as it is glorifying God and not man.

**1 Peter 4: 10 – 11**,....as everyman hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another....let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Christ Jesus....

Believers should not sin knowingly, there is no excuse for Christians to live irreverently. As Christians, our sin is past tense. We may struggle, but still we must abstain from the acts of sin that dominated our life before Christ. As believers, we are to recognize all that we have are gifts from God and available to be used in our service to him. In order to do this, we must be clear minded, and watchful in prayer. As Christians, we are given gifts to fulfill a special function within the body of Christ. Our gifts differ according to the grace, that God gives unto each of us, and we must use them according to the proportion of faith, which we have received. That which we graciously receive from God should result in a generous outpouring of his grace from ourselves, unto others.

**Hebrews 10: 26,....**for if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of truth, their remaineth no more sacrifices for sins....

Make no mistake, Christians will suffer punishment for disobedience. These are those who never fully submit to Gods will, and they follow after their own self-righteousness. The word of God is a continual reminder, of the consequences, of willful sin, and also a reminder of the security that comes from trusting in God, and turning away from sinful practices.

**1 Corinthians 12: 19 – 26,....**if....all one member, where were the body....now are they many members, yet but one body....cannot say....I have no need of thee....those members....which seem to be more feeble, are necessary....those members....which we think to be less honorable....we bestow more abundant honor....God hath tempered the body together....there should be no more schism in the body....members should have the same care one for another....one member suffer, all members suffer....one member be honoured, all the members rejoice....

The body of Christ cannot exist if it does not have members, which means that there would be no body. As Christians, we know that there is a body, because we are one of many members, therefore, we should strive to make all the members feel that they are a useful part of the body. This means that as believers, we do not glory in our own self-righteousness, nor do we despise others who do not shine forth, but through Gods purpose and plan we are to promote unity in the body of Christ, and work together to achieve spiritual maturity in the church.

**Ephesians 4: 11 – 16,....**and he gave some....for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ....till we all come in the unity of the faith....unto a perfect man....of the fullness of Christ....no more....tossed to and fro....but speaking the truth in love....even Christ....from whom the whole body fitly joined together....making increase....unto the edifying of itself in love....

Every individual believer must work together, but must work according to how God intended, his purpose and plan, in order for the body of Christ to function properly. Harmony in the body of Christ makes the body grow spiritually, which in turn attracts others to the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and ultimately adds members to the body of Christ. To do this we must speak the truth in love and hold fast to the word of God. Only as we stand fast on the foundational truth of the word of God will we be willing, and able, to fulfill our unique role in the body of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12: 27 – 31**,....now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular....God hath set some in the church....apostles....prophets....teachers....have all the gifts....covet earnestly the best gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way....

As believers, we are both the body of Christ together as a group, and also as individual members. If we are willing to set aside any discontent concerning other members in the body of Christ, then do we have the opportunity, to grow together, to become that which God intends for the church to be.

We must be mindful, that some Christians, exaggerate spiritual gifts, while others underestimate theirs. Some elevate the importance of their spiritual gifts above their own salvation, while others cannot see the benefits of the gifts that are received from Christ. The greatest gift that we receive through our salvation is the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and through this gift, we must allow Gods word to be a reminder unto us, that spiritual gifts do not make a believer spiritual, but as believers, our spiritual maturity comes from the spirit of God, which dwells within us. This is the blessing of the believer in Christ.

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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