

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

2.19.2023

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 that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Blessings of Godliness

2 Peter 1: 3 – 14

To understand anything at all in the word of God, we must first meditate on its content, and secondly, we must pray to God for understanding. Although it may take a lifetime to grasp the meaning of God's word even partially, we should never complain that our life in Christ is too hard, because God has given unto us in his word all that we need, to live our life in obedience to him. We must learn to live by the truth of his word that we proclaim. Our actions, our attitudes, our words, and our motives, should all be done willingly to God's glory, not out of duty because we are instructed to do so, but our actions should be out of love for Christ, and for his saving grace, and for the salvation of others. A worthy Christian walk is not dependent upon being seen by others, but by living according to the spirit of God who dwells within us. This is a spirit of wisdom, and of understanding, a spirit of counsel, and of might, a spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord. We are to stand firm in the truth of the word of God. Standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving together in the faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ, this is our blessing of Godliness.

2 Peter 1: 3 – 4,.... according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue....whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust....

As Christians, we must not think, that just because we are told that Gods power giveth unto us all things, that it is speaking of material wealth and goods. Gods divine power gives unto us all that we need to live life in the spiritual fulness of knowing Christ. With this comes exceedingly great and precious promises which include eternal life, answered prayer, forgiveness of sin, the pressure of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and Gods miraculous care for us. When we come to Christ and commit our lives unto him, and diligently pursue life according to his will, then will we become more Christlike in our spiritual characteristics.

2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17,....all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction of righteousness....that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works....

The word of God teaches us what is true, and what is a lie, it teaches us how to correct that which is wrong, and how to apply the truth. Do we ever stop to think about the significance of the content of the scripture, and who it is that is the inspiration behind this written word and also breathes life into its words. The word of God reveals in our mind's truthfulness, it inspires within our heart, spiritual understanding, and it gives Godly discernment to all believers. It is these characteristics that give unto us perfect peace, and an unshakable confidence in the gospel of his saving grace, so as to reassure us that God is firmly in control.

2 Peter 1: 5 – 9,....giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience Godliness, and to Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity....if these things be in you, and abound....ye shall neither be barren not unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ....but he that lacketh these things is blind....and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins....

The word of God encourages us as Christians to make a sincere effort to grow in faith and in spiritual maturity, as in our service to Christ. Our faith must grow, this is how that we are sure that it is the basis of our salvation. In this passage of scripture, we are given seven qualities of a growing faith. Virtue, which are our moral standards. Knowledge, which is practical wisdom so that we may distinguish between that which is good and that which is worldly or evil, this is what determines our virtue. Then there is temperance, which is self-control, this mostly speaks of times in our lives when we need to exercise spiritual restraint. Now comes patience, when we think about patience, we imagine those things which try our patience and therefore elevates our temperance, but here in this passage of scripture we are taught that patience is all about how steadfast we are in the work of the Lord, which means that we do not allow the circumstances of the world to distract us from Gods purpose and plan for our life. If we have patience we will continue to endure and persevere. Now Godliness is our ability to grow and mature spiritually in Christ, it is the means by which we measure our quality of service to the Lord. Then comes brotherly kindness which is our love toward one another in Christ. When we are a part of the body of Christ, we are a part of the family of God. Without brotherly kindness, there is no fellowship toward one another, therefore there is no unity in the body of Christ. Charity, or love, which begin before the foundation of the world as we know it, was the love of God, and with this love came his desire for a family, and also the desire that all of his family would be saved.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....this is good and acceptable in the sight of God....who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of truth....

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....

It is only because of God's love, that his mercy and grace abound toward all of humanity, so that we might have the faith to believe, and to gain eternal life. With these seven qualities comes the ability to grow in faith, and to spiritually mature in the Lord. If the believer is lacking in his faith, and in spiritual maturity, it is because of this that the Christian person will remain babes in Christ, unfruitful in our service to him, without the ability to see those things that are eternal, because we are blinded by the things of the world that we are so preoccupied with.

2 Peter 1: 8 – 9,....unfruitful in the knowledge....blind, and cannot see afar off....

2 Peter 1: 10 – 14,....brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure....for so....shall be ministered unto you abundantly....I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things....to stir you up by putting you in remembrance....knowing that shortly I must put off this tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me....

So then how do we see our position in Christ? We should see it as one of repentance, through the obedience of the gospel. We should then live according to the gospel, abounding in our Christian virtues and values, preserving in our faith that which gives unto us the assurance that we will grow in faith, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Our obedience to Gods word not only gives unto us the confidence that we are already a part of Gods kingdom, but it gives unto us the confidence and the sure expectation of one day being welcomed into his family, becoming then a part of Gods eternal kingdom.

2 Timothy 4: 18,....and the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom....

Despite any sufferings that we might go through from trials and tribulations, rest assured that the Lord Jesus Christ stands by us in our time of need so that we might be able to stand, and faithfully continue to preach the truth of God's word. We are inspired to see the importance of knowing, and studying the word of God, so that we might encourage other believers to have patience in Godly instruction. We are assured that God is faithful and will keep his promises, and will bring all those who trust in Christ into the blessings of his Godliness.

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm/>

