

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

3.5.2023

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.

Jesus Baptism

Mark 1: 4 – 13

Even as far back as the Old Testament, God promised his remnant that he would send a messenger, one that would come in the spirit and power of Elijah, one that would show Israel the way of repentance, so that they might welcome Christ as their King. Today's lesson shows the fulfillment of that promise, one of a messenger, who would proclaim Gods word, which would point the way to his Son, Christ. Sadly, Israel refused to hear, but as many who would receive him, to them he gave the power to become sons of God.

John 1: 11 – 12,....he came unto his own, and his own received him not....but as many as received him, to them he gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name....

So now at this appointed time in which we live and having the new covenant of Christ fulfilled within us as believers, we have become Gods messengers to the world, and this appointed time will continue until the church, who is the body of Christ, is taken from this earth. Christ death, burial, and resurrection secured our salvation, therefore, by faith we are born again into the family of God. Believing upon the name of Christ is the start of an amazing, everlasting journey that has given unto us the authority, and the privilege to become messengers for the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Although everyone that is born is given the opportunity to become a child of God, many still do not receive him, because they refuse to believe in his work on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5: 20,....now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christs stead, be ye reconciled to God....

Those who have believed on Christ have been graciously entrusted with the message of salvation. We have been given the privilege of being Gods personal representatives here on earth, to offer unto all of humanity the gospel of Gods saving grace. It is up to us as Christians, to recognize this precious message that we have been entrusted with, so that we may gladly, and willingly proclaim it to all who will believe.

Mark 1: 4 – 8,....John did baptize in the wilderness....and were all baptized of him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins....and preached, saying, there cometh one mightier than I after me....I indeed have baptized you with water, but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost....

John, who did his work in the wilderness, ministered as one who announced the arrival of the coming messiah. Johns baptism was for the Jewish people, in preparation for the coming of their messiah, and it was one that required repentance. Johns' baptism of repentance should not be confused with salvation, and it should not be confused with water baptism in our time period today. Believers, who are baptized today, do so as a testimony of their belief in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, and it is not a baptism of repentance. The concept of repentance has eternal significance in the life of all humanity, whether it was for the Jewish people in Johns day looking forward to a coming messiah, or in our time period today looking back upon Christ and his work on the cross. It all has to do with a change of direction in one's life, a change from a life of eternal separation from God to a life of eternal existence with God. In Johns day, baptism was an external sign of preparation with God, todays baptism is an inward work of the Holy Spirit that takes place within all of those who believe upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Johns baptism was one of repentance in preparation for Christ work on the cross for salvation. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of Christ work on the cross, one of salvation, which was our repentance of sin.

2 Timothy 1: 13 – 14,....hold fast the form of sound words....in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus....that good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us....

The moment we are born of the spirit, we are positioned in Christ, which means that we are not spiritually sealed by the Spirit of God. As we move forward in our Christian life, we begin to learn about the glorious promises that belong to us through Christ Jesus. The promise of the Holy Spirit is unique to the believer because it is now a permanent residence in our lives.

1 Corinthians 6: 19 – 20,....know ye not that the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you....therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are Gods....

God has chosen to use each of us as ministers of his perfect plan of redemption, and it is his indwelling Holy Spirit that provides all that we need to fulfill his ministry.

Philippians 1: 6,....being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will preform it until the day of Jesus Christ....

The Holy Spirit, who has begun this good work in us, is the same spirit who will guide us into the truth, and teach us all things, he is one that will comfort, guard, and protect us, and even though at times he will chasten and correct us, he still impowers us throughout our life, and enables us to grow in grace, in knowledge, and in the understanding of God, and his purpose and plan, not only for our own life, but for all of humanity.

Mark 1: 9 – 13,....Jesus came from Nazareth....and was baptized of John....and straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the spirit like a dove descending upon him....there came a voice from heaven, saying, thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased....immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness....he was there....forty days....tempted of Satan....and the angels ministered unto him....

Johns baptism was done as an external evidence of preparation for a persons repentance of sin, looking forward to a coming messiah. Today, baptism is done as an external evidence looking back to what Christ has already done for the remission of sin. Christ did not need to show either in his life, for he had never sinned. So, what purpose did the baptism of Jesus fulfill.

It was a beginning to the fulfillment of Gods promise that a way of escape would be made so that mankind would not have to remain in a fallen state of separation from God for all eternity. It was an example to all who were before the cross, that their preparation and obedience to God had not been in vain, and it still is an example to us today, that through obedience to his word, we have the opportunity to accept what has already been prepared by God.

Christ baptism was a symbol of an obedient, humble servant, eager to do the Fathers will, which symbolizes our salvation, and at the precise moment, the Holy Spirit indwells, or enters within us, and gives unto us the ability to proclaim Christ as our Savior, and at that moment, God is well pleased.

Mark 1: 12 – 13,....and immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness....and he was there....tempted of Satan....

Temptation is inevitable, so therefore, trials and tribulations are immediate, supervised by the indwelling Holy Spirit, so that we may be proven in strength, and also in our God given abilities to fulfill our role as a servant to God. No one is exempt from temptation, that is why the trials of our faith are immediate, because Satan will do his best to entice us away from the purpose and plan that God has in store for us , and has instilled within us, through the presence of his Spirit.

James 1: 13 – 14,....every man is tempted, when he is driven away of his own lust, and enticed....

Temptation comes through the outer enticements of the world, and the inner lusts of the flesh. But through the leadership and guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit, God can turn that temptation into a meaningful trial, which he will use for our greater good, and for his glory. We are given the ability to make the choice to either follow after temptation or to resist it, resisting the temptation to sin becomes a test of our faith, a test that God will use to strengthen our faith and spiritual maturity, so that we may continually use our service to glorify him.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

