

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2.26.2023

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.

Such as I have

Acts 3: 1 – 6

We start off speaking to the believers, because not only is it the duty of the believer to be a witness for Christ, but most importantly, we should not see it as a duty, but we should know it as a privilege, a privilege of responsibility to God, to ourselves, and to all of mankind.

What I would like to talk about this morning is: such as I have. What is the meaning of such as I have? As Christians, by God's grace, I know Christ, and not only do I know him, but he dwells within me. As one born into the fallen state of man, I did not know him, but now through the crucifixion and resurrection, I have been given the faith to make the choice to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ, to know him as my savior, to know him as my Lord and master, to give unto him the fullness of power over my soul, so that he might govern me from within, by the leadership and guidance of his Holy Spirit. I have allowed him to take possession of all that I am, and for this reason, the Lord has sent me, so that I might be a servant to the spiritual needs of this world, as Christ sees that need to be. We are to be willing, to present ourselves as God's answer, to every need of every mortal soul in this fallen world. We know that the need is great, for the truth of this comes to us by the word of God. We know that those who are seeking are many, this is not because we see the need, but because we can see the discomfort of those who cannot find satisfaction by searching for it in the world around us. Therefore, let us remember our responsibility in Christ, for it is our service to carry the sorrows of others unto the Lord. In order to help meet the needs of others, we must first have the knowledge and understanding of such as I have.

Acts 3: 1 – 6,.... Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer....a certain man lame....laid daily at the gate of the temple....to ask alms of them that entered....seeing Peter and John....ask an alms....Peter....with John, said, look on us....he gave heed....expecting to receive something....then Peter said, silver and gold I have none, but such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ....rise up and walk....

When Peter, with John, said look on us, it was not to be looked on as mortal men, but it was to look past the mortality of worldliness and worldly materialistic values, so that the power of God might be seen. Just as God wanted the lame man to see his love, his compassion, and his power, he wants us to see that Christ loves us right where we are, but it goes much further than that, he also wants us to see that he loves us too much to leave us right where we are. We must understand, that God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, has the power to change everything about our lives, and everything about our world.

Wherein does our expectations lie? Many believers have yet to come to the understanding of what it means to fully expect something from God. We think that we have expectations, but instead of spiritual expectations, we have worldly wants, and desires. In order to truly understand what our spiritual expectations are, we must first understand, such as I have. Such as I have can only be God given.

Romans 8: 25,....but if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it....

If our spiritual expectations are such as I have, then Paul sums it up for us in this manner, and that is, in our current state of being, as a Christian, we are longing for the day of the coming of the Lord, and in our future state of being it will be one of eternal righteousness, when all wrongs will be made right, and our faith will be justified against all worldliness, when our redeemed, then immortal bodies will allow us to live eternally with God. But for now, we must suffer the realities of life, and the consequences of sin, but we have the sure hope that as we wait, with patience, it is for the best possible reality, and that reality is, that we can trust God to bring all things about in our life, at just the right time, as he sees fit.

Gods desire for us as believers is that we would want something greater for those that are in spiritual need, and that is, to see the lives of all humanity transformed by the power of the risen Christ. Such as I have is more than just making present worldly conditions bearable, it is having the ability to be a living example of the redemptive work of God, in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 66: 8 – 12,....O bless our God....which holdeth our soul in life, and suffered not our feet to be moved....for thine, O God, hast proved us, thou hast tried us....thou broughtest us into the net, thou laidest affliction upon our loins....we went through the fire and through water, but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place....

As Christians, we are preserved alive in God, we can feel the life of God, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, within our hearts, who has instilled within us the principles of our spiritual life in Christ. This preservation of eternal life cannot be lost because it was secured by the redemptive blood of Christ, therefore, that in itself gives unto us sufficient reason to stand firm in the liberty of salvation.

Galatians 5: 1,....stand fast in the liberty with which Christ has made us free....

In the world that we live in, all of humanity cries out for liberty and justice. What humanity does not understand is that liberty and justice does not pertain to materialistic health and wealth, but liberty and justice pertains to the heart, soul, and mind.

Matthew 27: 37,....thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind....

Therefore, liberty and justice is only ours by God's grace, through faith in Christ, and over our time here upon this earth, the Holy Spirit will help us to discover the righteous requirements that God has set forth unto us in his word, so that daily, we might be transformed into the image and the likeness of his Son, Christ. Now, in order for this to continue daily in our life, we must ask God to continually reveal unto us the things in our life that are not well pleasing unto him.

Psalm 139: 23 – 24,....search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting....

What a glorious development it is in our life when we begin to understand what Peter and John meant when they said such as I have. This understanding comes when we begin to comprehend that Gods knowledge of us is far too great for us to grasp the meaning of, for he knows the end from the beginning, and can look into the intimate thoughts that are hidden in our minds.

Ephesians 3: 17 - 19,....that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith....may be able to comprehend....what is the breadth, and the length, and the depth, and height....that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God....

If we desire to have our anxiety and troubled thoughts cleared from our minds, then we must allow God to bring them into clear view in our life so that the attributes of his righteousness might shine forth.

2 Corinthians 10: 5,....casting down imaginations....and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ....

Acts 3: 6,....silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee....

As Christians, all that we have in life that matters belongs to Christ. Therefore, such as I have is either indwelt within me by Christ, or it is on loan to me from Christ, and it is not to use as I see fit, but as God sees fit. The more that we grow in faith, and the more that we mature spiritually in our life in Christ, the greater our understanding will become, understanding of just how much we have in Christ, and how much Christ has in us to give unto others.

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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