

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2.5.2023

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

To Seek and to Save

Luke 19: 1 – 10

How often, have we put forth the greatest effort to find something that we love, or something that we greatly value, when it has been lost. How often, as Christians, have we put forth the same amount of effort to find lost souls. If we are to imitate the characteristics of God, we must first show forth the same effort as God, even a greater effort to find lost souls than we would put forth for worldly, material, goods. We must remember, that humanity is more important to God, who is our creator, more important than anything else. If we are not actively seeking those who are lost, that is seeking them in order to give unto them the message of salvation, then we should not be surprised when they do not seek to find it on their own. Let us remember, that we too, were once lost in sin before Christ found us, which came through the ministry of other believers. Therefore, we should seek to be used, by God, to seek out the lost, so that they might be saved.

1 Timothy 1: 15,....this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acception, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief....

Christ shows unto us by example that he is the one that does the seeking. This means that in this grace period it is now the responsibility of the church to do the seeking. Many churches today teach that it is the unbeliever's responsibility to seek salvation. The pulpit is filled with contemporary music, casually dressed motivational speakers, without the preaching of sin and repentance, tearing down the truth of Gods word so that they may cater to mankind's sinful emotions and worldly desires. Sinners need to hear teaching and preaching concerning the consequences of sin, not the notion of materialistic wealth due to good deeds. This teaching and preaching of the truth of Gods word is the responsibility of the believer, and is to be consistent with the seeking of lost souls.

Romans 3: 10 – 11,....as it is written, there is none righteous, no not one....there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh God....

Seeking after God is the responsible service of the believer to God and is also the reason that as Christians we seek after God, and that is because when we were sinners, we were first found by Jesus Christ.

Luke 19: 1 – 10,....Jesus entered and passed through Jericho....there was a man named Zacchaeus....and he was rich....he sought to see Jesus....he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him....when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said....make haste, and come down, for today I must abide at thy house....he made haste....and received him joyfully....Jesus said....this day is salvation come to this house....for the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost....

Here we see an example of humanity in Zacchaeus, who's only net worth is that of worldly value, and like all of humanity, it is instilled within mankind the need to make a choice between that which is good and that which is worldly, or evil. With this comes the curiosity to see the goodness, and also to see the worldliness. As the convicting power of the Holy Spirit entices mankind's curiosity to look toward the goodness of God, then comes the opportunity for the believer to seek out that curiosity and give an explanation of understanding toward the saving grace of Jesus Christ. If Christ had not sought after Zacchaeus, if the call to salvation would not have been given, then the opportunity for the believer to receive understanding would have been void. The believer's opportunity to give, is the non-believers opportunity to receive.

Luke 1: 10,....for the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost....

Ephesians 4: 1, 11 – 13,....walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called....he gave some, apostles....prophets....evangelists....pastors and teachers....for the perfecting of the saints....work of the ministry....the edifying of the body of Christ....till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God....

Christ handed off the responsibility of seeking after lost souls to the church, but not without first making provisions so that all believers would have the abilities necessary to complete Gods desired purpose and plan.

God encourages learning through his word, because his calling on our lives should be our first priority. It is very crucial to the spiritual health of the body of Christ that all members use their God given talents appropriately. This means that it is Christ that gives the spiritual gifts, and our focus is not to be upon the gift, but upon what Christ does through the individual that he has gifted. When Christians exercise their spiritual gifts, then the church is built up in maturity in Christ.

Christ equipped the church to do the work which he could have done himself, and he would have done it better. So, why give to the believer this important responsibility of seeking souls.

Proverbs 16: 22,....understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it, but the instruction of fools is folly....

If Christ had not handed the responsibility of seeking souls off to the church, then the church would have had no idea of what they were supposed to do with their time here upon this earth. Christ knew that he needed to equip us with a work to do, and that work came with a goal, and that goal was so that the ministry of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ would continue to carry on. Christ has also equipped us as individuals for the work of the ministry, because Christ did not want believers to become followers of the world, he wanted us to remain in him and in his word. Every single believer, no matter how old, or how young, is to be involved in the building of Gods kingdom. God does not have a retirement plan for the church here on this earth as some believe. His retirement plan is one that is never ending and it begins with that which is eternal.

Psalms 14: 2,....the Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God....

The key to seeking lost souls is seeking God. The key to seeking God is having good spiritual sense, which not only benefits ourselves, but also is a beneficial help to others.

Do all Christians have good spiritual sense? Sadly, no. This is because not all Christians allow the consequences of their foolish actions to teach them lessons, so that they might become wiser in listening to the indwelling Holy Spirit before making bad decisions. Seeking God means seeking after his wisdom, his knowledge, and his understanding.

Psalm 111: 10,....a good understanding have all they that do his commandments....

Those who have understanding have it because they listen and receive correction through instruction. The more understanding we receive the more that we will recognize its value. The one who receives understanding, not only listens, but then seeks after God, and then becomes obedient to his word. The effort that we put into seeking lost souls is reflected by the effort that we truly put into seeking God. Just recognizing God does not mean that we are truly seeking after God and his will and in the same manner just recognizing sinners does nothing to secure their eternal state with God. As Christians, we must accept the responsibility to seek and to save that which is lost.

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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