

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

6.4.2023

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.

Upside Down Kingdom

Matthew 5: 1 – 16

As Christians, how blessed are we? Every person whose life is hidden with Christ in God is blessed with mercy, grace, a living hope, an eternal inheritance, and a life kept by the power of God through faith. Therefore, we must not allow our feelings, or circumstances to overcome the truth of the promises of Gods word that he has instilled within us. Yes, we are going to experience sorrow and pain, and often time our tendency will be to focus on challenges and difficulties in our life that overcomes us but remember that our choice to respond to these circumstances will either help us to grow stronger or will drive us to become weaker in our relationship with God. If what we think that we are feeling are blessings, but in fact they are leading us further away from God, then they are not blessings at all.

1 Corinthians 3: 21 – 23,....let no man glory in men....for all things are yours....the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours....and ye are Christ, and Christ is Gods....

To belong to Christ means to belong to God, there is no one more blessed than a believer. Every spiritual blessing that is conceived in Gods word for eternal happiness will be ours.

Ephesians 1: 3,....blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ....

It is beyond our mortal comprehension that God could love us so much that he gave his only begotten Son for a sacrifice, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but by God's grace will receive eternal life. We are expected by God to set our hearts on things above and not on things of this world.

Matthew 5: 1 – 6,....seeing the multitude, he went up into a mountain....his disciples came unto him....hetaught them, saying....blessed are the poor in spirit....blessed are they that mourn....blessed are the meek....blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness....

Today's lesson allows us to look into the teachings of Christ, which express unto us how that we can be full of the blessings of God. The fullness of God is the result of God living within us by way of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, which shows unto us how to become fully and wholly satisfied in God. Christ used these statements of blessings to refer to our state of spiritual wellbeing and prosperity, which all comes through the message of repentance and salvation, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand, all of which was shown through the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah and his kingdom.

Isaiah 61: 1 – 3,....the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek, he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives....to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord....to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified....

By his word, God reaches out to us to assure us that Christ is the Savior of whom he has sent, the Savior of the world. This gospel that we have is the word of God, and it reveals God unto us through all of the promises, commandments, and blessings that are made, promises about Christ, his Son; therefore, Christ is the word of the Father revealed. Gods grace shines forth in his Son, whom God hath given as a sacrifice for man's disobedience.

Until God's time is complete, he holds out unto us the ministry of the gospel, the promises of God, which is grace given, so that mankind might be saved from their sin. Sadly, more grace is offered than is accepted. For those who do not yield to God's grace it is because of rebellion in their hearts, but to those who receive him, he gives the right to become the children of God.

The first characteristic of righteousness mentioned is poor in spirit. This speaks of the person that recognizes that in himself there is no righteousness, because no one can become righteous without help from God.

The second characteristic of righteousness belongs to those that mourn. These are those who allow the Holy Spirit to show unto them their spiritual immaturity, and then allow humility to lead them into genuine repentance.

The third characteristic of righteousness belongs to those who are meek, which is a quality of spiritual maturity. A meek person will submit completely to the will of God.

The fourth characteristic of righteousness are they who hunger and thirst for their righteousness. This is a spiritual appetite for those things of spiritual value that is pleasing unto God and bring glory to his name. This comes through the study of his word by prayer and supplication.

Matthew 5: 7 – 12,....blessed are the merciful....blessed are the pure in heart....blessed are the peacemakers....blessed are they which are persecuted....blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you....rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven....

The fifth characteristic of righteousness are those who are an example of mercy, for they will be rewarded with mercy. Mercy is God withholding from us what we rightfully deserve, even though it is in our nature to be self-righteous and unforgiving.

The sixth characteristic of righteousness belongs to those who are pure in heart. These are those who have been cleansed from their sin, by faith believing in what Christ has done for all mankind on the cross and by his resurrection.

The seventh characteristic of righteousness come unto those individuals who have trusted in Christ Jesus as their personal Savior, and are at peace with God in regard to their eternal destiny, and through this we are to help others find peace.

The eighth characteristic of righteousness belongs to those who are persecuted for the sake of their righteousness, which is instilled within them. Those who have all manner of evil brought against them falsely for the sake of the gospel. One of our greatest blessings is to know that our testimony of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is truly effective in the world around us. This is why we are commanded to rejoice and be exceedingly glad for the rewards that are being laid up for us in heaven.

Matthew 5: 13 – 16,....ye are the salt of the earth....ye are the light of the world....let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven....

All believers have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of humanity. Every believer knows the truth, and every believer is to be an example of that truth. The word does not tell us that this is what we should be, but it tells us that this is what we already are in Christ. Daily, we are challenged by the indwelling Holy Spirit, through Gods word, so that we may have knowledge and understanding of our salvation to show forth for the glory of God, so that his desire might be fulfilled, and so that none should perish, but that all would be saved, and come to the knowledge of truth.

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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