

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

6.25.2023

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.

Growing Gods Kingdom

Matthew 13: 24 - 33

Throughout time, God has placed believers in specific places in the world so that they might be a witness and a living example to the gospel of the saving grace of his Son, Christ. Now Satan knows this and tries to destroy the work that Christ has accomplished through the cross, by placing false believers and teachers in the world, to lead astray those who proclaim Christ as their Savior. The world is filled with professing Christians, whose actions discredit the name of Christ. But make no mistake, we are not to pass judgement upon such people in an effort to completely destroy their character, because in doing so we might discourage innocent, immature believers from remaining steadfast in the will of the Lord. Christ himself one day will establish his true righteousness, because the difference between true believers and false believers is not always obvious. Many profess to have faith, but they do not know Christ. Only Christ has the right to pour out righteous judgement on those who reject him, for he alone paid humanities sin debt, so that he might draw all men unto him, and his saving grace.

John 12: 32,....and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me....

Christ knew that by being lifted up on a cross and crucified that his death would bring life to many, and that through his resurrection and ascension all men would be drawn unto him. Now, Christ was not implying that every person would accept his saving grace, because many will not put their faith in him, but there would be great multitudes from all around the world that would be drawn unto him, and by faith believing they would accept his saving grace. Therefore, it is the act of salvation that glorifies God. Christ was willing to endure Gods wrath and judgement on the cross in order to glorify the Father, and he did so by paying our sin debt, so that we might live eternally with him, without separation.

Matthew 13: 24 – 30,....parable put he forth....the kingdom of heaven is likened to a man which sowed good seed....but....his enemy came and sowed tares....brought forth fruit then appeared tares also....did thou not sow good seed....from whence then hath it tares....an enemy hath done this....wilt thou that we go and gather them....nay, lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat....let both grow together....in the time of harvest....gather....first the tares....to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn....

We learn through Gods word that not all who hear will come to believe upon Christ. This is due to our lack of understanding, because spiritually we cannot see or hear.

Matthew 13: 13,....therefore I speak to them in parables, because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand....

So, why is it that God teaches the truth without understanding? It is due to humanity's lack of unbelief. Mankind will start to understand this when they begin to sincerely seek Gods understanding, instead of just professing a superficial interest in his eternal plan. Unbelief is the one sin that God cannot forgive, because unbelief means refusing to listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The word, which can and does bring life, also tells the truth about death. Truthfulness will then bring repentance, joy, and eternal life to those who will believe. On the other hand, unbelief brings despair, hopelessness, and eternal death. Those who are open to the spiritual truth concerning salvation will mature spiritually and gain a greater understanding of the truth of Gods word.

Matthew 13: 27,....from whence then hath it tares....an enemy hath done this....

The enemy, who follows after the evil works of the devil, has no positive, or eternal objective in mind. That which motivates the enemy, is the desire to destroy all that glorifies God. Sadly, it is not always easy to tell the true Christians from the false Christians. This means that there are those who come to church, who say that they are Christians, who read the bible, but yet, they by faith believing have never become one of Gods children. They may look alike, but they are not the same.

1 Peter 5: 8,....be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, searching whom he may devour....

Satan actively seeks to derail the Christians life and does so by frustrating our attempts to live for the Lord and spread the gospel of his saving grace. Satan's deceptiveness is very cunning, and if we do not give serious consideration to the worldly opportunities that he presents unto us, then he will use our weaknesses to distract us from the ministry that God has in store for us. Satan seeks to rob our joy and disrupt our relationship with God. If we are going to stand firm in a world that is full of false deception, then we had better be well settled in the truth of God's word. Be sure that any good work will have a counterfeit, and the only way to recognize the counterfeit is to be acquainted with that which is trustworthy and real.

Matthew 13: 31 – 33,....another parable put he forth....saying, the kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of a mustard seed....which indeed is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs....another parable....the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which....hid in there measures....till the whole was leavened....

Although the beginning of Gods kingdom may appear at first to be insignificant in the eyes of humanity, it is destined for the greatness of Gods glory. God will, and can show unto us, that which seems to us to be insignificant, often time becomes very important to those around us.

God intends to fulfill the kingdom of heaven through the teachings of the prophecies of his word. Christ wants mankind to know who God is, and that is because most of the time the truth of Gods word is very different than what humanity has already believed. Christ wants to change the way that mankind thinks, therefore we are to speak the truth in such a way that humanity can understand and remember. The kingdom of God is very different from this world, and Christ would have mankind to know just how wonderful it really is so that they would desire to become a part of it.

Acts 9: 31,....then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified, and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied....

In order to grow Gods kingdom, we must edify, or build one another up in the body of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5: 11,....comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also you do....

Next, we must learn to walk in the favor of the Lord, which means to reverence and respect the word of God through obedience. We are to walk in the truth of God's word daily.

Psalm 1: 2,....delight in the law of the Lord....meditate day and night....

Lastly, we are to remain in the truth and comfort of the Holy Spirit. for the Holy Spirit ministers unto our hearts.

John 16: 13 – 14,....howbeit when he, the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth....he shall glorify me....

The church today needs to get busy and do the work that God has in store for them to do. We need to edify, walk in the fear of the Lord, and dwell in the spirit of God, who enables us and empowers us to go forth and spread the gospel of the saving grace of Christ Jesus to a lost and dying world. This is how that we grow Gods kingdom.

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://hollowolfarm.com/>

