Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.30.2023

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.

Ears To Hear

Matthew 13: 9 – 17

Whether intentionally, or due to the lack of understanding, often time, the value of the truth of Gods word is lost because of how that we pursue after spiritual wisdom and knowledge. This happens when we find ourselves skipping over passages of scripture that we do not particularly feel is important to our life. We must come to remember that what God is trying to show us through his word has nothing to do with what we feel is right or wrong for us in our life, but it has everything to do with how he would have us to build a strong relationship with him. Every time that we open Gods word is an opportunity to enter into a conversation with him, for it is through the work of his spirit that he enables us to hear and to understand what it is that he has to stay. No matter what is going on in our life, we can go to Gods word and learn something about him, and ourselves. Gods word will reveal unto us the truth of our nature, for only he knows what is in our hearts and in our minds, the thoughts and intentions that make up our eternal existence. At first glance this might seem intimidating, but remember, God is just trying to reveal unto us the great lengths that he will go to, in his mercy and his grace to draw us into a deeper relationship with him, and also to offer unto us the eternal hope of our salvation.

John 8: 31 – 32,….then said Jesus to those….which believed in him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples….and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free….

There are many who have truly believed in Christ as their savior. There are many who have trusted in him as their redeemer, and there are many who have placed their faith in Christ for their salvation, but they have not all chosen to abide in the truth of Gods word, and as a result they will not gain understanding from God and will become entangled in various religions that distort the truth of God’s word. When we are obedient to the word of God we grow in spiritual knowledge and spiritual understanding, so that we may learn, and as we learn, the spirit of God will give unto us the willingness to continue to learn, and to grow in his grace. Knowing Christ means knowing the truth, because Christ is the truth, and he has given unto us the understanding to proclaim that truth to others around us.

Matthew 13: 9 – 13,….who hath ears to hear, let him hear….the disciples….said unto him, why speakest thou….in parables….because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given….for whosoever hath, to him shall be given….but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away….therefore speak I….in parables, because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand….

There are those who will portray an interest in the gospel of Christ, falsely, in order to deceive those who have a genuine interest in Christ, and for this reason did Christ speak to them in parables, not because he did not want them to understand and believe, but because he did not want them to take that understanding of the truth, and twist it into their own sinful desires for personal wealth and gain.

God speaks unto us through his word, which is a living word, the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and he expects us to listen, and listening can only come by having faith in him.

Romans 10: 17,….so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God….

Justification comes through the redeeming blood of Christ, which cleanses all mankind from sin, but it does not come without faith, and faith comes through obedience to the word of God. Faith that leads to eternal salvation comes after receiving the message of how that Christ died for our sins. In order to have faith in something or someone, we must first be aware of their existence.

When mankind begins to call evil good, and then regard that evil as good, it hardens the heart of man toward the word of God. Therefore, God does not give them understanding of his word, so that they cannot use it to further their unbelief and spread that unbelief to those around them, for it is unbelief that is the one sin that God cannot forgive.

John 3: 18,….he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God….

God gives warning to all through his word, warning of the horrific consequences of rejecting the gospel of his saving grace. God knew from the beginning that man was going to rebel against him, and separate themselves from him, into a fallen state of sin. For this reason, was the plan of salvation formed so that the world might be saved from their self-righteous choice of unbelief. It is for this reason that God cannot forgive man of his continued unbelief unto death.

Mark 3: 29,….he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation….

Matthew 13: 14 – 17,….prophecy of Esiais….by hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand, and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive….peoples heart is waxed gross….their ears are dull of hearing….their eyes they have closed, lest….they should see….hear….and….understand….and….be converted….blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear….many prophets and righteous men have desired to see….and have not seen….to hear….and have not heard….

There will be those, that the more they hear the gospel of God, the more hardened their heart becomes. For those people, who continually reject Christ, they will suffer the consequences of Gods wrath. For those who hear the truth of Gods word, to those will come the understanding, that there is no value in hearing unless it is accompanied by faith. Spiritual truth can only come to those who are indwelled with the Holy Spirit, and we should never take for granted Gods divine blessing of spiritual understanding.

There are many that only show superficial interest in Christ, and they do this due to their own selfish motives and self-righteous desires. Mankind alone is responsible for their own actions of refusing to understand the obvious knowledge of Christ plan of salvation, therefore, as a result of this continued rejection, God has taken action to keep them from understanding this knowledge in their future as well.

Proverbs 29: 1,….he that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy….

Sinfulness, if allowed to do so, will destroy all that it becomes a part of.

Romans 6: 23,….for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord….

Following the path of worldly sinfulness can only lead to death and destruction, while following after Gods mercy and grace will lead to life eternal.

Ravi Zacharias, a Christian evangelist once wrote: Sin will always take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and cost you more than you intended to pay.

Today’s lesson teaches us about spiritual truth. There are those that are spiritually hungry, which have the willingness and desire to grow in faith, and to spiritually mature in the Lord. Then there are those whose only interest is to use the knowledge of Gods word for their own self-righteous benefits and desires, without ever learning the spiritual truths of Gods saving grace. We either come to the Lord with ears to hear the truth of God’s word, or we come and hear, but we tune out the truth. The truth of God’s word will one day apply to all, without exception, and we would do well to hear, believe, and learn, before it is eternally too late.

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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