

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

10.8.2023

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. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

The Sin of Achan

Joshua 7: 1, 10 – 12, 20 – 26

The accursed thing, or that which is an abomination to God, that which because of disobedience keeps us separated from him, that which disrupts our relationship with God. Sin in our life as a Christian may not seem to be so great a thing, in fact to most of us it may seem to be such a small thing that it is not at all concerning to us. But sin is very costly because sin brings upon mankind the judgement of God. How many of Gods elect are still willingly and knowingly taking of the accursed thing. There are many who are numbered among the children of God, who are recognized as being a part of the body of Christ, who go to church week after week, fighting alone side other Christian people against the wiles of the devil and are also partaking of the accursed thing. This not only brings defeat, but also brings Gods wrath and destruction, even to the very people that we think that we are trying to help. Our disobedience not only affects us, but it affects those around us. Now, willingly, and knowingly taking of the accursed thing in our life and then beating ourselves up over it still does not justify it or make it right. Dwelling, or continued living in the past will never change the past as we journey into the future. As believers, we must choose obedience over disobedience, we must repent, we must accept the consequences of our disobedience, and we must allow God to bring into our life, spiritual growth through these consequences.

1 John 1: 19,....if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness....

Not only must we confess our sins, but we must bring the accursed thing before the Lord so that it might be tried by fire. We must not allow the accursed thing to continue to affect us in our life.

James 1: 14 – 15,....every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death....

Sin corrupts and destroys peoples lives, and God will not tolerate sin. But, in his love he will call us to repentance so that through forgiveness our relationship with him can be restored.

1 Corinthians 3: 13 – 15,....every mans work shall be made manifest, for the day shall redeem it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and fire shall try every mans work of what sort it is....if any mans work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire....

Every follower of Christ should be building up the church, not ignoring it, and certainly not tearing it down. We should not be Christians who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but still allowing the desires of our flesh to be our master. The fire, or the judgement of God that it speaks of in this passage of scripture is not to judge the worker, but it is to try, and to test the works of the worker. Our labors in Christ do not save us, only the righteousness of God can do that, therefore, those whose works are temporary, or perishable, those methods are not true to Christ, therefore, everything that is a non-essential in our life in Christ will be judged and destroyed, which will leave only that which is pure and true.

Joshua 7: 1, 10 – 12,....the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing....Achan....took of the accursed thing, and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel....the Lord said....get thee up, wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned....they have taken of the accursed thing, they have put it even among their own stuff....therefore the children of Israel could not stand....neither will I be with you anymore, except ye destroy the accursed....

Today's scripture is a reminder unto us of the devastating effects of our disobedience to God. Seeking understanding from God for our disobedience does not restore God's righteousness unto us. When there is sin in our life then action must be taken to deal with that sin, and that action is repentance. The indwelling Holy Spirit will promptly let us know of our sinfulness and will require that we deal with it immediately. Sin, that is not dwelt with in our lives disrupts our relationship with God. When we repent of our sin, God will forgive us, but often time will allow us to suffer the consequences brought upon our life by it.

Isaiah 59: 2,....your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear....

We can either be Christians who are maturing in our faith through spiritual growth, or we can be Christians, who because of disobedience, for the lack of spiritual growth, fall into a life of unbelief and self-righteousness. This does not mean that our position in Christ is not eternally secure, but it does mean that there are consequences that come to those unfaithful servants who live for themselves and not for the Lord. We must understand that sin separates man from God, and even though we try to minimize, or belittle the sinfulness in our life so that we can see it as something that is not condemning, sin must be punished. Only faith in Christ alone can bring atonement for our sin. No, sin does not disconnect us from God, but it brings separation to our relationship with God. Let us remember that God is faithful to keep his promises unto us, whether blessings unto righteousness, or wrath and condemnation unto sinfulness.

Judges 7: 20 – 26,....Achan....said....indeed I have sinned....when I saw....the spoils....I coveted them....and, behold it was hid in his tent....they took them....and laid them out before the Lord....took Achan....the Lord shall trouble thee this day....stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire....and they raised over him a great heap of stones....

We see, we covet, we take, this is the result of lustful, worldly desires. And often time when we get caught, we show forth an attitude of honesty and say we are sorry, but we do not feel the need for sincere repentance. We are not sorry for what we done; we are just sorry that we got caught doing it. As Christians, having a responsibility in Christ goes beyond are responsibility in serving him, it also means having the responsibility to deal with our disobedience and sinfulness. This means identifying our wrong doings by confessing our sins before God. We must think about the sinfulness that we are trying to cover up and remember that Christ already took upon himself the punishment for our sinfulness when he paid the debt for all of humanity on the cross. Therefore, as Christians, let us come unto him, and confess before him, that which he has already paid for, and reconcile ourselves unto him.

Colossians 1: 19 – 23,....for it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell....having made peace through the blood of the cross....to reconcile all things unto himself....you, that were sometime alienated....in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled....to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight....if ye continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel....

Victory in Christ over the sinfulness in our life can only come through obedience to God and his word. As Christians, God instills within us the right thing to do, we simply choose not to do it and therefore show our disobedience toward God. Confession is the key to our restoration in the righteousness of God. Although through the sincerity of our repentance there is forgiveness, we must still willingly accept the consequences of our disobedience.

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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