

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

10.22.2023

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.

Israel Rejects God as King

1 Samuel 9: 1 – 2, 10: 17 - 26

Spiritual failures in our Christian life come from a lack of faith in Christ. Now spiritual failures are not the same as failing spiritually. Failing spiritually in our life in Christ comes due to falling prey to deception through temptation, whereas our spiritual failures come from making bad decisions in our life due to our lack of faith and trust in the Lord. More often than not, our worldly wants will out way our spiritual needs, which are those things that God has in store for us in our life. Our worldly wants are usually triggered by wanting, or coveting something that someone else has. Spiritual failures can be devastating to our life in Christ because our lack of faith and trust will cause us to question the presence of the power of God in our life. How could God allow this to happen, does God really care? We must understand that it is Gods power in Christ that works the work within us, but our faith in that power is the condition of the success. Our spiritual faith and trust in God is only as good as the foundation that we have chosen to build upon. We are justified by our faith in Christ, and we must continue to make the Lord the object of our faith throughout our life, always remembering that a crisis of our faith can bring us to a point of desperation in our life that we will no longer be willing to do things Gods way.

Ephesians 5: 3,....but fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetous, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints....

Gods word encourages us to uphold our spiritual, moral standards. These moral standards, which come through the characteristics of the indwelling Holy Spirit, are values which God has intended to guide us in our daily Christian lives so that we might reflect the holiness of God in our life at all times, which will keep us from following after our own self-righteousness.

1 Samuel 9: 1 – 2, 10: 17 – 19,....there was a man of Benjamin....whose name was Kish....and he had a son, whose name was Saul....from his shoulders upward he was higher than any of the people....Samuel called the people together....and said....thus saith the Lord....I brought up Israel....and delivered you....and ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversaries and your tribulations, and you have said....set a king over us....

Often time, we demand things from God without using the proper motivation. Our motivation must be based upon our faith in God, the word tells us in Hebrews:

Hebrews 11: 1,....faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen....

When our motivation is based upon our worldly wants instead of our spiritual need, then we find ourselves seeking after those things that we do not have to put our faith and trust in, things of the world that we have allowed to be set before us by various actions, things that we can physically become a part of, things that we feel gives us security in our life. For this reason, we reject God through our choice of disobedience concerning the commandments and promises of his word.

James 4: 2 – 3,....ye lust, and have not, ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain....ye have not, because ye ask not....ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts....

When we allow ourselves to be driven by worldly envy and ambition, it is due to a lack of faith and trust in God, which means that we are living according to the wisdom and knowledge of the world, which is destructive to our relationship with God, and to our life in Christ. The cause of the problem, which is our lack of faith and trust, brings about unbelief, so that we are only concerned about our wants and desires, and we do not ask God what it is that he wants for us in our life.

Now, also, often time, when we do not ask God what he wants, it is because we have already made our minds up, but yet we go ahead and ask in an effort to justify our selfish desires, therefore, our prayers are not genuine requests of faith believing, they are just prayers where we are merely trying to warrant our bad decisions by saying, yes it is of God, and since we were able to continue in our selfish works then God must have approved it. We must come to understand, and this understanding comes through the consequences of our disobedience, that God will not be used to serve our worldly ambitions. God wants us to bring our requests unto him in a spirit of humility, faith, and trust, and then he wants us to allow him to give unto us that which is his purpose and plan for our life, according to his time and his place.

1 Samuel 10: 20 – 26,....when....all the tribes....come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken....and Saul....was taken....when they sought him, he could not be found....the Lord answered....he hath hid himself....they ran and fetched him....Samuel said....see ye him whom the Lord hath chosen....the people shouted, and said, God save the king....Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord....Saul....went home....there went with him....men, whose hearts God had touched....

The more time we spend in the world, the more that we will see the problems of the world and the more we will allow those problems to become a part of our life, and it is then that we begin to seek worldly solutions to those problems, without seeking the need to call upon God.

Romans 6: 12 – 16,....let not sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey in it the lusts thereof....neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God....know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness....

All of humanity has been given the free will to choose, and these choices ultimately bring us to understand that we are choosing between following after one of two established pathways of life. We are choosing whether we are going to be a slave to sin or a slave to the obedience of Gods word, which means that we are either choosing to follow the sinfulness of the world or the righteousness of God. These principles, which God has laid out to mankind from the beginning are absolute, and there is no alternative course of action. We cannot straddle the fence between sin and righteousness, because following after the one that best fits our life at any given moment is not where God would have us to be. We either walk with God, or we walk in the world. By faith believing in the work of Christ on the cross we have been positioned in him. Therefore, it is vital to our life in Christ that we recognize and apply the truth of Gods word in every circumstance, and every situation, so that we might follow after his eternal plan, which is provided to us through the working of the Holy Spirit who indwells within us.

Revelation 3: 15 – 16,....I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot, I would that thou wast cold or hot....so that because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth....

Our deeds are characteristics of our true spiritual state. True salvation will reflect the true spiritual passion of our life in Christ. Rejecting God, which comes through a lack of faith and trust in him results in our choice to pursue materialistic prosperity in our life. This is a choice that we make that is temporary, with no eternal solution. This is a choice that God will allow, so that he may use the outcome to bring us back into his righteousness.

Habakkuk 2: 4,....behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him, but the just shall live by faith....

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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