

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

11.5.2023

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.

Rebuke and Repentance

Judges 10: 10 – 18

Does God challenge us in our life in Christ? Why does God challenge us, and how does God challenge us? What do we need to stand up against the challenges that we face? We need Christ.

John 3: 16,....for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life....

We need the power, and the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 14: 49,....behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high....

We need Gods word, not only to teach us in the truth, but to be a continual reminder unto us that we are to walk spiritually in that truth.

2 Timothy 2: 15,....study to show thyself approved unto to God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth....

We need to be in unity in the body of Christ, for this is where we find encouragement and the ability to encourage others.

Ephesians 4: 1 – 3,....I therefore....beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you were called....forbearing one another in love....endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace....

We need to pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5: 17,....pray without ceasing....

We need to pray fervently.

James 5: 16,....the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much....

We need to pray boldly.

Ephesians 3: 12,....in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him....

We need to pray with thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 5: 18,....in every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you....

Our life in Christ is unique in that we must be guided by our faith, and trust in God and his word. However, we must acknowledge that just because we are a Christian, it does not mean that we are exempt from facing difficulties in our life. Our life in Christ, for various reasons, is going to be filled with ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings, and challenges. As we gain wisdom, knowledge, and understanding from God, we will realize that encountering obstacles is an opportunity to grow in our spiritual life in Christ. If we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will learn that the trials and tribulations that we face are there to assure us of God's presence, and faithfulness to us in our life. The purpose that challenges serve in our spiritual growth, is by helping us to find encouragement and hope for our adversaries. So, if we ever wondered why there are difficulties in the challenges in which we face, it is so that we will seek spiritual understanding from God, and discover the abundant mercy, and grace, and strength that is available unto us through the truth of God's word.

Judges 10: 10 – 13,....children of Israel cried unto the Lord....we have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim....the Lord said....did not I deliver you....and ye cried to me, and I delivered you....yet ye have forsaken me....wherefore I will deliver you no more....

Why is it that often time we ignore God? Just like the children of Israel we are guilty of becoming just like those who are entangled in their sinful, wicked ways. This is because we all have entities, or realities in our life that we trust, instead of going to God for the comfort and strength, which we need to carry out his work in our life. But God wants more from us then just to comfort us. Through the circumstances in our life, he wants to change us completely. Often time when we are comforted, our repentance is false, because we only come to God in a state of feeling sorry for ourselves, for we do not want to deal with the consequences of our actions. Without fully surrendering to God in the circumstances of our life, and by turning unto other entities, we are disrupting our relationship with God in such a way that we are not putting our complete faith and trust in him.

Galatians 5: 1,....standfast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage....

God's word demands from us a standard of moral perfection, which we know to be unattainable, but we are to strive for that perfection.

Matthew 5: 48,....be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect....

Colossians 1: 29,....where unto I also abound, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily....

Striving for a standard of moral perfection means also showing an outward display of disciplined living. This can only happen as we walk in spirit and in truth, which comes from yielding to the leadership and guidance of the holy Spirit.

Judges 10: 14 – 16,....go and cry unto the Gods which ye have chosen, let them deliver you....children of Israel said....we have sinned, do then unto us whatsoever seemeth good....deliver us only, we pray thee....they put away the strange Gods....and served the Lord, and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel....

We must come to the reality, that yes, God is willing and able to deliver us, but only if our hearts are right with him, and only if our repentance is sincere. Just as he did with the children of Israel, God challenges us to be sincere in our confession, for not all are sincere, and for this reason we do not want to abandon the worldly, sinful, lustful desires that we have allowed to control our lives. As believers, we must show genuine evidence of our repentance by giving up, and removing, the sin which doth so easily beset us.

Hebrews 12: 1,....wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us....

The response of a Christian is to willingly, and purposely turn completely over to God all the sinfulness and selfishness in our life, so that we might strive to fulfill the purpose and plan for which God has in store for us. This means that despite the many trials and tribulations that we face, we are to obtain, and maintain a good testimony in Christ through our faith in him. The sin that doth so easily beset us is the sin of unbelief. Therefore, the word of God challenges us to forget those things which are behind, and to discard all things that might hinder our relationship with God, while striving to complete Gods purpose and plan in our life.

Philippians 3: 13 – 14,....brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus....

The sin of unbelief can easily entangle us, for unbelief can, and will become an unbearable weight in our life that hinders our faith in Christ and causes our trust in God to falter. It is pointless to try and follow Christ based upon our own merit, abilities, or achievements, and it is foolish to think that we are able to please him through religious ceremonies or rituals. Our confidence cannot rest within ourselves, but we are to place our confidence in a true and living relationship with Christ. Knowing and serving Christ is an ongoing process that continues through our life here upon earth, and into the eternal age to come. A believer must keep his focus on the goal of his calling in Christ, so that he will lay aside all considerations of this world, knowing that Christ is our sufficiency and our strength.

Joshua 10: 17 – 18,....the children of Israel assembled themselves together....and the people and princes....said one to another, what man is he that will begin to fight against the children of Amon?

Sincere confession means that God will respond with mercy, grace, and compassion, and answer our cry of repentance. As we come to God in repentance, he forgives us, and grants unto us the blessings of our relationship with him.

Proverbs 28: 13,....he that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy....

Mankind has attempted to hide their sins since the very beginning of time, but through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit we know as Christians, that there is nothing that God does not know, and there is nothing that he does not see.

1 John 3:20,....God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things....

Hebrews 4: 13,....neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight....but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him....

Those who believe that they can hide from God do not respect his sovereign authority. The person who pretends to be blameless will be judged, while the one who confesses their sin and repents will be forgiven. Remember, a cover up or a lie is worse than admitting to the crime.

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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