

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

10.15.2023

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.

Remaining in the Newness of Our Fellowship with God

## 2 Corinthians 5: 17

What does it really mean to be a new creation in Christ? We can sum up part of that answer by saying, we have been born again, saved by the power of the redeeming blood of Christ. We now belong to Christ, and we are united together with him, into one body, with many others who have believed. It also means that we no longer seek after a worldly point of view for our life, but we seek after a spiritual point of view, which comes through the righteousness of God, by way of the cross. This means that we begin to experience change in our life, for nothing remains the same once this process of transformation and restoration begins to take place within us, which is immediately due to the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 2: 13,....**but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ....

God, from before the foundation of the world, chose each one of us, to become a part of his family.

**Ephesians 1: 4,....**as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love....

Because of sin we were separated from God, sin restricted our access to him. This means that before by faith we were born into the family of God, we were without Christ, we had no heavenly citizenship, we were without a covenant relationship with him, which means that we had to eternal security in Christ, we were without the promises of his word, we were without the open access that we now have to the throne of grace, and we were without any hope as we live our life here upon earth, we were spiritually dead, sentenced to be eternally separated from God in hell. But now, by the sacrifice which Christ Jesus made on the cross, the sacrifice which paid our sin debt, and then through his resurrection we are assured that sin no longer has power over us, we have been set free, and if set free, then made free in Christ.

**John 8: 32,....**you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free....

**John 8: 36,....**if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed....

It is very important in our life in Christ to know the difference between just knowing the facts about the truth of God's word and actually knowing the truth of God's word. Many people know about Christ and his saving grace, many people even claim to have accepted him as their Lord and Savior, but they do not know him as the word of truth. The word of truth teaches us about the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, which was for our forgiveness of sin, it was for the salvation of our soul, and it was for our hope of eternal, everlasting life with God. We are not set free by simply knowing about Christ, we are set free by faith believing in the work of Christ. Christ is the one who remains forever, so what he determines for our life in himself shall stand firm. So how do we remain in the newness of our fellowship with God, we do so by accepting his challenge to remain devoted in our service to him.

**2 Corinthians 5: 17,....**therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new....

The gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is for anyone and everyone. Everyone is given an opportunity to: that by faith believing in Christ finished work on the cross, which paid the price for our sin debt, given an opportunity to become a completely new person, being made a new creation in Christ, with a new nature, and a new life. Therefore, let us accept this truth in righteousness and true holiness, through obedience to Gods word, and in everything that we do, let us do all to his praise and to his glory.

**Amos 3: 3,....**can two walk together, except they be agreed....

To have fellowship there must be a like-mindedness. We must have and remain in true fellowship with God through his spirit which dwells within us. This fellowship is unlike any other, and we live in this fellowship because of his Son, Christ.

**1 John 5: 20,....**and we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

We cannot have fellowship with God if we do not submit to his word. God's word, which is Christ within us, is all that we need for fellowship with him. We glorify God by submitting to his will and obeying the commands and the promises contained in his word. The spirit of truth, which is the spirit of God, is our witness to the word of truth, and it is the spirit of truth which brings unto us the understanding of God, and makes it known unto all who will trust in his name. Christ came to earth to reconcile mankind to the Father, and to give spiritual understanding and wisdom to all who will trust in his name, and he is the only way to God, the only truth from God, and the only life of God.

**1 John 1: 6 – 7,....**if we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth....but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin....

Remaining in fellowship with God means remaining in fellowship with one another in the body of Christ. But just like our fellowship with God, our fellowship with one another in the body of Christ is a choice that we must make. Christians that are out of fellowship with God are also out of fellowship within the body of Christ, and sin is the cause. In this mortal body we will never achieve sinless perfection, but we can choose to live in the light of our salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, submitting to God and to the obedience of his word, and resisting the temptation of the devil.

**Romans 6: 6 – 11,....**knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin....for he that is dead is freed from sin....for in that he died, he died unto sin once, but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God....likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord....

Understanding what Christ done for us on the cross will help us to remain in the newness of our fellowship with God. When Christ died on the cross, not only was it to pay our sin debt, but he died unto sin, which means that through his death and resurrection he broke the power that sin had on our lives. He died not only to deliver us from sin, but also to deliver us from the influences that sin has on our lives, which helps us to overcome the temptation and deception that causes us to sin. Christ became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God through him, and that we might live to the glory of God.

**Matthew 6: 33,....**but seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness....

Fellowship is the most important thing that God wants from us. He desires that we come to know him, to be with him, and to spend time with him. The greater our faith, the more mature we become in our relationship with God, the more important the time that we spend with God will become in our life. When we begin to realize our need to listen to God for direction in our lives, we will then make our fellowship with God a priority in our life. When we begin to focus on God, then he will help us to understand our priorities. Remaining in the newness of our fellowship with God will help us to accomplish everything in our life that God desires for us to accomplish, and all according to his purpose, his plan, and his will for us.

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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