

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

12.3.2023

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.

To Live is Christ

Philippians 1: 12 – 26

As Christians, life on this earth means living for Christ, but death would be even better because we would be living with Christ, in his presence. But, we should be in no hurry to die, not because we are living a life that is filled with our worldly sinful desires, but because it is important for us to live and to spread the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, regardless of life or death, we are to remain faithful unto God. Everything that we try to be, everything that we are, and everything that we look forward to is meant to point to Christ. Every move that we make should be to proclaim the gospel of Christ, which is Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2: 2,....I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified....

We are to present the truth of the gospel as simply as we can so that people will base their faith on the power of God and not on the wisdom of man. Those who do not have the spirit of God dwelling within them are limited in their observation of the gospel due to worldly reasoning, and only those with Gods indwelling Holy Spirit can understand the truths revealed by God through his word.

Philippians 3: 7,....but what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ....

We must be willing to give up anything and everything that prevents us from serving Christ. Therefore, Christ must be our focus, our goal, our greatest desire. He is to be the center of our mind, our heart, our body and soul, and spirit. Everything that we do we do all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10: 31,....whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God....

Philippians 1: 12 – 20,....I would ye should understand....the things which happened unto me....unto the furtherance of the gospel....and many....waxing confident....speak the word without fear....some....preach....of envy and strife....some....of good will....of contention, not sincerely....often of love....for the defense of the gospel....whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached....that in nothing I shall be ashamed....so now....Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death....

As believers, we are to motivate and encourage one another so that we may faithfully serve Christ, because it is easy to get discouraged when life becomes difficult. We must learn to look past our personal situations and circumstances, so that we may see the opportunities that God brings through our sufferings, and so that we can participate in the progress of the gospel of Christ. Every circumstance in our life should be measured according to the impact that it has on our ability to further the cause of Christ, which means telling others about Christ.

2 Timothy 3: 14 – 15,....continue then in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them....and that from a child thou hast known the Holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus....

Numerous Christians have been motivated through many examples to increase the efforts of their ministry. Some are motivated to boldly preach Christ, but for the wrong reasons, because they are motivated by selfishness, and they are not preaching Christ truthfully or sincerely. But there are those who minister the gospel of Christ out of goodwill, choosing to focus on the truth of God's word, always looking toward the positive aspects of every situation, not willing to feel obligated to defend the interpretation of the truth of God's word, which will allow us to get the truth about Christ out to those who are willing to hear. Therefore, we should rejoice whenever Christ is proclaimed, and people respond in a positive manner, even if the preaching is not from godly motivation.

Philippians 1: 18,....whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached....

As Christians, we must always rejoice in our circumstances because God is in every situation of our life, which ensures us that the gospel is continuing to be spread throughout the whole world. We must pray that whatever the motive other believers may have when sharing the gospel of Christ, whether it is in pretense or in truth, that the saving grace of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed. The goal of our prayer is that God will be glorified through Christ Jesus no matter what the motives are.

Philippians 1: 21 – 26,....for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.....but if I live I the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour, yet what I shall choose I wot not....for I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ....nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you....having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith....that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Christ Jesus for me by coming to you again....

When we place our confidence in Christ, it is then that we will place every situation and circumstance in our life in God's hands. We are to be so focused on our committed relationship to God that we are living completely committed to Christ. As believers, we need prayer in our life, we need the truth of God's word through study and meditation, we need fellowship and unity in the body of Christ, and we need all of these things, not only to establish us in our life in Christ, but to sustain us in our life in Christ. This is why it is very important to know God's purpose and plan for our life, so that we might grow in faith, and mature spiritually, so that we may continue to encourage other believers, and that we might be an effective witness to those who are without Christ. Let us always remember that the benefit of serving God faithfully is far greater than the sacrifice. This is why Paul says:

Philippians 1: 21,....for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain....

Our desire should be to lift up Christ in every area of our life, and to see the good work which Christ has started in the life of every believer, works that will bring them into their maturity in him, so that it might be completed in the day of Christ, not only for our eternal benefit, but for Gods greater glory.

Philippians 1: 6,....being confident of this one thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ....

Our purpose, as believers, is to live for the glory of Christ, and to preach the word of truth to all who will hear and believe. We begin to understand our salvation and find peace of mind, when we begin to realize that whether we live or whether we die we are Christ and Christ is within us. Both scenarios have great advantages for us in our life. A life with a passion for Christ is a life of victory, no matter what the situation or the circumstance, therefore, we discover that a life lived for God becomes a life of contentment in the Lord.

Philippians 4: 11,....not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content....

The joy and contentment of our life is to see others grow in faith, and in spiritual maturity, and to experience the blessings of knowing and serving Christ. Living to please Christ means not doing anything that would cause us to be ashamed while in the presence of God, which as believers, we are always in the presence of God. Living for Christ will always cost us something, but no matter what the cost, Christ should be first and foremost in our life. Only when we show forth our commitment to God, and to others, will we be able to truly say that we are living to please Christ.

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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