

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

12.24.2023

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.

Gad Gave, Do We

Romans 8: 32

All Around the world over the next twenty-four hours people will gather to celebrate the season of Christmas. And although some will only see it as an opportunity of a worldly celebration, many will see it as a time of peace and as a time of giving, and many non-believers and believers alike will celebrate this season reflecting back upon the birth of Christ. Now, as Christians, we are taught, through the word of God, to share that which has been given unto us, that which comes through the mercy and grace of God, and we are to share it with all mankind, this is those who have, and those who have not. Now, we are speaking in a godly sense for those things of the world are only temporary. Those who have are those who have, by faith believing accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and we are to share with them all of the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that God has given unto us, this understanding comes through the circumstances in our life that God has allowed, to help us in our spiritual growth. We are also to give unto those who have not, those who have not yet accepted the free gift of God's grace and mercy, and we are to share with them in the same manner as we do with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and even more so we are to share the love and compassion that is instilled within us through the indwelling Holy Spirit, for this is the means of our fervent desire, and that is so that not one soul would be lost and eternally separated from God. We are to share our gifts, our talents, our time, and ourselves, which is our personal testimony of our time of justification through the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ.

So, we ask ourselves, what brings us into the realm of understanding, which is the understanding of the importance of giving, and that is to give unto all, those things which God has blessed us with, for the sake of the ministry of the gospel of Christ. Now, this understanding comes only when we begin to realize the urgency of knowing, that in someone's life, which could be someone very near and dear to our heart, we come to realize that through Christ we can make a difference as to whether or not our friends, family, and loved ones might choose eternal life, an eternal home in heaven with God, or eternal death, which is forever separated from God, suffering the condemnation of Gods wrath in hell.

Now, you may think that the word of faith which we teach is cruel and unfair, but sometimes the truth of God's word hurts, because sometimes the truth needs to hurt our worldly emotions in order to be effective in reaching out to one another in the love of God, so that we might give Gods love as an example for the sake of others what this season of Christmas truly means to us. We give for the sake of loving the Lord thy God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength, but do we give in order to love our neighbor as our self.

So, this morning, as we are pondering this Christmas season and as we are celebrating the birth of our savior, let us also come to the true meaning of:

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....

God gave, and he gave all that he could, there was nothing more that he could have given for the sake of all mankind. Therefore, we must ask ourselves, do we give the same, do we give the same godly love, the same compassion, the same mercy and grace, do we make sacrifices in our life so that someone else might see the glory of God through us, would we gladly take upon ourselves the suffering of another so that they might come to experience the same righteousness of God that we have instilled within us. And while we are pondering all these questions, let us remember, that God has done all of these things, through the willingness of his Son, Christ, so that no man would need to perish.

Romans 8: 32,....he that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things....

As we focus upon the effects of the events such as Christmas have upon our life, Christ focuses upon the effects of his saving grace in our life according to Gods purpose and plan for us. The truth is that the one who created all things is continually working in our life to bring about the ultimate purpose of his plan, and that is to make us Christlike. This is the reason for Gods giving. God did not spare his own Son, Christ willingly sacrificed, and traded his sinless righteousness to pay the penalty price for our sin. He gave it all because of his great love for all mankind. God graciously gave, because his grace and mercy is based upon his love for us, and that is a true gift.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our saviour, who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of truth....

God gave, and Christ willingly came to provide a way for all mankind to come to know his Father. Now we know that not everyone will believe, but this is not our choice to make. It is Gods desire that all the world might be saved, so this means that it is our desire to compassionately present unto others, through the wisdom and knowledge of God's word, present the reasons why God has chosen each of us for salvation. God offered unto all humanity a choice, sadly we base that choice upon what we each face in our life. We must give because God has instilled within our heart a desire to see the fulfillment of his spirit within those who have a need for a personal relationship with Christ, which also includes the ideal knowledge of understanding what God is all about.

God gave, do we....

Deuteronomy 16: 17,....every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee....

2 Corinthians 9: 7,....every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity....

This season of Christmas, like many other holidays and events, has become a season of controversy in the lives of all mankind. This is because, that even as Christians, we have allowed the distractions of the world to hinder our relationship with God. We no longer see all things as opportunities to allow the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ to shine forth, but everything has become an opportunity of self-righteous acts, actions that lift ourselves up, and put others down. People might say that we have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas, but in reality, we simply just have not trusted in the Lord with all our heart, because we are too busy leaning upon our own understanding, and we do not acknowledge Christ in all that we do, therefore, we do not allow him to direct us in the choices and the pathways that we take.

Proverbs 3: 5 – 6,....trust in the lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding, in all thy way acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths....

James 1: 17,....every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning....

Yes, Christmas is a time of celebrating Gods perfect gift to mankind, but so is every other day that God blesses us with to live our life in Christ on this earth. The old saying goes, you do not give gifts of things that people need, but you give that which they want. This has carried over into the body of Christ, which is the church, and God is not pleased. Our wants, which are temporary, worldly pleasures will keep us separated from God, but if we focus upon Christ, whom we need, then our relationship with Christ will grow, our spiritual maturity will strengthen, and we will have the ability to give as God gave, with Christlike love and compassion, pointing others unto 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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