

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

1.7.2024

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.

Gods Workmanship

Ephesians 2: 1 – 10

Whether believer or non-believer, whether we would like to admit it or not, having a worthwhile purpose in life is one of mankind's primary needs. So, what do we consider to be a worthwhile purpose? The word of God is very clear in stating that no man could have any greater purpose than to serve God in ways that will last for an eternity. We soon learn that a life lived only for this world is ineffective and fruitless.

Ecclesiastes 12: 13,....let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man....

Life is to be all about glorifying God, but man wants to glorify himself. Focusing upon ourselves will bring us to envy those who seem to have no worldly cares, nor do they consider their ultimate end, which could cause us to fall into the same worldly characteristic.

Psalm 73: 3,....for I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked....

Just like Asaph we tend to envy those who seem to be successful, not caring how they came by that success. Envy is a result of the sinful nature, but believers are encouraged to be content with what they have....

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

1 Peter 2: 1 – 2,....laying aside all malice....guile....hypocrisies, and envies....as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby....

Our purpose in life, that which God created us for, is so that we might glorify him, and have fellowship with him through our relationship with his Son, Christ Jesus. In turn, this will bring us into a good relationship with others, so that we might allow Gods saving grace to shine forth and show the abundant life that he desires for all mankind to have.

Ephesians 2: 1 – 3,....and you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins, wherein in time past ye walked....according to the prince and power of the air....among whom also we all had our conversation....fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind....

Unbelievers have never experienced a spiritual life in Christ, therefore, even though they are physically alive, they are without Christ in their life, alienated from God. The only thing that they are alive to is their trespasses and sins. Unbelievers are completely without spiritual understanding.

2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 4,....if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost....in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ....should shine unto them....

God is not to blame for those who have been blinded to the truth of the gospel, for they are those who refuse to respond to God's generous offer of salvation. They refuse to listen to the message of God's saving grace; therefore, it is not the fault of those who present the truth of the gospel for the gospel is hid to them, because of their unbelief. For this reason, they remain under the condemnation and wrath of God, and they will perish willingly. So, why the unbelief, because the god of this world hath blinded their eyes.

Ephesians 2: 2,....the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience....

Now, this does not mean that Satan rules the world completely, because God is still in control, and he has allowed Satan to operate in this world within the boundaries that he has set. Satan only has dominion over the unbeliever, the believer is no longer under his control.

Colossians 1: 12 – 13,....giving thanks unto the Father....who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin....

So, when it says that Satan is the god of this world, it is just conveying that Satan rules over the unbelievers, and they follow after his agenda. All of mankind inherited the sin nature of Adam, so this means that we all need to be delivered from the wrath of God. Our only possible future is by faith believing in his Son, Christ.

Ephesians 2: 4 – 7,....but God, who is rich in mercy....wherein he loved us....hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace are ye saved....and hath raised us up....and made us sit together in heavenly places....that....he might show....his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus....

Spiritual death can only be removed by the redeeming blood of Christ. Therefore, by grace we have been saved and have passed from death unto eternal life. Being alive in Christ assures us of a new life which is not likened unto the one which we have lived when we were spiritually dead. The way that we live our new life in Christ should be a testimony to all those around us of our relationship with God, this is why we must seek his forgiveness.

Fallen man is separated from God by a sin barrier, and he alone provided access to himself by removing this wall of separation.

Colossians 2: 13 – 14,....and you, being dead in your sins....hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses, blotting out the ordinances that was against us....and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross....

Before we were in Christ, being dead in our trespasses and sins, our spirit was dead toward God, and was not functioning as God had intended. But God not only implemented the need for perfection within us, but he also provided a way for us to become perfect in him, through Christ. Our sin was judged forever at the cross and we will never be judged again. Forgiveness not only means freedom from God's eternal punishment, but it means that we can have a living relationship with him.

Ephesians 2: 8 – 10,....for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast....for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them....

Salvation is available only by faith, while other religious movements and actions depend upon our own personal effort. All that we are, and all that we have is because of God and God alone. Our goal, every day, should be to live Christlike, and that we would serve him unconditionally. God saves us so that we might have a true relationship with him, and so that we might have freedom from sin, which gives unto us the motivation to share the love of our salvation through the good works that God has instilled within us.

Everything that God creates has value, and through the redeeming blood of his Son, he sanctifies us for his service. He forms us in the way that he wants, for his purpose. Despite imperfections, God knows exactly what he is doing, and he promises to finish what he has begun in us, allowing his light to shine forth through us.

2 Corinthians 5: 21,....for he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him....

All of mankind is created in the image of God, regardless of whether or not they put their faith in his Son, Christ. Therefore, the life of everyone is purposeful and meaningful in the sight of the creator. Through faith believing in Jesus Christ, Gods image shines forth, and as we live in him, he lives in us. Everyone who has trusted in Christ can be sure that God is able to supply all of our needs because we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, having been blessed with a new life in him, and eternal life with God.

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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