

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

2.25.2024

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.

A Plea for Christlike Forgiveness

Philemon 1: 4 – 21

Do we as Christians base our actions on how others treat us, and do we often time regard the way that we live our lives in comparison to how others live theirs? If so, the results that it produces is going to be damaging to our life in Christ. Either we are going to feel inferior to those who we compared ourselves to, or we are going to have the attitude that we are better than those around us. This is why God is to be the standard that we are to measure our life against, for by doing so we will see the value of working together in the unity of the body of Christ, always seeing the need to look for ways to serve others.

Colossians 3: 23,....whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men....

1 Peter 3: 8,....be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous....

Every believer can do something, and everyone's contributions are valued. We all have a vital and important role in the body of Christ, so let us not lose focus on the work that God has called unto us to do.

Philemon 1: 4 – 9,....I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith....toward the Lord....toward all saints....that the communication of thy faith may become effectual....in you in Christ Jesus....we have great joy....in thy love, because....the saints are refreshed by thee....for loves sake....I....beseech thee....

Developing godly love and compassion for one another in the body of Christ is a step in the right direction in our spiritual maturity. As we spiritually mature in our life in Christ, our focus quickly changes from that of living only for oneself to that of encouraging one another to live complete and productive lives for the Lord. Coming into a deeper knowledge and understanding of Gods grace, through his word, will help us in becoming an affective witness in sharing our faith with others. Let us never forget that all we are, and all that we have, has come unto us by Christ, and Christ alone, and we live our lives before others by the knowledge of every good thing that he has instilled within us by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3: 5,....not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything of ourselves, but are sufficiency is of God....

We must have absolute confidence in knowing that our ministry of representing Christ comes from God, for we are not sufficient of ourselves. It is only by Gods power that we deliver Gods message to the people that God wants us to reach. When we finally realize that we can do nothing of ourselves, it removes the burden of pressure that we put upon ourselves, when we are trying to live a Christ like life without Christ.

Philemon 1: 10 – 16,....I beseech thee for....Onesimus....was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable....whom I have sent....therefore receive him....I would have retained....that....he might have ministered unto me....but without thy mind I would do nothing....thou shouldest receive him....not....as a servant....but....a brother beloved....

By faith believing in Christ, those who were once useless to God, through salvation, can be transformed into people who produce profitable, godly service. This means that through Christ, we have become who we are created to be, and through the word of God our status in life changes, for we have now become a new creation in him. Through the forgiveness, which we have received from Christ, we are now able to extend that same forgiveness unto others, for we have been forgiven of much more than what others could ever do unto us.

Romans 8: 28,....and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose....

The promise, that God works all things together for good, does not mean that all things are always good, neither does it mean that we will acquire all that we desire, but it does mean that God is able to work all things together for good, for it is all about the goodness of God, and our confidence in him is that his purpose and plan for our life will work out as he sees fit. This means that even when things in our life seems out of control, God is still in control.

Romans 8: 35, 38 – 39,....who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...for I am persuaded....(that nothing)....shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord....

As Christians, we are assured that nothing can separate us from Gods love, for his love is everlasting, and his wisdom is infinite.

Philemon 1: 17 – 21,....if thou count me....a partner, receive him (Onesimus) as myself....if he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on my account....I will repay it....let me have joy of thee in the Lord....having confidence in thy obedience....knowing....thou wilt....do more than I say....

As those who have received God's forgiveness, we should be willing, through eagerness of obedience, to show the kindness of the love of God unto others, for Gods kindness is meant to lead people to repentance. Our kindness reflects the heart of God, which allows us to share with others our faith, through the work of the Holy Spirit, which dwells within us, and it will yield fruit, both in our lives, and in the lives of those around us.

Titus 3: 4 – 8,....but after that the kindness and love of God our savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing....and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us....through Jesus Christ our savior....this is a faithful saying....that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works....these things are good and profitable unto men....

Gods' truth is not only the foundation of our relationship with him, but also of our relationship with other believers. What a privilege it is for us, as believers, to live Christlike in front of others, by living in his unfailing love. The strongest testimony that we can show forth to every person in our life is by living our life in such a way that the love which we express is a love that shines forth on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ, for it is the evidence of Christ at work in our lives that encourages us to live according to the obedience of God's word. As Christians, one of the greatest invitations that we can receive is the invitation to forgive someone that we feel has wronged us. This ultimate test of our salvation is an opportunity to allow the characteristics of God to shine forth unto others in the form of Christlike forgiveness.

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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