

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.3.2024

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.

Feed My Sheep

John 21: 15 – 17

As believers, do we truly love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul, and all our strength, and do we follow with genuine obedience the instruction of his word? Also, as believers, we are given the command to follow God, but we have a problem following his commandments, because we tend to get in our own way. Our worldly desires, our earthly lusts, our emotional distractions keep us from looking unto God, therefore, we do not see the goodness and the greatness of God, because we are so preoccupied with the trivial distractions of the world. So, what can we do to better surrender our will to Gods will in our life? Not only do we need to grow in our faith, but we need to live in our faith through the leadership and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.

James 2: 17,....even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone....

If we would truly practice what God has called unto us to do, we would not only practice it, but we would share this genuine love, so that Christ would be displayed and glorified through us. In order to do so, we must show forth Gods love in such a way that it will bring us out of our complacency in world, and remove us from our sinful pride, so that we may live a life centered upon Christ. Therefore, we should not fight with one another, we should not starve one another spiritually, we should not neglect one another in Christ, we should not play tricks on one another in order to deceive one another, and we should not cheat one another, but we should equip and encourage one another with the same love and compassion that God has for us, and has given unto us through his Son, Christ. Therefore, let us react to the commandments and the promises of Gods word by putting works with our faith, as one who's testimony is true, accurate, convicting, and profitable unto the saving grace of Christ Jesus.

John 21: 15 – 17,....so when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto them, yea Lord, thou knowest that I love thee....He saith unto him, feed my lambs....he saith to him again the second time, Simon....lovest thou me?....yea Lord thou knowest that I love thee....Jesus saith unto him, feed my sheep....he saith unto him the third time, Simon....lovest thou me? Peter was grieved....and he saith unto him, Lord thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee....Jesus saith unto him, feed my sheep....

By Gods saving grace, we are the only picture of Christ that humanity sees, therefore, it is Gods command, which has now become our responsibility, to bring to light, the characteristics and the attributes of Gods mercy, his grace, and his righteousness, into a world that is full of sinful desires and godly rejection, and in order for this to be an effective part of our life in Christ, there must be godly love.

Now, you might say that even in Christ it is hard to love everyone, or you might ask the question, how can I love everyone?

Christ told his disciples the two greatest commandments are these: love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love thy neighbor as thyself. Now, he did not say that these were the easiest commandments to obey, but he did say that they were the greatest. So, how can this be? Within each of us, at the time of our salvation, there entered into us the Spirit of God, and a part of this great gift of the Holy Spirit was the fruit thereof.

Galatians 5: 22,....the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance....

Matthew 7: 20,....wherefore by their fruits you shall know them....

So, as those who are Christlike, we have fruit to bear, and others will know us by our fruit, which is our spiritual characteristics of God. Now, we must learn to interact with others by using the fruit which we bear, and it is the love of God which combines the fruit that flows from within us to without, creating a life in Christ for us that is purposeful to others as well as ourselves, which is a life that glorifies, and is well pleasing unto God. Paul explains this to the Corinthian church in some detail in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, and he ended with this:

1 Corinthians 13: 13,....now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love....

Once we begin to understand the love of God, then we must understand the importance of that love. Christ explained it himself when speaking with Peter, when he said, if ye love me, feed my sheep. Who are the sheep, who are we supposed to feed, and what are we supposed to feed them? To answer this question, Christ started with a question, lovest thou me more than these, then feed my lambs. He was speaking to Peter concerning the other disciples, and today those disciples represent the church, we are to feed others within the body of Christ, but it does not end there. The next two times Christ spoke and said feed my sheep, he was directing Peter first of all to the children of Israel, which is God's chosen people, and then to the gentile people. It is our responsibility to minister the word of God unto all mankind, but for what reason?

Ephesians 4: 12 – 13,....for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ....till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ....

The statement feed my lambs speaks of perfecting the saints, which is how the knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is spread throughout the world, and Christ wants to make sure that we are a living example of the truth of God's word. God's desire is that mankind would see the fruit which we bear, which means that humanity is seeing the characteristics of God himself within us. This requires spiritual maturity, which comes by obedience to the word of God. Therefore, perfecting the saints, means that the work of the ministry will begin to see souls saved, which glorifies God.

Luke 19: 9 – 10,....Jesus said unto him, the day of salvation is come to this house....for the Son of man is come to seek and save that which is lost....

Through the perfecting of the saints, the truth of the gospel of the saving grace of Christ Jesus is ministered unto others, and the spiritual maturity of the body of Christ begins to edify the body of Christ, which brings glory unto God.

So, let me ask this question, as believers do, we truly love God, and if the answer is yes, are we feeding his sheep. Loving God means feeding his sheep, and feeding the sheep means loving God. We may try to do one without the other, but if we do, we will never be effective in our life in Christ. Next, are you here today without Christ, this day is salvation come to this house, all that must be done to accept is to believe, by faith, in the work which Christ has done through the crucifixion and the resurrection, and thou shalt be saved.

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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