

Mt Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.31.2024

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.

God's Grace Makes Me What I am.

1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 4, 8, 10

Humanity today, will gather all around the world, to recognize the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but just merely recognizing it is not enough, humanity must believe in it, and they must accept it, in order to receive the glorious hope of eternal life which comes by it. Christ presence in this world was the ultimate act of the Fathers compassion. Humanity did not deserve the sacrifice of Christ, but because of Gods great love, he has called us to the hope of eternal life in him. God has provided for each of us, through the gift of his Son, he has provided the opportunity for eternal life with him. Not one of us deserved the sacrifice that he willingly gave, and even though there will be many that will reject the righteousness of Christ, Gods' mercy, his grace, and his compassion will remain never ending, for it is eternal. Therefore, there could not have been a resurrection, unless first there was a death, and there would be no hope of an ending if there was never a beginning. The whole purpose and plan of our existence is due to the spiritual workings of God. So why is the resurrection of Christ so important? It proves unto mankind who Christ is, and it demonstrates Gods acceptance of the sacrifice of his Son, Christ, on our behalf. Therefore, it guarantees that those who believe in Christ, will not remain dead, but will be resurrected unto eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 4,.... moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain....for I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures....

The pathway to eternal life is available to everyone who will believe in what God has done for us through his Son, Christ Jesus, on the cross. For this to happen, we must stop trusting in our own abilities and start trusting in God's redeeming power, to save us, and to make us whole in him. This is one more reason to trust God when he asks for us to put our continued faith in his promises. If his power can raise the dead, just think about what it can do in our own lives. God made his redemptive plan and set it into motion before sin ever entered into the world. In his plan, God purposed that all who would believe, by faith, in the shed blood of his only begotten Son would be declared righteous. It is not by what we do that causes God to credit us with his righteousness, but it is by what we believe in by faith.

We are saved by grace, we are positioned in Christ, we are identified with all that he is, and all that he has done. The Holy Spirit of the resurrected Christ, through salvation, indwells within us, so that although I remain in this perishable body, I live by faith in the Son of God, and as I submit to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, my grace in God is quickened. The more I die to self, the more I live for Christ, for it is faith, and faith alone that saves me.

John 11: 25,.... Jesus said....I am the resurrection, and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live....

What happens when God promises something that seems impossible to us? It is our faith in God that is counted unto us as righteousness, for it is through our faith in God, that we were justified, and we were declared righteous through his grace. Unwavering faith shows that we are growing stronger daily in our trust in the Lord, therefore, as Christians we trust in Gods word, and we believe that all that he promises will become a reality in our life, even if we do not understand how it will come to pass, or when it will come to pass. Believers who truly trust in God, will be clothed in his righteousness, and we will be strengthened in our faith. As Christians, we must believe that God will keep his promises, even if those promises seem to be unlikely. When we are facing difficulties in our life, first and foremost let us acknowledge and be thankful that God is going to work things out. Even when we have the tendency to believe that life is too difficult for us to live, it is never too difficult for God, for with God all things are possible.

Luke 24: 1 – 5,....now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bring the spices which they had prepared....and they found the stone rolled away....and they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus....and it came to pass, as they were much perplexed....two men stood by them in shining garments....and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead?....

As we look back upon Christ and his death on the cross, and of his glorious resurrection, we are brought to the realization that we are sinful and unworthy, and we are in desperate need of salvation. Justification is only the first step in our never-ending journey of salvation. Once justified, we must understand that our old life is past, and that it must remain nailed to the cross, and we are resurrected with Christ into a newness of life. Many people today are still looking for Jesus among the dead. Not believing in the crucifixion and resurrection, they believe that his body is still intombed. They do not understand the reality of the living Christ. For this reason, as Christians, our life in Christ is to mature, by growing in our faith, and in his grace, and by walking in the Holy Spirit of truth. As believers, Christ identifies with us through his death on the cross, and we are identified with him through his glorious resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15: 8, 10,....last of all he was seen of me....as one born out of due time....but by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain....yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me....

Christ, the who died a sacrificial death on the cross, done so to pay the price for our sin debt, and was resurrected so as to break the power of sin in our lives. It was God the Father who resolved that the only way mankind's death sentence could be changed, was if a perfect, sinless man was willing to pay the ultimate price for sin, and to take the punishment that we deserved. Out of his love, God gave his only begotten Son, to a world that was condemned to endure his divine judgement. Therefore, for this reason, there is no need for any one member of humanity to perish, but to come into his everlasting life. Christ purpose here on earth was to complete the Fathers plan of bringing salvation to all of humanity. But sadly, humanity did not recognize, nor did they respond to Gods love for us. Christ was born for a specific purpose, and that reason was to become a representative for all mankind, for the salvation of the whole human race. Christ came willingly to pay the price for the sins of the world, and it is up to us to choose to follow his perfect example, and to humble ourselves unto God, so that we might say as Christ said to the Father, we desire that thy will would be done.

1 Timothy 1: 15,....this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners....

This faithful saying, which is trustworthy and dependable, one that is worthy of all acceptance, which we can build our life upon, is a saying given unto us by God himself, a saying that will stand the test of time, and it is this glorious gospel of God, which we accept by faith believing, that is of the greatest importance for our eternal destiny, for this indeed is a statement that can be trusted, and is deserving of our complete acceptance, that Christ Jesus did in fact come into the world to save sinners, he was crucified for all mankind, and his death guarantees the believer access to God, and a future resurrection unto eternal life.

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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