

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

3.24.2024

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.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Luke 23: 33 – 49

It is instilled within the hearts of all of humanity to have a sense of right and wrong. For this reason, mankind has a built-in sense of judgement even though he has no moral basis for making such judgements. Therefore, it is a basic, natural desire for man to be in control of his own destiny. Now, because of our awareness of right and wrong, our inner self tells us that if our good works do not out way the bad, then there is a need for some type of salvation. Salvation by works appeals to man's pride and his desire to be in control. Therefore, man creates his own religions so that it involves some type of saving grace by works alone.

Proverbs 14: 12,....there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are ways of death....

Why does salvation by works seem so right to mankind, because man does not fully understand the extent of his own sinfulness.

Jeremiah 17: 9,....the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?....

The deceitfulness of a man's heart is the very thing that prevents humanity from seeing their true state of living, and it also makes it impossible to see and comprehend the holiness of God. Therefore, there is no way we could ever be saved if salvation truly were dependent on works. Works cannot save us, but being saved by faith believing in Christ is demonstrated by our good works.

Titus 3: 4 – 5,....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 of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost....

Good works have nothing to do with our salvation, but good works should be the characteristic of one who is saved. Good works are not the cause of salvation, they are the evidence of it. For this reason, the word of God contains an abundance of evidence that salvation is by grace, through faith in Christ alone, and it is a gift of God.

Luke 23: 33 – 38,....when they were come to....calvary,....they crucified him....then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do....the people stood beholding....the rulers....derided him, saying, he saved others, let him save himself....the soldiers also mocked him....saying, if thou be king of the Jews, save thyself, and a superscription....was written....this is the king of the Jews...

In order, to save mankind, Christ had to sacrifice himself. Although he was despised, rejected, and hung on a cross, his thoughts were not thoughts of hatred, revenge, or self-pity, but that of eternal forgiveness. A forgiveness that went back to the beginning of mankind and reaches forward into the future to all who will ever be born. This sacrificial death was planned before the foundation of the earth so that all of mankind could be offered the free gift of forgiveness for sin, and escape the eternal death that comes from being separated from God.

In Christ darkest hour, he prayed, and his prayer was one of intercession to the Father for all of mankind, who by faith believing, accepted the plan of salvation that was being offered by the Father.

Isaiah 53: 12,....therefor will I divide him a portion with the great....because he hath poured out his soul unto death....he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the trespassers.

Mankind had been deceived into believing that Christ needed to be sentenced to death, therefore in their sinfulness they carried out that deception, putting him to death on the cross, not understanding that it was Gods purpose and plan all along. But Christ knew the fathers eternal plan, and therefore, when on the cross he provided forgiveness for all who would believe in him.

Luke 23: 39 – 43,....one of the male factors....railed on him, saying, if thou be Christ, save thyself and us....but the other....rebuked him saying, dost not thou fear God....for we receive the due rewards of our deeds....he said....Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.... Jesus said today thou shalt be with me in paradise....

Like many today, the one malefactor was blinded by his sinfulness and did not believe that only through Christ death on the cross could anyone truly be saved. He had no reverence for God, which was due to the fact that he was enduring exactly what he allowed his own sinfulness to bring upon him. The other malefactor also knew that he was enduring the punishment that he deserved, but he saw something more, he saw what the others refused to accept, for he saw Christ for who he truly was, and that was the son of God, who's shed blood would save all who would believe.

Even in death it is never too late to look to Christ and live. For it is by faith in his work that secures forgiveness for our sins and gives unto us everlasting life. Christ affirms unto us through his word that what he has to say is worthy of special attention, and since it is important, we should listen to it very carefully. Therefore, when he said, today thou shalt be with me in paradise, it shows unto us as believers, that to depart from this world means to immediately arrive at the presence of God. There is no gap in time between the moment of death and when we come into the presence of God. We also must learn that no sin is so bad that Christ will not forgive us, and that his death on the cross is enough to pay the debt of all sin. Therefore, there is hope for all who will humble themselves before an almighty God.

Luke 23: 44 – 49,....the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour....the sun was darkened....the veil of the temple was rent....Jesus....cried with a loud voice....Father into thy hands I commend my spirit....he gave up the ghost....centurion saw....he glorified God....all the people....all his acquaintance....stood afar off, beholding these things....

Throughout his life on earth, Christ done as the Father directed him to do, and since he finished the work which he came to do, as believers, we now have access to the Father, by the blood of Christ, for by his death, he purchased salvation for all who would believe upon his name. Christ willingly gave his life, and by doing so, he showed unto all of mankind the importance of putting our complete faith and trust in him. Even though Christ suffered, he always allowed the Father to be in control.

John 10: 17- 18,....therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it up again....no man taketh it from me, but I lay it down myself, I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again....this commandment have I received of my father....

When we love others, because of the love that we see through the one who loves us, we are reflecting the love of God. Therefore, we love others because of the reflection of how we see Gods love within our own lives. We are to love others unconditionally, the same way that Christ loves us. Christ loves us so that we may know the love of God. So why did the crucifixion of Christ have to take place? So that undeserving sinners could see and come to know and to love the Son of God. This unconditional love was shown by Christ death on the cross, so that the Father might be glorified by the Son, which he done because of his willingness to love unconditionally.

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

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