

Mt Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.21.2024

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.

Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness

Matthew 5: 6

A true believer is one who hungers and thirsteth for the righteousness of God. One who seeks the will of God above, and before everything else in their life. By doing so we have been given the opportunity by God to experience a spiritual satisfaction that comes only through a right relationship with him. The righteousness of God not only portrays us in a right relationship with him, but it also portrays our right relationship with others within the body of Christ, as well as with those whom God has allowed us to become a witness to of his great gift of salvation. Therefore, it is with great joy, and spiritual maturity, that we actively seek a close, meaningful relationship with God, for in doing so we will discover that it is he alone that can save us and satisfy our soul.

Ephesians 2: 12 – 13,....at that time ye were without Christ....strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in this world....but now in Christ Jesus....are made nigh by the blood of Christ....

The word of God teaches us that there are those things that we need to be mindful of and that by remembering those things it will help us to strive daily to walk with God. Now, what this means is that before we were saved, we were separated from God, we had no hope, we were living a life of desperation, full of worldly fear. Therefore, God provided us with a reminder to encourage us, for he wants us to commit wholly and completely unto him, which gives unto us a willingness to serve him in the greatest of capacities, so that we might live a life in Christ that is for the benefit of being an example to all of humanity, concerning the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

As being a part of the body of Christ, the church today is that which God has chosen as his way of spreading the gospel of the saving grace of his Son Jesus Christ to all the world. This means that salvation is available to all who will hear, believe, and accept the truth of Gods word, therefore, we must preach the word.

2 Timothy 4: 2,.....preach the word, be instant in season, out of season....

The church is to preach the word: to the sinner it is a message of eternal hope, which comes by faith believing in the one who provided the means of eternal hope through his sacrifice on the cross, and for the believer the gospel is a message of encouragement, to remember, but not to remember all that we once were, but to remember that we were once without hope, but by the mercy and grace of God, we who have now believed might have the ability to bring the gospel of Gods eternal hope to a world that is filled with desperation and fear. In order, for us to be willing vessels within the greatness of Gods purpose and plan for all of humanity, then we must hunger and thirst after the righteousness of God.

Matthew 5: 6,.....blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled....

In order, to conform to the will of God, we must be declared righteous by God. Through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, we become obedient to the word of God, and as we put our faith and trust in Christ, the one who has paid our sin debt in full, nailing it to the cross, so that God the Father might bestow upon us the righteousness of his Son, declaring that we are now conformed unto his plan and his purpose, which is his will, being saved from the condemnation and wrath of sin. It is this obedience which produces within all of those in the body of Christ, a hunger for the continued righteousness of God, so that his justice will continue to prevail. Our desire is that the righteousness of God will overcome the wickedness of the self-righteousness of the world.

Proverbs 21: 21,.....he that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honour....

The pursuit of righteousness includes a proper relationship with God and also a proper relationship with others. We glorify God when we believe upon his Son Christ as our Savior, and we honor him when we share with others what the kindness of our salvation not only means to us, but also how it will change the lives of all that will believe upon his name.

Hungering and thirsting after righteousness reminds us that we do not have any righteousness of our own, nor can we make ourselves righteous as some may think, but the righteousness of Christ comes unto us from God the Father, on the basis of our faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are changed into the likeness of Christ, conformed unto his image, and clothed in his righteousness. Our hunger and thirst for righteousness will help us to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Christ, as we yield ourselves to the leadership and guidance of the spirit of God, who encourages us to diligently seek after the will of God.

Isaiah 64: 6,....we are all as unclean, and all our righteousness's are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away....

Although, as believers, we have been redeemed and set a part as children of God, we must remain humble and never see our good works as more than filthy rags in the eyes of God, for until are works are cleansed by the righteousness of Christ, through God, they are but self-righteous works. Gods' intention is that our salvation will result in works that are produced by our faith in Christ, therefore, it is not our righteous works that produce salvation, but in Christ they are evidence of our salvation.

Matthew 6: 33,....but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness....

The top priority in our life can either be God, or it can be the world, but it cannot be both. We are encouraged by the word of God to fight against the daily anxiety in our life, that is continually directing us to follow the pleasures of worldliness.

James 1: 14,....every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....

Only God knows what it is that we truly need in our life, and he will take care of our needs if we pursue after his kingdom and his righteousness. When Christ taught his disciples to pray, he taught them first to recognize the glory of God, and secondly to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.

Matthew 6: 9 – 13,....after this manner therefore pray ye: our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name....thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven....

The righteousness of God speaks of a right relationship with God. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness are those who have already begun to understand their life of salvation, which comes by the word of God. To hunger and thirst for righteousness also means to be filled with the satisfaction of knowing that we are in a right relationship with him.

It is instilled within all of humanity to have a desire to continually seek fulfillment in their lives. As believers, we now know the direction that God would have us to go in our life, for he gives unto us instruction and encouragement through his word, so that we might stay on the pathway of his righteousness.

Philippians 3: 14,....I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus....

Only by hungering and thirsting after the righteousness of God will we seek the will of God above anything else in our life. This will ensure that the emptiness we often time feel within us should not be satisfied with the lustful desires of the world, but we will secure that emptiness with the completeness of the righteousness of God.

Matthew 5: 6,....blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled....

Let us Pray.

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