

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

6.16.2024

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.

Ruth Follows Naomi

Ruth 1: 1 – 9, 14, 16

What would we be willing to give up for the sake of embracing the absolute truth? What is absolute truth, and where does it come from? The challenge is not in the question, but in whether we really want to hear the answer. Every person in one state or another is searching for some form of truth, and it seems as if the more enlightened we are to the truth the further we become from understanding the truth. So, what is the truth? It is factual, and it is indisputable, and it remains the truth for it is not dependent upon what we think or feel. Therefore, the truth does not change based upon our individual understanding of it. There are those who believe that the truth changes based upon their understanding of it because it allows them to create a reality that gives them the freedom to do whatever they want whenever they want. Many in the church today surround themselves with those who will tell them a version of the truth which they want to hear, a version which will give unto them the freedom to justify how they live their lives based upon a truth that is not the truth at all. So, what is the truth? As we see in today's scripture, truth is constant, it does not change, it is objective, there are no favorites, and absolute truth will always prevail. Faith in Christ is based upon absolute truth which is eternal. Therefore, it is Christ that is the truth, and he is unchanging. Regardless of anything else, without Christ, at the end of the day we will be standing alone without the truth of the hope of our eternal assurance.

John 18: 37 – 38,....everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice....Pilate sayeth unto him, What is truth....

The truth is: Christ is the Son of God and God the Son. He is the great I am, he is the word made flesh. Christ testified to the truth, and he still does today by the truth of God's word. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and those who accept him will not be condemned, but for the one who rejects the truth of God's word, they are condemned already. The truth of God's word does not conform to humanities distorted views, so mankind twist it to fit their own ungodly pursuits, as well as their prideful, worldly, attitudes. Christ message contained in the truth of his word is uncomfortable and unacceptable to mankind, for it reveals the thoughts of the heart of man, and exposes the sinfulness therein, for it commands everyone to repent of their faithlessness. Therefore, the truth is a threat to humanities way of life, except for those who hear his voice, for everyone that is of the truth hears his voice.

Ruth 1: 1 – 7,....when the judges ruled....there was a famine in the land. And a certain man....went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons....the man was Elimelech, and....his wife Naomi....they came into the country of Moab....Naomis husband died, and she was left....Mahon and Chilion died....and the women was left....she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from....Moab....she went forth out of the place where she was....they went on the way to return unto....Judah....

As believers, we know that every good thing comes from God, even when God chooses to allow circumstances to happen in our life, circumstances which leave him as our only hope. This demonstrates unto us, that as God's people, we are not automatically exempt from life's difficulties. In becoming a Christian, our life is fulfilling, it is content, and it is joyful in the spirit of the Lord, but it is in no way easier. Life becomes more difficult after we accept Christ. This is because temptation is never-ending, Satan does not leave us alone just because we are now in a committed relationship with Christ, it is now that the struggle against sinfulness becomes more distinct in our life. Many, often time, struggle, because even though we have been justified in Christ, and we now have a right relationship with him, we still have not given up the right to our worldly self. We have accepted Christ as our savior but not as Lord over all things in our life. We must conform our lives to the characteristics of God, and by doing so our eyes are opened to the truth of God's word, so that we might perceive the lies of a sinful world. Fighting against this can be very difficult for us in our life in Christ, therefore, we must grow in our faith and in our spiritual maturity, and we must learn to say no to our fleshly desires. We must learn to forgive, we must learn through the guidance of the Holy Spirit to handle situations and circumstances in our life through God's grace, and we must learn to replace worldly emotions with the unconditional love of God so that we might grow through every opportunity, dying to ourselves daily so that we might become more obedient to God. This means that as faithful followers of Christ we will never be completely overwhelmed, because we meet every challenge through Christ Jesus who lives within us.

2 Corinthians 4: 7 - 11,....we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us....we are troubled on every side....we are perplexed....persecuted....cast down, but not destroyed....always bearing....the dying of the Lord Jesus....that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh....so that death worketh in us, but life in you....

As believers, we might be fragile vessels, but within us we contain a powerful truth, but we must understand it is Gods truth, and it is his power, and it is this that takes the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ into the world. Proclaiming Christ through our weaknesses allows his power to shine forth. Sufferings and hardships are a way of life, and we should not be surprised or give up because of it. Although we many feel overwhelmed, our present troubles are small and will not last very long, because the power of God is working within us, and will never leave us without eternal hope. Our sufferings have eternal purpose, for the difficulties which we endure will give way to our future glory in the Lord.

2 Timothy 2: 11,....it is a faithful saying....if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him....

Ruth 1: 8 – 9, 14, 16,....Naomi said....go, return each to her mothers house, the Lord deal kindly with you....the Lord grant you that ye may find rest....Ruth said, intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following thee, for whether thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest , I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God....

Our desire, as believers, is to know and to follow the one true and living God. The one who has proved his faithfulness to us despite our many misdirection's in our life. Our confession of love and devotion to God is one that we might forsake all, so that we might follow him, by grace, through faith, and from this point on our life will never be the same. Despite overwhelming odds, we choose to follow Christ, renouncing our worldly self and the desires thereof, committing to our new spiritual identity in God. We have left our old citizenship and identity of the world behind us, saying goodbye to sinfulness, our old life is gone, and a new life has begun. We have given up our old way of living for ourselves, and we have taken up our cross and followed Christ.

Mark 8: 34 – 35,....whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself. And take up his cross, and follow me....whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospels, the same shall save it....

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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