

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.11.2024

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.

Young David Anointed King

1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

If only we could see ourselves as God sees us. So, how does God see us? As believers, our identity is found rooted and grounded in the mercy and the grace of Christ. It is these truths that assure us of God's unconditional love for us. Through our repentance, and through our acceptance of Christ's death on the cross, which was on our behalf, God no longer sees our imperfections, instead, he sees in us the righteousness of his Son Christ. We now have peace with God, and we are counted as part of the body of Christ. What we see, who we see, and how we see, as believers, has nothing to do with our physical eyesight, but has everything to do with our spiritual state of mind. It does not matter what we do, or where we go, we are always going to encounter and make contact with those things which God has placed within our lives, and these encounters are not accidental, for they are by God's design. God has divinely arranged our daily lives so that he might accompany us in our everyday encounters, for what he sees, and how he sees, is considerably different from how that we see. Often time, when we look, all that we can see is the world, but when Christ looks, he sees far more, for although he is looking at the same thing, he sees through the love and compassion of the father. Therefore, we must learn to see through God's eyes, so that through his love, and compassion we might be eager to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

1 Corinthians 13: 12,....for now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face, now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known....

God calls us to be nothing more, and nothing less than what he has created us to be. Therefore, we are to quit looking on the outward or worldly appearance of things, and we are to look instead at that which God has created, and we are to look for the purpose of that creation. Our knowledge of God will always be incomplete, it is only a partial glimpse of what might be known of him. This practical knowledge, which we will continue to have until we see him face to face is described unto us as seeing through a glass, darkly, meaning that we will never understand the fulness of God. God however is never limited in his knowledge, and even though we do not see or understand all of it ourselves, we must, through prayer and study of his word, strive, through his wisdom, and through his knowledge, by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are to strive to understand, so that we might see more clearly what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12: 2,....that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God....

1 Samuel 16: 1 - 7,....the Lord said....how long wilt thou mourn Saul, seeing I have rejected him....I will send thee to Jesse....for I have provided me a king among his sons....Samuel said, how can I go?....call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do....Samuel did that which the Lord spake....he looked on Eliab, and said, surely the Lords anointed is before him....the Lord said unto Samuel. Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him, for the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart....

God alone can read the motives of a man, whether or not mankind is influenced by outward works, or if he is one that trust in the Lord, and then acts upon the promises of his word. Even though, as believers, we have been given a new life in Christ, we still retain our old sin nature, therefore, the thoughts of our mind can easily be influenced by either one. We may be able to fool other people, and other people may be able to fool us, for we do not know if a man's heart is pure or not, but we can never deceive the Lord, for only he has the ability to see the intent of the heart.

1 Samuel 16: 2,....Samuel said, how can I go?....

When do we begin to understand the greatness of our position in Christ? The incredible love, the remarkable privileges, the gracious gifts which we have received from God. When we begin to see God as he sees us, then will we recognize our position in Christ, and our union with him, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, accepted by God, and all of this by his grace, through our faith in Christ, and his grace will continue into the eternal ages to come, and one day we will be like him, for we shall see him as he really is, the same as he sees us. This means that our ability to appreciate and understand the depth and fulness of Christ will only become complete in us at his return, when our spiritual eyes will become wide open, and finally we will understand what it means to say, I am a child of God.

1 Samuel 16: 4,....Samuel did that which the Lord spake....

In order to understand how God sees us, we must gain insight into what God desires for us after salvation. God has prepared us for his purpose, and we are created in Christ Jesus for good works, but remember, good works did not give unto us our salvation, but good works are absolutely meant to be the result of our salvation. We are wholly the result of Gods work, and we belong to him. Everything God creates is of value, yet nothing in creation compares to his creation of mankind, for we are his workmanship.

Ephesians 2: 10,....for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them....

Set before humanity are two pathways, and we are given the freedom to choose which pathway that we will take. God does not try to force us in either direction, but he does set before us the pathway of life eternal with him, all the while Satan is setting before us an enticing pathway of worldly pleasures, and it is up to us to choose. Now, not only does God watch all of man's pathways in his life, but he also watches over the choices in which we make, and by doing so, he influences us through the guidance of his indwelling Holy Spirit, so that through prayer and meditation in his word, we might make the right decisions of our own free will. Remember, even though God is watching over us, we are tasked with making our own choices, and with this comes the responsibility of the consequences in our life. Therefore, there will be consequences of blessings that come from making the right choices through him, and there will be consequences of wrath and judgement because of the choices which we have made without him. Which pathway will we choose.

1 Samuel 16: 8 – 13,....Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel....the Lord hath not chosen these....there remaineth yet the youngest....now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to....and the Lord said, arise, anoint him, for this is he....Samuel anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward....

God speaks quietly to our spirit through his spirit, and he is willing to guide us, but we must first have an intimate relationship with him. The constant presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit points us in the direction of Christ's own ministry. Herein lies the truth, which helps us to understand who God truly is, what he has done for us, what he is doing for us, and what he will continue to do for us, as long as we continue to place our trust in him, which is a matter of trusting in his word. God's word teaches us that we must come to know, accept, believe, and live for Christ, which is essential for our life as a believer. Our love for God, and our love for one another is how that we remain in him, and this is how that we continue growing in his Son, Christ. Our ability to show forth the love of Christ can only come from God, because the source of all love is the divine nature of God. This unlimited love is a testimony of our relationship with God. One of the ways that God desires to see us, is in how we care about the spiritual well-being of others. Christ laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our life for others, which means putting aside our own self-righteousness, and portraying unto others the righteousness of God. We must learn to see others the same way that God sees us.

Acts 10: 34,....Peter....said....of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons....

All who believe in the work of Christ are equally accepted by God into the body of Christ. God has no favorites, therefore, there is no partiality with God. This means that the offer of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is available unto all. Now, since life is short with no certainty, and eternity is forever, then the most important question anyone can answer is, how can I be saved, and come to know for certain that I am right with God. A man that is seeking after God is a man that God is working with, so as to draw him unto himself.

1 Samuel 16: 13,....and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward....

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Ephesians 5: 15 – 17,....see then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil....wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is....

Why does God need to draw us unto salvation? If he didn't, we would never come to him, for we have not the ability or the desire to do so. So, how does God see us? God sees all mankind the same, and that is as his own, in need of salvation. Therefore, God sent his Son, so that he might exchange his righteousness for our sinfulness, for God cannot look upon sin, and through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, he creates within us a desire to know him, to obey him, and to walk in the newness of his life. Because we are now in Christ, God sees us by seeing the righteousness of Christ that covers us. Therefore, he sees us as redeemed, justified, sanctified, and glorified. We are now seen by God as holy and blameless, because we are in Christ. Therefore, as believers, we are to make the most of every opportunity given unto us by God. We must see every situation and circumstance in our life, whether we feel it to be good or bad, we must see it as an opportunity to grow in our faith, mature in our life spiritually, and use it to follow after Gods purpose, plan, and will in our life. Remember, those who pray and study Gods word will better see Gods perspective concerning life's issues, and better understand his desires for our life.

Let us Pray.

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