

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

10.27.2024

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.

Spiritual Preparedness

Luke 14: 27 – 30

One of the greatest tests of our life in Christ will be to see if we can become obedient to the commandments and the truth of God's word, especially in the midst of situations and circumstances that we feel to be difficulties in our life. So, how can we prepare for those things which are certain to come upon each of our lives. We need spiritual preparation. In our life we will need to make choices, and by our faith and trust in Christ, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will have the ability to make these choices according to the will of God. So, what is spiritual preparation, it is the guided process that we use to make ourselves ready to be used in our service unto God. Now, while lack of preparation, will cause us to lose many opportunities that allow us to experience the closeness of our relationship with God, spiritual preparation will allow us to grow in our faith, trust, and spiritual maturity, bringing us closer to God through our life in Christ. If we are not putting all that God has given unto us into our calling and service unto him right now, at this moment in time, then the time that we have left does not matter, for we must not assume that we will have the ability to make it up later, because later may never come.

James 4: 14,....whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow....for what is your life, it is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away....

We live in a world that teaches us to believe that we are masters of our own fate, and that we should think of ourselves as being able to do whatever we put our mind to. Now, there is a problem with this kind of thinking, because we cannot predict, nor can we control the future, for we truly have no idea what will happen tomorrow. Our lives are both temporary and fragile, and realizing this will help us to take a major step in the right direction toward our awareness of knowing that in very moment of our life we should be dependent upon God's grace, his mercy, and his will. So, what is our life, it is but a short fleeting moment in time, compared to Gods eternal future. Therefore, God, through his word, challenges us not to put too much confidence in our own efforts to take care of ourselves, but rather to put our confidence in Gods will in our life.

Luke 14: 27 – 30,....whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple....which of you, intending to build....sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether we have sufficient to finish it....lest....after he hath laid the foundation....is not able to finish it, all....begin to mock him, saying, this man begin to build, and was not able to finish....

What determines the ongoing life of a growing relationship with God. Salvation is our foundation, which came unto us by faith believing in the work that Christ did on the cross, for his work was a free gift of God's grace to all of mankind. Now we have an ongoing life in our faithfulness, and in our obedience to God and his word, a life that we now begin to build, a strong and acceptable life in Christ, who, by his example showed unto us that it takes a lifetime of preparation in order to have a productive, active ministry. Christ himself went through thirty years of preparation, and then begin his ministry, and he done so as an example of how that we should live our life in him. Christ faced the cross, and experienced the resurrection, so that all who would by faith, believe in him, that we might experience the same active ministry that he had, which also means experiencing the pain and the suffering along the way to our eternal life with him, and preparation is the key. So, how do I prepare in my life in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2: 6 – 7,....as ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him....rooted and built up in him....stabilized in the truth....abiding....with thanksgiving....

As those who have accepted Christ by faith, we ought to walk, live, think, and continue to work by faith. But do not be deceived, for false teachers will declare unto you that personal sacrifice and works are the way that we are pleasing unto God, and yes works are a vital part of our faith, but they are not the source of our faith, for works cannot save us.

Ephesians 2: 8 – 9,....by grace are ye saved through faith....not of works....

Now even though our growing faith will lead us unto many good works, our salvation remains constant despite our actions, because our salvation is based upon Christ and not the works which we have done. Therefore, we are called by God, to walk worthy of his Son Christ, and this can only be achieved as we abide in him, and he in us, and we willingly choose to follow after the leadership and guidance of his Holy Spirit. Spiritual preparation means choosing to follow in the footsteps of Christ, and not after our own will.

Colossians 3: 1 – 3,....if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above....for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God....

As believers, our wisdom is found in knowing Christ, for in knowing Christ, we have died unto sin, and being therefore separated from sin, our life is hidden with Christ in God. This is unchangeable, for God will not change his mind. Therefore, we are now forever in union with Christ, even though at times the condition of our lives may seem to be a contradiction to this union, especially when difficulties come upon us. But no matter what may come, in Christ, we are one hundred percent secure in the love of God. This truth is the basis of our service unto God, for it is no longer I that live, but Christ that liveth in me. Through salvation, we immediately experience our life in Christ, and as we begin to grow in our spiritual preparedness, we will begin to experience a balance in our life, between what God has already done and what is yet to come in our service with God. We are no longer a part of this world, for we have put on our new nature in Christ, and we are learning to become more and more like him every day.

1 Corinthians 2: 6 – 7,....howbeit we speak wisdom....yet not the wisdom of this world....but we speak the wisdom of God....which God ordained before the world unto our glory....

Worldly wisdom is limited, it is incomplete, it speaks nothing of the truthfulness of Gods word, therefore, mankind tries to dress it up with showmanship within the church, so as to excite the worldly emotions of the people, hoping to give unto them spiritual reasoning without the evidence of the truth. As believers, we know that the truth of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ does not need to be dressed up with showmanship, it just needs to be presented through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, so that it might be understood and therefore accepted. Gods' wisdom is above, and beyond what the world can comprehend in its natural state apart from him. God must reveal the understanding of his wisdom, and knowledge unto us, through our salvation, so that we might become aware of it.

Matthew 24: 45 – 46,....who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing....

Christ wants us as believers to remember that through his word comes warnings of those things which will take place in the world around us, and these warnings serve a purpose, and that is to make our hardships seem easier, by allowing us to know that God has a purpose and a plan for all things, and for those who will heed unto these warnings, we will not be drawn into the false, ungodly lies, and manipulations of man, but we will therefore allow the truth of Gods word to equip and prepare us for the opportunities that God has in store for each of us in our life in Christ. Therefore, even though we are unlikely to determine our own future, we are challenged through his word, so that we will not put our preparation in our own efforts, but rather we will seek the Lords will, and discover his plan for our life.

Therefore, we pray:

James 4: 15,....if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that....

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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