

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

12.1 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.

Comfort For Gods People

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5, 25 – 26, 29 – 31

Gods comfort, which is directed unto those, who by faith, live for him, is a powerful gift, but it is not a gift to merely be received, for it is to be actively shared with others. As believers, we glorify God by giving comfort unto those who are in distress. Now, even though God will place others in our pathway to help us, and place us in the pathway of others to help them, we still need to turn to God for true comfort, for God is the source of all comfort and encouragement in the life of the believer.

Life is full of uncomfortable situations. So, we ask ourselves, when our life seems hard, where do I find comfort. Now, as believers, we know that there is no affliction that we experience, in which God is not able to comfort us. Therefore, we need not turn to anything else, for God alone is able to comfort us in all that we face, however great or small.

Psalm 23: 4,....yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me....

As believers, the Lord walks with me, because he is within me.

2 Corinthians 13: 5,....know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you....

Therefore, if Christ walks with us, then our example unto those around us should be the example of our lack of fear concerning the afflictions of the world that comes up against us. As we get to know God through his word, our relationship with him grows stronger, and now, we begin to see how that through his Holy Spirit, he leads us and guides us, he protects us, he is faithful, loving, and compassionate toward us, and we lack nothing because he is with us. Even in our most challenging times, we do not have to be afraid, because God is with us. Through his word, God repeatedly gives unto us the reassurance of his comfort and his care, for his goodness and love will never fail us.

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5,....comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God....speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem....for she hath received of the Lords hand double for all her sins....the voice of him the crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make strait....a highway for God....and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed....all flesh shall see it....the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it....

Gods love and mercy is available to everyone, for no one is excluded from the opportunity to experience the presence of God. This promise, which is written in God's word is trustworthy and true, and it is a message of hope and assurance, which are meant to comfort and encourage believers throughout all ages. Starting with the prophets of old, each one was a mouthpiece of God, speaking a message of repentance and hope. These were faithful men, calling the nation of Israel to turn from their sinful ways, and return unto God. In the church age, all believers have the responsibility to carry the message of salvation to a lost and dying world. Therefore, all believers, beginning with the prophets of old, and now to those living in the church age, we not only see the fulness of the glory of God in Christ, but it also abides within us, and it shines forth from us for all to see.

2 Corinthians 4: 6,....for God, who commanded the light to shine put of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ....

Now, the light of Gods sufficiency and knowledge, his wisdom and his grace, his truth and his power, is reflected in his Son, Christ Jesus, who has shone the light of his truth into our hearts, to open our minds, to the understanding of the truth of his word, which was given unto us by the Father. God, in his mercy and love, has provided us with the knowledge of the written word of God, to remind and to encourage us, that Christ dwells in our hearts, and he will fill our inner being with his perfect peace and love if we so desire.

Isaiah 40: 25 – 26, 29 – 31,....to whom then will ye liken me....saith the Holy One....lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things....he calleth them all by names, by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power, not one faileth....he giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength....but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not grow weary, and they shall walk, and not faint....

Nothing can be compared to God, but because we lack the understanding of the divine nature of God, often time we are prone to favor and to the likeness of things created by God, instead of favoring God himself. Therefore, through the truth of his word, we are challenged to acknowledge God as the one true God.

Isaiah 43: 10,....ye are my witnesses....and my servants whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he, before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me....

Like Israel, believers are all Gods special servants, and we were created to proclaim unto the world the gospel of God. However, unlike Israel, we are not obedient to the word of God, but despite our disbelief, God still comforts us, by encouraging us to follow after the promises of his word, so that he might fulfill his purpose, plan, and will in our life.

Isaiah 40: 29 – 31,....he giveth power to the faint, and to them that hath no might he increaseth strength....but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength....

As believers, we must learn to see God's grace as he allows it shine forth toward those who are spiritually immature and weak, and in need of his strength. Therefore, even in the midst of our greatest difficulties, God is able to give strength to those who are weary and heavy laden. This, he does, as a reminder, so that he might show unto us that we are ultimately dependent upon him for all things. Therefore, we are to rely upon God for our sustenance and for our endurance in our life in Christ, because he allows us to recognize our own limitations, so that we might declare that true comfort and hope can be found in God.

Whether the promises that we meditate on in the word of God are for Israel, or they are given for the church, they are all written to give unto the believer comfort, whether by judgement or by blessing, we are to use these promises as opportunities to mature in our relationship with God, and to become an example to all of mankind concerning the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Yes, there will be difficulties in our life that will overwhelm even the strongest of believers. Therefore, we stumble and fail because we rely on our own inner strength. We come to realize and understand that we can only find comfort in the power of God, for he alone has the power that is sufficient enough to sustain us. It is not of our own limited, human abilities that shelter us as we go through the storms of life, but it is the protective hand of God that shelters us as we look to him for the leadership and the guidance of his indwelling Holy Spirit.

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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