

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

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.

Effectual Fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man

James 5: 16

Let's start with a couple of questions this morning, and if we are honest with ourselves, the answers that we find may not be to our liking, but they will be true to our spiritual growth, if we will allow God to enlighten us, by his spirit. Is true righteousness possible for mankind, and if so, who then is a righteous man. Now, true righteousness is possible for mankind, but we must understand that we have no ability to achieve righteousness of ourselves, for true and perfect righteousness is not possible for mankind to attain on his own. It is only by faith believing in Christ Jesus that mankind attains righteousness through salvation.

2 Corinthians 5: 21,....for he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. (Christ Jesus)

Christ exchanged his perfect righteousness for our sin debt, so that when God the father sees us, he sees the righteousness of his Son Christ Jesus within us, for God cannot tolerate sin to look upon it, for he will judge all sin. Therefore, we are accepted as righteousness, and treated as one in the same by God, on the account of what Christ has done for all of mankind on the cross.

Now, we live in a world where people tend to believe that they can do whatever they think or feel is right, and many tend to believe that their way is the right way. For this reason, as believers, we must turn to Gods word, through prayer, so that we might gain the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding needed to live accordingly, and in obedience to the truth of his word, which means that as a righteous believer, we must pray fervently.

James 5: 6,.... Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed....the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much....

Now, as believers, and this is how Christ taught his disciples to pray, we must pray according to the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of Gods word, and when we do, we trust that he will work within our lives accordingly to the same, through our studies and prayers. Therefore, our prayers are not just based upon the righteousness of Christ, but they are also based upon how that we abide in Christ, and in his righteousness. So, as believers, God wants us to respond to every situation and circumstance in our life, through prayer, and by way of meditation in the truth of God's word. Sadly, this seems unlikely, because there are very few believers practicing this kind of effectual fervent prayer in their lives. So who within the body of Christ does God allow mankind to look to as for an example of faith and spiritual maturity, especially, if a greater majority of believers are not practicing effectual fervent prayer because of their immaturity in the Lord.

1 Peter 5: 1 – 7,....the elders which are among you I exhort.... A witness of the suffering of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed....feed the flock....taking the oversight thereof....willingly....of a ready mind....being ensamples to the flock....when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away....ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder....yea, all of you be subject to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble....humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time....casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you....

Now, here is what we continue to see happening in the church. Today's church focuses upon a younger generation, and while Christ himself did teach his disciples to:

Matthew 19: 14,....suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven....

Paul was commanded by God to appoint and ordain elders in every church, to commend them unto the Lord, so that they might confirm the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in faith, because in order to enter into the kingdom of God, it is going to come through much suffering and tribulation.

Acts 13: 22 – 23,....confirming the souls of the disciples....exhorting them to continue in faith....that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God....when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed....

This today is why the church has strayed away from the truth of salvation, because preaching the truth of salvation means not only teaching about the goodness of heaven, but it also means preaching about the condemnation of hell. It is not about teaching the blessings of joy and happiness through the benefits of worldly health and wealth, but it is teaching the blessings of joy and happiness in the Lord which comes through our work of faith in him, and it is about finding opportunities through Christ, opportunities that glorify God, which comes through trials and tribulations, as well as through the sufferings of the consequences of the sinfulness that originates from our disobedience to the truth of Gods word. It is not just about proclaiming and practicing the eternal gifts that God has in store for his children, but it is about understanding those gifts and using them accordingly to Gods purpose and plan in each of our lives. Yes, it is good to try and establish the church of tomorrow through the youth of today, but not at the expense of the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of those whom God has appointed as elders, and leaders, and teachers in the church, those who have grown in their faith and in their spiritual maturity, so that they might be used of God for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4: 12 – 24,....for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the....fulness of Christ....henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro....speaking the truth in love, may grow up....walk not as other gentiles walk....having their understanding darkened....given themselves over unto lasciviousness (passionate, worldly lustful behavior)....put off the old man....be renewed in the spirit of your mind....put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness....

The result of a believer who lacks faith and spiritual maturity in their life, means that such a one will be deceived by false teachings. These are those things which are taking place within the body of Christ, things which God has allowed, but he certainly does not condone, and therefore he is not pleased, for he warns us that false teachings changes the accuracy of the truth of his word. False teachings are crafty and deceitful schemes that may appear to be godly and good, but they are promoting and influencing something that is false. We are told in:

1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 5,....I came to you....not with excellency of speech or of wisdom....I determined not to know anything....save Jesus Christ, and him crucified....my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom....that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God....

So, here is what we know from the study of God's word. We know that a righteous man does not call attention to himself by performing actions as if he were an entertainer. A righteous man does not try to wow people with a display of great wisdom. A righteous man does not try to confuse the compelling truth of the gospel with mere entertainment, so as to try and fill the church with people of a certain demographic, but, a righteous man does determine not to know anything, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. So, I ask you once again, who among you is a righteous man, he is not one who claims perfection, but he is one whose faith is continually growing, because he is continually being tested by God, and he is one whose continued spiritual maturity comes by effectual fervent prayer, which brings about wisdom, knowledge, and understanding from God, through the obedience to his word. Can we truly say that we produce the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man.

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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