

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.10.2024

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.

Established in Christ

2 Chronicles 20: 20 – 21

Not all believers understand the importance of becoming established, or permanently settled in Christ Jesus. So why is this understanding so important to our life in Christ. Because it is for the purpose of our spiritual maturity and stability in God. If we are not living a steadfast life in Christ and in his word, then we will not have the ability to remain unaffected as we encounter the situations and circumstances that arise in our life. This is due to the times in our lives that we will come up against trials and tribulations, against false teachings, against temptations, all of which will entangle us in the sinfulness of the world if we are not established in Christ. To be established in Christ we must listen to what he has to say, which comes by prayer, through the word of God. As we begin to meditate upon his word, it will become a part of who we are, therefore, we listen, and we apply what we hear to our life in Christ, which allows us to grow stronger, so that we should no longer be persuaded by the intriguing characteristics of the old nature.

1 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 3,....wherefore when we could no longer forbear....sent....our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith....that no man should be moved by these afflictions....

Making sacrifices is a part of our spiritual life in Christ, for it brings unto us, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, it brings unto us an urgency to submit unto God those worldly characteristics in our life which deter us from continuing in our service unto him. Despite the challenges which we are facing, our choice of commitment to the obedience of God and his word will ensure our spiritual welfare and maturity and will become a reflection of the willingness that it takes to overcome the selflessness in our life, which will serve as an example of the importance of prioritizing the spiritual needs of others above our own. This alone is a great reminder, that as believers, we are to remain steadfast in our faith, and in our trust in God, willing to see and understand the importance of being established in Christ for the sake of the gospel of grace.

2 Chronicles 20: 20 – 21,....they rose early in the morning and went into the wilderness....as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, hear me....believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established....and when he had consulted with the people....as they went out....and to say, praise the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever....

As believers, we often time find ourselves surrounded in our life by those things which are meant to instill within us the worldly emotion of fear, and if we allow, it will cause us to make choices that are not according to the will of God. Now, when we find ourselves feeling scared and alone, and hopeless, God will encourage us through his word so that we might continue to put our trust and belief in him, and he will help us to succeed. Now, what makes this instruction seem to be easier said than done, it stems from the choices which we make, and whether or not we choose to trust and believe that God will see us through the situations and circumstances that we are facing in our life, and we cannot do this, if first we are not established in Christ. So, if I am saved by grace, am I not already established in Christ.

Galatians 2: 20,....I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

So, what is it that assures me that I am established and settled in my life in Christ.

Galatians 2: 20,....the life which I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God....

Now this is a bold statement that many believers will declare, but not all believers can make this proclamation in the spirit and in the truthfulness of the Lord, because we do not always live our life by the faith of the Son of God.

We began our life as a believer by exercising the faith of the Son of God, which was conveyed unto us through the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 10: 8,....what saith it....the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that is, the word of faith, which we preach....

Romans 10: 17,....so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God....

Therefore, it is only by exercising this same faith that we can continue to live our life as being established in Christ. All believers have received the same measure of faith, but not all believers exercise the faith which they have received. Therefore, there are those believers who are manifesting great faith because they are constantly and consistently exercising the measure of their faith which they have received from God, but for those who fail to use or exercise the measure of their faith that God has given unto them then their faith will never become stronger, therefore, they will never be established in Christ Jesus.

John 14: 12,....verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.

As believers, we ought to embrace the truth that we are in God, for all believers have the ability to do greater works. Now, since it is not logically possible for anyone to do something beyond what Christ accomplished while ministering here upon earth, what Christ is talking about, is that we as believers are not to try and excel in the quality of our God given abilities as some claim to excel in miraculous works, but we are to excel in the quantity of our time and service unto God, and with this we are assured by the word of God that no matter what happens in the world in which we live, his works will continue, and the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ will continue to have an impact upon the world, all to the glory of God.

Galatians 6: 9,....let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not....

Some may say that doing good in the Lord is hard work, and I would say that yes it would seem to be so if and when we begin to doubt whether or not our work in the Lord matters. Remaining confident and consistent in the truth of our salvation will keep us from feeling overwhelmed with the responsibilities of our life in Christ.

Philippians 3: 13,....I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before....

Our goal in our life in Christ is the goal of perfection. And even though we will not achieve this perfection before physical death, we are to use this goal as a motivation to focus upon Gods purpose, plan, and will in our life. Therefore, we should not allow anything in our past to hinder our prospects of the future. We are to live our life with our eyes facing forward upon Christ, for he is the one who makes our life worth living.

Colossians 3: 17,....what so ever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him....

Our relationship with Christ is all about submitting everything and every moment unto him. To become established in Christ means to recognize that we represent Christ by the example of our life in him. This means that we are striving toward the spiritual maturity where our life in Christ cannot be shaken by the cares of the world. This is a place where the test of our faith can only make us stronger, and a place where we are securely and permanently in a position to show unto others the way of salvation. Becoming established in Christ means that we are to do all in the name of Christ, nothing more and nothing less.

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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