Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

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.

Nineveh Repents

Jonah 3: 1 – 10

It is Gods desire that all of mankind would be saved, and come into the knowledge of the truth, for God will forgive anyone who repents, because no one, no matter the situation or circumstance, is beyond the reach of God’s love. The word of God teaches us that God keeps every one of his promises, and he keeps them at his perfect timing, for his glory, and for the good of those whom he loves. God is not bound by human time; therefore, we cannot apply our demands unto his promises. Gods plan is to allow more people the opportunity to place their faith and trust in his Son Christ, so that we might enter into an eternal relationship with him. Therefore, he is willing to allow more time, so that more people might come to repentance, and as believers, we should see this delay in Christ return as evidence of Gods patience, and not as Jonah saw it, when he interpreted Gods delay with his worldly characteristic of impatient anger, creating within him the desire to destroy those whom God wanted him to save. God does not want anyone to be eternally separated from him, but he does not force anyone to be saved, he allows us to choose, even when he knows that our choices are for things that he does not prefer that we would have in our life, and this is one reason that God allows mankind more time. God, through his mercy and his grace is creating more space for more people to repent and turn to him.

2 Peter 3: 9,….the Lord is not slack concerning his promise….but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance….

All of humanity is restrained by the activity of time, and this is because of the unawareness of the eternal perspective of God. We are overcome by worldly notions of living in the moment, which characterizes a life that is limited, and a life in which we cannot validate the perfect, unfolding plan of God. Therefore, we should not allow this type of thinking to bring us into the mindset that things will go on forever, and it is for this cause that many doubt the return of the Lord. We must come to the unshakable knowledge that Gods time is at hand, and it is an appointed time, given according to his designated way, and every day that passes, is an example of his longsuffering toward mankind, so that all might be saved.

2 Corinthians 6: 2,….I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee, behold now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation….

Everything in our life hinges on how that we, and those around us respond unto the word of God. For it is the word of God that cautions mankind to accept the gospel of the saving grace of God, which comes by faith being in his Son Christ alone, and nothing else. This invitation is a limited time offer, for we do not know the day nor the hour of Christ return, therefore, we see the urgency of today, as being the accepted time.

Matthew 24: 36,….but of the day and hour knoweth no man….

Even though God delays his timing so as to give mankind more time, he never speaks to anyone and tells them to be saved someday, but we are commanded to turn to Christ, right now, today.

Jonah 3: 1 – 5,….the word of the Lord came unto Jonah….saying….arise, go….and preach….the preaching that I bid thee….Jonah….went….according to the word of the Lord….Jonah began to enter into the city….and said….Nineveh shall be overthrown….so the people believed God….

Like Jonah, as believers, we soon learn that Gods will is greater than our own, and one of the first things that we learn, is that above all else, we need to become obedient unto the instruction of God and his word. Gods ultimate goal is to bring the sinner into to personal relationship with his Son Christ, and also to restore the believer who has fallen from grace, restore them back into his righteousness. This service unto God begins with the preparation of readying ourselves, in order to proclaim the gospel of God according to the word of the Lord.

Luke 4: 18 -19,….the spirit of the Lord is upon me….he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captive, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable day of the Lord….

Christ himself, through the example of his word, shows unto us the purpose and the mission for which we have been anointed by the Holy Spirit of God. We are anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, which are those who are in spiritual need of the eternal hope that comes through the message of Gods saving grace. We are to heal the broken hearted, which means to bring restoration unto those who are emotionally burdened with sorrow so that we might show unto others the pathway of spiritual wholeness. To preach deliverance to the captives, unto those who are in spiritual bondage, to offer an explanation of freedom through the redemptive work of Christ. The recovery of sight to the blind, which reveals unto others the truth of God’s word, that opens the eyes of those who are spiritually blind. To set at liberty them that are bruised, which means that as believers, we are to offer strength and hope to those who are overwhelmed by life’s difficulties, showing unto them the purpose of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, which we profess as believers, and which we are called to continue the mission of Christ, by participating in the work which he started, by imparting unto the lives of those around us his saving grace, extending the kingdom of God.

Jonah 3: 6 – 10,….the king of Nineveh….laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth and set in ashes….he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh….let man….cry mightily unto God….let him turn from his evil way….who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger….God saw their works….God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them, and he did it not….

So, what is genuine repentance. Under the law, repentance simply meant to turn from sin and turn to God. Under grace, the remorse or regret which goes along with true repentance, not only speaks of turning from sin and turning to God, but it also includes the decision to forsake sin, it is a sincere commitment, motivated by the reality, that our sinfulness offends God. Genuine repentance takes place the moment, in which by faith believing in Christ, we understand our sinfulness, and we choose to depart from it for the sake of God’s love for all of mankind. As believers, each day we should experience repentance, for any and all sinfulness which we have committed, and we should place ourselves on the right pathway of God, by repenting of our sins when they occur.

Jonah 3: 9,….who can tell if God will turn and repent….

To repent means to change our mind. At one time, we thought sin was good and acceptable, but once we were saved, we now see sinfulness as evil and harmful to our lives, and to the lives of those around us. When the word of God says that he repented, it means that God changed his mind. God deals with mankind in the here and now, in real time, in the moment of the situation and circumstances that we are in. Because of our repentance, God will often time, change his mind concerning the punishment and judgement that he is going to allow in our life. When our situation changes, so does Gods actions and his response to us does change. This does not mean that there will not be consequences for our sinfulness, but it does mean that the consequence of our sinfulness is subject to change in regard to our time of repentance. God will make his wrath against sinfulness known, but he also promises to forgive all who will trust in him.

Hebrews 12: 4 – 6,….my son despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him….for whom the Lord loveth he chasenteth, and scourgeth every son whom he recieveth….

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

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