

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

1.5.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses

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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.

Calling Sinners to Repentance

## Mark 2: 13 – 17

What is spiritual sickness. All people, whether they know it or not, whether they want to admit it or not, are spiritually sick. Spiritual sickness can be thought of as a weakening of the spirit, caused by sin. Those who have never accepted Christ are spiritually sick, because they are separated from God, being dead in their trespasses and sins, they are in desperate need of a relationship with Christ. Believers also can be spiritually sick due to a lack of faith, trust, and spiritual growth in their life, because of unconfessed sinfulness from disobedience to the word of God. It would be Gods desire that all of mankind would be spiritually healthy, but, in order to do so, we must live daily in his forgiveness. Spiritual sickness begins due to an active, lustful desire that goes unconfessed before the Lord, who does promise forgiveness to all who will confess.

**2 Corinthians 7: 1,....**having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God....

Our spiritual wellness is based upon our willingness, and our ability to obey God through his word. In doing so, God promises to live within those who are in Christ Jesus his Son. Therefore, since God lives in us by his Holy Spirit, as believers, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we must use our God given abilities to remove from our lives, anything that is in any way in opposition to God and his will. God desires his people to separate themselves from the world, therefore, we are called by him to cleanse ourselves of worldly impurities, and we are called to rid ourselves of fleshly pursuits that dishonor the will of God. As believers, we are going through a sanctification process, which will continue, throughout our entire earthly life, and it is during this time, that we are being prepared for our eternal existence with God. Therefore, we are to spiritually mature, by actively depending upon God for all things, and in all things, by choosing to die to self and live for Christ.

**Mark 2: 13 – 14,....**he went forth....and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them....as he passed by, he saw Levi....sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, follow me, and he arose and followed him....

The word of God is given unto mankind to instruct us in the way of Christ. To bring mankind to an understanding of who Christ is, and what he came to earth to do, and how that by believing in him, and following after him, we might have life eternally. In short, it is given to call sinners to repentance. A true believer not only has faith in Christ for salvation, but a true believer also will trust in him to break the power of sin in our lives, and we do so by denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following after him.

**Matthew 16: 24,....**then said Jesus to his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me....

Most would say that denying oneself means giving up our worldly sinful desires, and the things thereof, but denying oneself means giving of oneself, wholly and completely unto the Lord, submitting ourselves unto him, fully identifying with him through his death and his resurrection.

**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, why are people spiritually sick, it is because many people believe that taking up their cross and following after Christ means that we must carry some kind of burden around in our spiritual life in Christ. Carrying the cross might have represented to the people in Jesus' day a torturous death, but it was not a burden to Christ, but it was a symbol of atonement, one of forgiveness, grace and love. It was an example unto all mankind, an example of self-sacrifice, where one must be willing to die to self in order to follow after Christ, which is an absolute act of surrender unto Christ. Being crucified with Christ means that we are right with the one true God who empowers us to live in such a way that is pleasing unto him. We used to seek life through our own works, but now we live by faith in Christ Jesus his Son. Being crucified with Christ means that we now have a new eternal love, a new commitment, a new way of life, which emphasizes our trust in him, based upon what he has done for us, and what we now must do for God. We have escaped the penalty of sin, so that we might live a life through Christ, a life that is pleasing unto God.

**Mark 2: 15 – 17**,....it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat....many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples....when the scribes and pharisees saw....they said....how is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners....when Jesu heard it, he saith....I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance....

Christ came to call sinners to repentance, unfortunately many people try and pretend that they are not sinners, for they consider themselves to be religious, using their religion to defend the sins which they have committed, to be just normal life failures, and mistakes that will have no consequences on their lives or on the lives of others around them. Mankind has always used religion for personal gain, and this is because those who think that they are spiritually well do not see their own sickness, and therefore, they do not seek spiritual help. We are not forgiven because of how good that we are, we are forgiven because we realize how offensive to God our sinfulness is, and we repent.

**Psalm 32: 1 – 2**,....blessed is he whose transgression are forgiven, whose sin is covered....blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile....

In order, to be forgiven, there first must be an admission of guilt. We are justified by God's grace, which comes through his free gift of redemption, that is in Christ Jesus. We can only experience forgiveness when we stop being disobedient to God and his word. Forgiveness is available to those who seek after it, for true forgiveness can only be found in those who are faithful and sincere before God.

**Psalm 32: 5,....**I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid, I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin....

God alone can forgive sin. To repent means that we turn away from sin, and that can only happen when we turn toward Christ. We are not only saved by grace, but we are also given sufficient grace to live by faith, which leads us to continually confess our faults, turn from sin, and be restored into fellowship with God. As believers, God would have us to live in the world, all the while remaining separated from the world. How different is Gods ways from the ways of the world, for Gods ways challenges sinfulness, and brings about repentance without regret. It cleanses, it forgives, and it returns us once again into a relationship with him. Therefore, let us be ready and willing to be challenged for all of our wrong doings, and let us be quick to respond, so that we might continually grow in grace, in wisdom, in knowledge, and in the understanding of God and his word, so that we might live as an example unto others, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15: 58,....**be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord....

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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*Tim Hughes*

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

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