

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Teaching Ministry

4.6.2025

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. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Becoming A Living Example of Christ

## **Matthew 5: 17 – 18**

Because of temptation and deception, mankind tries to destroy the truth of God's word by falsely teaching a new or different way of religion. Christ, on the other hand, when he came, he came to establish the truth of his word, and to fully accomplish the promises of his word, and it is this fulfillment that gives unto us our eternal salvation. Just as Christ spoke during his time on earth, that when teaching and preaching the truth of the word of God, we are to use the entirety of the scripture to show the fullness of Gods promise of salvation, which leads to eternal life with him. Christ spoke of fulfilling the prophecies of the law, and by doing so, the people took it to mean that he was destroying the law or even changing the meaning of the law. False prophets will say that they are fulfilling the prophecies of the word, when in fact they are changing the truth into a lie, so as to fit the purpose of their own self-righteousness. No matter how hard mankind tries to avoid the promises of God's word, obedience is inevitable, and at some point, in time, all will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Philippians 2: 10 – 11**,....that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow....and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father....

Now, those who by faith believing in Christ, those who are born again, will confess him joyfully. But those who, through disobedience, that have rejected the saving grace of Christ, they will also confess Christ, but reluctantly will they confess him as Lord, not joyfully, because he is now the one who will judge them into condemnation. Everything that God has promised in his word will be achieved, contrary to what man might say. So, refusing Gods offer of salvation will not alter the promises that are clearly laid out in his word. Therefore, we must always acknowledge that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all who will believe.

**1 Corinthians 1: 18**,....the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God....

To those who are lost and perishing, those who have not trusted in the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, this message of Gods saving grace is foolish, and silly, because man has turned the truth of God's word into that which accepts worldly desires and pleasures. But, to those who have been saved by the grace of God, through faith in Christ Jesus, they will continue to live through sanctification, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, conforming daily into the likeness of Christ, and it is this message of the cross, crucifixion, and resurrection that gives wisdom and knowledge, which brings us into the understanding of the power of God.

So, if you will turn with me to the book of:

Here we will see two things: First, we see Christ as a living example, and secondly: we see what it takes for the believer to become a living example of Gods perfect kingdom.

**Matthew 5: 17 – 18**,....think not that I have come to destroy....I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill....verily I say....till heaven and earth pass....one tittle shall in no wise pass....till all be fulfilled....

Christ came to fulfill the law, not just to carry out the prophesy of the law, but he came to accomplish the intentions of the law, which means that Christ brought out the truth of the law, which he done by serving as a living example of the truth. In like manner, we as believers, are now a living example of the truth of God's word in its entirety.

So, let's look first at some of the commandments given under the law to mankind, which were instructions for directions to living a godly life.

**Deuteronomy 8: 1 – 3,....**all the commandments which I command thee....shall ye observe....that ye may live, and multiply....thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee....to humble thee....to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no....he humbles thee....he suffered them....fed them....make them know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live....

God must test us so that we will know what is in our heart, as to whether we will keep his commandments. Trials, tribulations, situations and circumstances of temptation and disobedience, it is while that we are going through these things in our life that we realize how little our understanding is of why that we are going through them, and how reluctantly we are to believe that God will use these circumstances to help us to grow spiritually mature in our faith. But, through the fulness of the spirit, we are able to look back upon these very things that took place in our life, and we are now able to see Gods hand at work within every situation, moving us in the direction in which we should go.

Now, if we go back to the book of Matthew chapter five, and we are not going to read it all, but let us see, as believers, how we stand in our life of spiritual moral obligations to God.

**Matthew 5: 19 – 20, 44 - 48,....**whosoever shall break one of these....commandments, and shall teach men so....he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven....whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great....except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven....love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you....

The word of God teaches us that every part of the law will be fulfilled, right down to the smallest detail. Here in these few verses of scripture, we see how that Christ, through his word, brings out the truthful meaning of his commandments. We learn that a lot of things that we do as Christians, we do without a cause. Now, we might have our reasoning for doing such things, but that is all that it is, our own worldly reasoning. This is due to our own self-righteous desires, and inner worldly motivation. Christ never said that following him would be easy, but he did say that we must learn not to respond to evil, with evil, but to respond with a righteousness that exceeds all else, so that we might overcome the evil with the good.

**Romans 12: 16 – 21,....**be not wise in your own conceit....live peaceably with all men....avenge not yourselves....I will repay, saith the Lord....be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good....

As we therefore study and meditate on the word of God, we will begin to see the realities of the gospel, which comes as we begin to apply the truth of the gospel unto our own lives. God is the one who will enact judgement, and give vengeance, believers on the other hand are to be characterized with God's grace, his mercy, his kindness, his love, and his peace. We can truly live according to these characteristics if we keep our focus on Christ and follow after his example of righteousness. Christ calls unto us to do exactly the opposite of what our own worldly desires urge us to do, for it is his perfect obedience that provides us with the righteousness of God.

**1 Corinthians 1: 30 – 31**,....of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption....according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord....

The moment that we were born again, the Holy Spirit baptized us in Christ, he positioned us as members of his body, and we became one with him. Therefore, when God looks at the believer, he sees the perfection of His Son, Christ, because he sees the wisdom of Christ, and he sees the righteousness of Christ. We are now one with him, accepted into his perfect kingdom. When we are in Christ, God sees us as perfect through His Son, but we must still make the choice to live our life in Christ, in total dependence and obedience to the Father, through his word. Submitting to the Holy Spirit allows Christ to live in and through us, so that we are not simply positioned in him, but we are functioning through him, because we are already placed within the realm of his perfect kingdom, for we are truly a living example of Christ.

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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