

Mt Lebanon Church

Sunday School Lesson

6.22.2025

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. 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.

Hold Fast to the Gospel

Galatians 2: 15 – 21, 3: 1 – 5

To the believer, the truth of God's word is all about obedience, but how can we become obedient if we do not have the ability to rightly divide the word of truth. Many believers are well equipped with the wisdom of knowing Gods word, but even with this we need to diligently study and meditate upon his word, for without it we would not be able to stand firm against the wiles of the devil. So, we understand that:

2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17,....all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness....that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works....

To study and to meditate upon the truth of God's word takes effort, it takes diligence. We must be committed if we desire to be equipped for God's purpose and plan in our life. Through God's word we are encouraged to focus on the assessment of how that we are to handle his word, for sometimes, we take for granted the price that has been paid so that we might have this living word in our life. The success to handling God's word is to see it correctly, and truthfully, which we can only do if we allow the Holy Spirit to help us to remain concentrated upon the outcome, which is the saving grace of Jesus Christ, God's destiny for all of mankind, and our hope of eternal life with him.

John 1: 1,....in the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God....

John 1: 14 – 17,....we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth....of his fullness have all we received....for the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ....

The Old Testament, or the law, specifically addressed to the Jewish people shows unto us God's covenant with Israel, which is their history, their laws, their prophetic messages, emphasizing their role as God's chosen people. The New Testament, or the New Covenant through Christ Jesus expands God's message to include all who will by faith believe in the gospel message of salvation, which is Christ fulfilling work of the law through the crucifixion and the resurrection. This message is given both to the Jews and to the Gentiles, who through acceptance now are the believers which make up the body of Christ, whom we are a part thereof. Therefore, his word instructs us in the love, grace and mercy of God, so that we might recognize our need for a close relationship with him, so that we might communicate his plan of salvation unto the world. Now, the entirety of the word of God also speaks of the sinful condition of all of humanity, pointing mankind to their need for forgiveness, including those who are considered sinners, those have yet to be justified by the redeeming blood of Christ. Therefore, the message of salvation has always been intended for all of humanity. This means that accurately handling, or rightly dividing the word of truth will help us to focus upon the God given wisdom and knowledge which is inspired by the indwelling Holy Spirit, so that we might diligently seek after his understanding with the ability to do that which he would have us to do, and with the knowledge of how that he would have us to do it.

2 Timothy 2: 15,....study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth....

Since the truth of God's word is all about obedience, then as believers, we must never use it to defend against sinfulness, but we must use it to overcome sinfulness. In doing so we will understand that there is never an excuse for living without Christ and living in sin. As believers, our salvation comes through the knowledge of God's word, by faith believing in the one who is the living word, and it is our continued faith in him that will strengthen our relationship with God the Father, by his Son Jesus Christ, through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2: 15 – 21,....a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ....for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified....for if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor....for I am....dead to the law, that I might live to God....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....I do not frustrate the grace of God....

Salvation does not exist without justification. Therefore, we must, make an effort to understand what it means to be justified. To be justified means to be declared righteous. The problem is that we are not actually righteous, we are sinful, so how does God declare us righteous. The only way anyone can be justified before God is by faith believing in the works of Christ. The workings of a law cannot save us, it can only steer us in a right direction, for the law was designed to be a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, but it, in itself, does not have the power to justify or to save. Only by the one who fulfilled the workings of the law on our behalf can a man be justified. Therefore, we must never forget that we are justified by our faith in Christ, accepted in him by his grace, and clothed in his righteousness, redeemed from condemnation from the penalty of breaking the law, for Christ bore that penalty for us on the cross. It is the law that reveals our sinfulness, and it is our faith in Christ fulfillment of the law that saves us from that sinfulness.

Galatians 3: 21, 24 – 26,....is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid, for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law....wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith....after that faith is come we are no longer under a schoolmaster....for ye are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus....

The result of the law leaves every human being imprisoned in their own inescapable sinfulness, because the law cannot save us, nor can it give unto us everlasting life. Therefore, we have an inability to achieve perfect righteousness. But because Christ came and fulfilled the law by providing a means of redemption, then it is through our obedience unto him that we obtain righteousness unto life eternal with him, this is the key to being made righteous.

Galatians 3: 1 – 5,....who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth....received ye the spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?....are ye so foolish?....having begun in the spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?....he therefore that ministereth....doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?....

As believers, how are we trying to achieve our spiritual maturity in our relationship with God. Are we relying upon our own efforts once again through the works of the flesh or are we continuing to rely upon our faith and trust in Christ Jesus, the one who saved us. As believers, we received the indwelling Holy Spirit when we first believed in the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, so why would we attempt to continue our spiritual journey, and our relationship with God through the practices of the world, which many are trying to do.

Galatians 5: 1, 5,....standfast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage....for we through the spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith....

Mankind tries to come up with many other works, worldly works, to add to the believer's faith, saying that this is truly needed in order to be accepted by God. But let us remember, that these worldly works will only hinder our relationship with God. Therefore, those who are wholly and completely trusting in God, do so by faith, and the works which we do as believers, we do so by our faith in God. This is well pleasing unto him as we hold fast to the gospel of our faith.

Let us Pray.

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