

Mt Lebanon Church

Sunday School Lesson

7.6.2025

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. 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.

Affection For Christ Church

Philippians 2: 1 - 13

The church is a unified body in Christ, where love, humility, forgiveness, and encouragement are key characteristics. Therefore, the church was clearly identified when Christ came and took on a physical body, which God had prepared him for, and through this body he demonstrated the love of the Father by his sacrificial death on the cross. Now, after the resurrection and ascension, he continues his work through those, who by faith believing, he has redeemed, those who are now the church, those who boldly demonstrate the love of God in such a way that even though the body has many members, it functions as a single unit. In order to be members of the body of Christ we must be joined to Christ through salvation, by which we have become the physical representation of him in this world.

Ephesians 4: 15 – 16,....speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things....Christ....from whom the whole body fitly joined together....according to the....working....of every part, maketh increase in the body....

Being affectionate for Christ church encourages believers to speak honestly and openly with one another, all the while doing so with genuine care and concern for each other's wellbeing. This is essential for the spiritual growth and maturity that allows every believer to become more like Christ. Sharing together that which is right in the truth of God's word, without compromise, motivates the growth of the entire body.

Philippians 2: 1 – 2,....if there be....any consolation in Christ....any comfort of love....a fellowship of the spirit....any bowels of mercies....fulfill my joy....be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind....

As believers, we receive unity when we put aside selfish ambition, and by demonstrating humility we consider the needs of others. As we live and remain in God's perfect will, we become willing vessels that will be used to encourage others. Unity is expressed through a shared mindset and purpose, which comes by the Holy Spirit as we seek direction through the commandments and promises of God's word. Unity is manifested in a life that is walking in spirit and in truth, and in obedience to his word. The importance of the believers living together in spiritual unity is the eternal benefit which comes from the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us live a life that produces the fruit of the righteousness of Christ which dwells within us.

Philippians 2: 3 – 8,....let nothing be done through strife or vain glory....look not every man on his own things....let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus....who, being in the form of God, though it not robbery to be equal with God....but made himself of no reputation....took upon himself the form of a servant....was made in the likeness of man....being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death....

Looking to Christ as our example, we as believers, should prioritize the needs and intents of others within the body of Christ, through the Christlike characteristics of humility, selflessness, and a willingness to serve, even to the point of sacrificing our own self righteous works, and worldly materialistic goods. Our spiritual attitude reflects and resembles the attitude of Christ.

John 15: 13,....greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend....

This powerful statement, made by Christ himself concerning the nature of Gods love, which he demonstrated by and through his own physical sacrifice. For the believer this is not about physical death, but it is about our willingness to give up personal desires and comforts for the sake of others. Therefore, in our daily life, we are to put the needs of others in the body of Christ over and above our own, even if it means at a personal cost to ourselves. Self-sacrificing love seeks after the greater good of something other than our own personal benefit. True godly love will always involve some kind of personal sacrifice.

Philippians 2: 9 – 11,....wherefore God....hath highly exalted him, and given him a name....above any other name....that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow....and....every tongue....confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God....

The word of God speaks of a future where all of mankind will acknowledge Jeus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is not just those who willingly accept him, but this also includes those who intentionally have rejected him. Therefore, in this, Christ appeals unto us as believers to pursue after an attitude of humility and obedience. Through self-humiliation and obedience God will exalt us to a higher place in the righteousness of Christ.

Isaiah 45: 21 – 25,....there is no God else beside me....look unto me, and be ye saved....for I am God, and there is none else....the word is gone out....in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear....shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength....in the Lord shall all....be justified, and shall glory....

God, through his Son Christ is the ultimate source of salvation and power, and even those who resist him will one day recognize his authority. We all live and build our lives on what we believe to be foundational truths, therefore, the word of God forces us to think about those truths, for only time will tell what kind of foundation that we have chosen to build our lives upon. The same call of Gods love which was given in times of old is the same call to salvation that is given unto us today.

Philippians 2: 12 – 13,....as ye have always obeyed....in my presence....in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear....for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure....

As believers, our efforts to live a life of faith within the body Christ is not about doing works to earn our salvation, but it is about actively applying Gods work in our lives through obedience unto his word. As we actively live out the salvation in our life which is given unto us by God, then our actions will reflect our faith, and this we do with the understanding that God is the one who empowers us. Therefore, we find obedience through salvation by finding it in the very source of our salvation.

1 Corinthians 2: 2 - 5,....for I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified....I was with you in weakness....in fear....in much trembling....that your faith should not be stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God....

True faith is not based on mans cleverness or persuasive arguments, but on the power of God, and it is Gods divine power that will keep division from happening within the body of Christ. As we choose to live by the simple message of Gods love within the body of Christ, which is Christ crucified, then the affection that is brought forth within the church will motivate one another to trust that the power of God will change people's lives.

Human instinct is to rely upon oneself, but when moved by the spirit of God, we will be determined to share nothing less than Gods love and affection. This may not be impressive from a worldly perspective, but we are called to simply tell the truth of the glorious gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ as led by the Holy Spirit, to one another, which is our responsibility of affection for Christ church.

Let us Pray.

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