

Mt Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

9.14.2025

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 which he would have you to see through the study of God's word that we share.

Before All Things

Colossians 1: 15 – 23

Like the church of Paul's day, the church today is in trouble. The faith of the believers has been shaken by the false teachings of the world, teachings that claim that even though there is a belief in Christ he is not being held as having sustaining power over all things, which in turn reflects a lack of need for salvation. This comes about due to the empty philosophies that originate from man's thinking, which are guided by the powers of worldliness, rather than from God alone. Therefore, believers must come to understand that in Christ lives the fulness of God, and we are only complete through our union with him. For this reason, we understand that Christ is the creator and sustainer of all things, and because he holds all things together, we are secure and complete through our relationship with him. Everyone and everything owes its existence to Christ. His power, his word, and his presence, gives unto us the security that our eternal destiny is under his complete control.

Colossians 1: 15 – 17,....who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature....by him were all things created....visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers, all things were created by him, and for him....he is before all things, and by him all things consist....

Christ, who is the exact representation of God, the one who has the authority over all things, and being signified by the firstborn, referring to his eternal status or supremacy, through whom all things exist. Christ perfectly reveals himself in the likeness of the Father, making Gods presence known in the created world. Now, through Christ role as creator, and by his divine nature, he plays an active part as the maintainer of the entire universe. He is the essential participant in all of reality and its continued existence. Therefore, Christ is extended beyond creation, for it is his sustaining power that keeps all things in order. This means that Christ did not just create, but he established by his supremacy, so that as believers we might better understand the fullness of our salvation through the grace and the truth of his creation.

Genesis 1: 31,....and God saw everything that he had made and behold it was very good....

Creation, before sin, was perfect, it was functionable, it was harmonious and fulfilling, and it had complete order and beauty, for it was a genuine reflection of Gods character. In its original state, creation showed the generous and perfect nature of its creator. Today it is a reminder of Gods original intentions, and it is a foreshadow of his ultimate plan of salvation for all of mankind.

Colossians 1: 17 – 18,....he is before all things....by him all things consist....he is the head of the body, the church....the beginning, the first born from the dead....that in all things he might have the preeminence....

Christ, who is the origin from whom all spiritual life flows, holds the highest status over creation and the church. Being the first born into eternal life of all who are resurrected, his resurrection is the assurance of our own future resurrection and spiritual life eternally with God. Therefore, Christ deserves to be first and foremost in all aspects of everything that exists, for everything exists and is held together through his righteousness. Christs crucifixion provided for us freedom from sin, and his resurrection hath provided for us the basis of our hope for our spiritual life, with the security of knowing that sin no longer needs to reign in our mortal body.

Romans 6: 5 – 12,....if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection....our old man is crucified with him....that henceforth we should not serve sin....if we be dead with Christ....we shall also live with him....Christ being raised from the dead....death hath no more dominion over him....he died unto sin once....he liveth unto God....ye also yourselves....be dead....unto sin....but alive unto God....let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey in the lusts thereof....

Now, even though as believers we are united in Christ, the physical body is still subject to death and temptation, because sin still exists and seeks to establish control in our life. Therefore, we have the choice, and the responsibility to resist the influence of the lustful worldly temptations that surround us. No, not while in this mortal body will we be sinlessly perfect, but we have been given the ability to live our new life in Christ here upon earth by not allowing sin to rule in our life.

Colossians 1: 19 – 22,....it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell....having made peace through the blood of the cross....to reconcile all things unto himself....and you....now hath he reconciled....in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unprovable in his sight....

God, through his Son Christ, by the cross, made the way to restore everything on earth to its original perfection, and also mankind into a rightful relationship with him. Now, this is not an automatic universal salvation for all of humanity, for every single person must make the choice of their own free will to be reconciled unto God by faith believing in Christ. This reconciliation includes all things in all places, and nothing is required of us except to believe. Therefore, we should die to sin and live from this day forward, not to ourselves, but unto the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that this reconciliation is a restoration that allows for us to have a restored relationship with God. Now, this is not just a hope for our eternal life with God, but this transformation, or change is for our initiative to experience the immeasurable riches of Gods grace that has been poured out upon us as believers, now in this present age.

John 12: 24 – 26,....verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit....he that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hatheth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal....if any man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am then shall also my servant be, if any man serve me, him will my Father honour....

As believers, the potential for fulfillment of our transformation process begins to take shape as we give up our original sinful form to become something new and greater in the Lord. Therefore, as believers, who continue to grow, by dying to self, and by living for God, we can become a source of spiritual life for others, making it possible for others to experience Gods saving grace, so to become like unto him. This means that all of mankind must be willing to sacrifice everything in order to follow Christ.

Colossians 1: 23,....if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven, whereof I Paul am made a minister....

As believers, the fruit of our salvation is found in our willingness to continue to believe, to live, and to endure in the hope of our eternal life with Christ. Genuine faith is a condition for maintaining our position in Gods grace, to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that we might remain as a light to a world that is filled with the darkness of sin.

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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