

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Teaching Ministry

3.15.2026

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.

Denying Christ

Matthew 26: 31 - 35

Often time, as believers, do we fail to acknowledge Christ as our Lord and Savior. Do we remain silent in our faith because of worldly fear or shame, or even in our desire for worldly acceptance. Rejecting and denying Christ or neglecting to stand in the truth of God's word, will cause us to choose sinful pleasures over our obedience to God, which is a temporary failure of our faith. Now, everyone is capable of denying Christ, but he is faithful to forgive us, and his promise unto us through his word is the hope of our eternal life with him, for he is loving and patient, and he does not want anyone to perish. Therefore, it is Gods desire that everyone would embrace the truth of his gospel and be saved. All we must do is turn away from denying him and trust and believe in his saving grace.

2 Peter 3: 9,....the Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance....

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior....who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of truth....

Only as believers can we come to understand that God delays his judgement in order to give mankind more time to trust in him. It is his longing that all people might be saved, which shows forth his love, his grace, and his mercy toward us, for his desire for us is being one of salvation over judgement. For this reason, we must see everyday as an opportunity, a gift of time to move away from the sinful, lustful desires of the world, and turn toward God. But we must remember that while God is a patient God, this time of grace is not intended to last forever, it is a designated time for repentance, a time of hope, a time of restoration, and a time of forgiveness, rather than a time of destruction.

Matthew 26: 31 – 35,....saith Jesus....all ye shall be offended because of me....but after I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee....Peter....said....though all men shall be offended....Jesus said....I say unto thee, that this night , before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice....Peter said....though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee....

So, what is it that happens in our life that causes us to be offended and to deny the power thereof. It is because our expectations in life do not follow after Gods actions or his spirit driven purpose. Therefore, due to disappointments, which come through trials and tribulations, our confidence and our trust in God is hindered, and now these spiritual hurdles become a stumbling block that bring discontent and discouragement in our life.

2 Timothy 3: 5,....having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof....

So, here is what is happening. I am maintaining an appearance of godliness, but I am not allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to uphold within me, that life changing ability which God wants for us to transform my character and my behavior, so even though I am going through the motions of my faith, I am not reflecting the true righteousness, love, or holiness of Christ. In other words, I am distancing myself from my relationship with Christ for fear of personal change. Now, let's go back to:

Matthew 26: 34,....before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice....

So, make no mistake, that throughout our life in Christ, there is going to be many and various times of offense and denial. But, just like Peter, we will still make the statement:

Matthew 26: 35,....though I shall die with thee, yet I will not deny thee....

Now, as believers, the intentions of our expectations might be admirable, but they are not always creditable. Our actions do not always demonstrate an obedience to the truth of God's word. Therefore, we need restoration in our life in Christ, which means restoring the damaged areas of our relationship with God back to a state that is even greater than the original. So, how do we do this, we look to Christ as our example.

John 5: 30,....I can of myself do nothing....because I seek not my own will, but the will of my Father....

So, as believers, we must strive to align our actions with God's will, for on our own our judgements only involve worldly emotional reactions that are not spiritually productive. Now, here is how this works. God gave unto us (that is all of mankind) the ability to make our own judgements, which are the choices and decisions that we live by, but this opportunity was given unto us based upon our obedience unto him through his word, and the only way that we can do this is by following after the example of Christ, and by submitting to the will of God, for anything and everything else will be judged accordingly by the same word that we are to be living our life by.

1 Peter 5: 6 – 10,....humble yourselves....under the might hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time....casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you....be vigilant....because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....whom resisteth steadfast in faith....but the God of grace....make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you....

So, even though we face judgement and persecution because of our worldly choice of denial, God, through the work of his Son, Christ Jesus, offers unto us his eternal hope. By faith, we have received the gospel of our salvation, and we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Therefore, we learn by his word, that even in our disobedience of denial, the sufferings of the consequences that we must bear are purposeful, and God uses them to mature our faith and to develop our spiritual maturity, for the ultimate purpose of our suffering is not to destruction, but it is in preparation for our service to Christ.

Romans 5: 1 – 6,....therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ....by whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God....we glory in tribulation also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope....and hope leaveth not shamed, because the love of God isin our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us....for when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly....

So, God's love is not only unconditional, but it anticipates that we are spiritually weak, and undeserving. Therefore, his love is not a reaction, but it is an intentional act of his mercy and his grace. It is the foundation that helps us to understand the entirety of our salvation, and it encourages us to move away from those offences of the world that cause us to deny and reject the promises and commandments of his word, which hinder us from standing firm in the love that he shows unto us through the finished work of Christ. So, this means that denying Christ is an affliction to our spiritual growth, because restoration can only come after the deniable action takes place.

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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