

Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 17
The week of March 21, 2021

Christ in You: *Enjoying Our Union with Christ*

The Anchor for Our Souls

Multiple Texts

Today our focus is on our union with Christ and the blessed assurance that comes from knowing that once we are “in Christ”, there is nothing that can separate us from that union. We will look primarily at three scriptures to guide our questions and discussions. One important note is that the topic of eternal security in our salvation has been one of the most fiercely debated topics in the church for centuries. It is important that we each hold to our theological convictions, but to do so in humility, recognizing that other brothers and sisters in Christ may in fact hold to different theological convictions in this same area. This is a blessing in Growth Groups – to talk through differing points of view in our lives of faith and have deep discussions as we GROW in Christ together. Let’s maintain the unity of the church as we meet, study, and discuss.

I. Read Luke 8:4-15

STUDY NOTE

This is the parable of the sower that Jesus speaks of in order to share how different people respond to the Word of God being shared. The seed that Jesus speaks of is the Word of God and God Himself is the sower. Jesus goes on to describe four different “soils” that the seed falls on, representing four different types of people who receive God’s Word and the gospel by extension.

1. The first soil described is trampled along the path. Jesus tells us that in these cases the devil comes to steal away the Word from those who hear it. What role does the devil play in preventing people today from receiving God’s Word? What can we do as Christians to fight against this tactic from the devil?
2. The second soil described is rocky soil where the scattered seed cannot take root. Jesus tells us that this represents those who hear God’s Word but **fall away** after a time of testing. He says that they “believe for a while” – is Jesus implying that they were Christians and then lost their faith, or is He implying that because God’s Word never took root that they were not authentic Christians who fully surrendered their lives to Christ? What other scriptures can you point to in support of your conviction?

3. The third soil described is filled with thorns that choke the seed and prevent it from growing. Jesus tells us that this represents those who hear God's Word but become easily distracted and entangled by the pressures and pleasures of life so that their faith in Christ never matures. Is Jesus implying that they were Christians and then lost their faith, or is He implying that they did not **fully** devote themselves to Christ when they received God's Word and were never authentic Christians? What other scriptures can you point to in support of your conviction?

4. The fourth soil described is the good soil where the seed takes root, grows, and produces a crop that exceeds expectations. Jesus tells us that this represents those who receive God's Word with a fully devoted heart and live the faith that they profess, producing a crop...bearing fruit. What distinguishes this person from the others that Jesus speaks of? What are the necessary conditions by which a person will receive God's Word in an authentic way?

II. Read Hebrews 6:4-12

STUDY NOTE

This passage is critical for us to understand the nuances of our faith, our commitment to Christ, the nature of our salvation, and the importance of living out the faith that we profess.

5. Who is the writer of Hebrews referring to in his warnings in this passage?

6. List the attributes the writer described in this passage. Are those attributes **ONLY** for those who have an authentic faith commitment to Christ, or are there parallels to the second and third types of "soils" that Jesus speaks of in Luke 8?

7. What does the writer mean by the phrase "they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm"?

8. What is the message to the church today as you read this passage?

9. Read James 2:14-26. How can this passage help our understanding of having a living faith instead of “falling away”?

III. Read Romans 8:31-39

STUDY NOTE

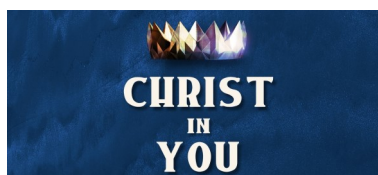
This passage from the apostle Paul is an incredible testimony to the saving power of the resurrected Christ, our union with Him, and the eternal glory that begins now in this life for those who have received Christ as Lord. This is one of the core passages upon which we build our eternal hope and rest in the blessed assurance that NOTHING can take us away from our Savior once we receive Him as Lord.

10. Let’s ask the same rhetorical question that Paul asks: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

11. Upon what contextual basis does Paul answer so emphatically that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ?

12. Does this passage give you an assurance of eternal security as a Christ-follower? Why or why not?

13. How do these three passages come to an agreement on our standing before God as sinners saved by God’s grace?



Sermon Notes: *The Anchor for Our Souls*

Multiple Texts

THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, March 21 thru Saturday, March 27, 2021

Deuteronomy 30-31; Deuteronomy 32-34,
Psalm 91; Joshua 1-4; Joshua 5-8; Joshua 9-11;
Joshua 12-15; Joshua 16-18