

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2020

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. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Spiritual Distractions

Hebrews 3: 16 – 19

Spiritual failures in our lives can cause us and others around us to miss out on blessings from God. Spiritual failure comes about when we know the right thing that God wants us to do, but, we do not do it.

Spiritual failure is the result of spiritual distraction. Spiritual distractions come about easily in our lives through disobedience to God, which comes from a lack of trust in him.

So we think about those times and circumstances in our lives that we did not follow the Lords commands, whether we thought it to be more then what we thought we could do, or perhaps we just thought we had a better way.

No matter what the reason, temptation led to disobedience, disobedience led to a lack of trust, which became a spiritual distraction and brought about spiritual failure.

Hebrews 3: 16 – 19,....and to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest, but to those who did not obey, so we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief....

The lives of the children of Israel depicts our lives as Christians in this grace dispensation period. Just as God delivered the children of Israel out of the bondage of the Egyptians by the hand of Moses, (who is a type of Christ) so comes the first step in our life to becoming and living a Christian life, which is to be delivered from bondage, through the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Like the children of Israel, once out of bondage, we begin our journey. Free, but traveling through a wilderness. There is a lot of grumbling and complaining about how hard life is and this is due to a lack of trust in God.

Now we know, that sin, has an adverse effect on many things in Gods creation. We also know, that it was not sin directly that kept the children of Israel from entering the promise land, and it is not sin directly that keeps us from salvation and eternal life. Christ paid our sin debt, and therefore we do not need be separated from God. Paul said, it was those who sinned, those who did not obey, that would never enter into his rest. Remember disobedience, brings about spiritual failure.

Hebrews 3: 19,....They could not enter in because of unbelief....

Satan's goal is to make us question God, give up waiting on God, and stop believing in God. To the believer, the only way he can do this is through spiritual distractions. This happens when we stop praying, stop seeking God, stop meditating on his word, stop following the direction of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Spiritual distraction causes us to take our eyes off God a little bit at a time. The more we focus on the worldliness that distracts us, the more it grows, until it starts to seem bigger to us than God does.

A spiritual distraction is not always a problem or hardship, a lot of times, it is something that seems right to us in our lives.

Matthew 14: 29 – 31,....so he said come....Peter came down and walked on the water to Christ.... When he saw the storm, he was afraid.... Beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord save me....

Peter thought it would be great to walk on the water as Christ did, until he was spiritually distracted.

If we trust in God, we will not easily be distracted, but a lot of times we do not make the effort to learn how to trust in God.

Learning to trust in God is a life long journey. It begins with Salvation and ends in eternal life with him.

We ask ourselves, is trusting God a lesson learned, or, is it always a lesson being learned.

To find this out in our Christian life we must:

#1 Stop trusting in the world and ourselves. Trust in God, he is the only one worthy of our trust.

Jerimiah 17: 9,...The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can know it....

We at times may not even know the true content of our heart, but the Lord does. Each day we must lay aside our plans and surrender to Gods plans. To do this, we must remember who God is.

Deuteronomy 7: 9,....Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commandments....

We know without question that God who adopted us as children, made us accepted through Christ. He has sealed us with the Holy Spirit. He has given us an everlasting assurance, that we who are saved, are sanctified, and glorified, and have already been given eternal life.

Jeremiah 29: 11 – 14,.... For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord....you will seek me and you will find me when you search for me with your whole heart....

Yes, God knows the plans he has for us, and ultimately that plan includes an eternal glorious future. As we live our lives here upon the earth, let us remember that the greatest spiritual growth comes through persevering through trials, tribulations and hardships, and not escaping them entirely. When, we learn perseverance, we find spiritual fulfillment.

#2 We must trust in Gods word. (God's word is Christ himself) We must obey his word, we must interpret his word, and allow his word to guide us through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 16: 24,....Then said Jesus to his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me....

Our means, of the truth, comes from God and his word. As followers of Christ, we demonstrate our trust in God and his word by allowing it to transform our lives, fully equipping us to serve faithfully to his glory.

Psalms 119: 11,....Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee....

As believers, our ultimate goal is to glorify God. The way to succeed in this, ultimate goal is to treasure his word.

Through study and prayer, we realize Gods ways are higher than our ways. We show him that we are leaving our troubles, burdens, and worldly dreams in his hands.

#3 We must listen to the Holy Spirit.

John 14: 26,....But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you....

We have, continuous, daily access to the Holy Spirit, because each one of us as believers have dwelling within our hearts the one who is our advocate, our counselor, our teacher, our instructor, and our comforter in our ever present time.

2 Timothy 1: 14,....That good thing which was committed unto thee, keep, by the Holy Spirit that dwells in us....

We must never forget that whatever we face, the Holy Spirit within us is facing it together with us. As in Christ, he will never leave us, nor forsake us. If we trust him today, he will take care of all our tomorrows.

#4 Final thought. Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together.

Hebrews 10: 24 – 25,....let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....

Although we gather in a church, we must gather as a church. The inward work, of the soul, must go with the outward work of the body. All members, must make up one body. We are reminded by the word, of our duty to be faithful, to care for others, to exhort one another in the fellowship of the spirit of the word. This assembling, whether in a church or as the church, has unspeakable eternal value.

Matthew 28: 18 – 20,....go therefore and make disciples of all nations....Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world....

Our task is to share the gospel of Christ and the cross to the world. The gospel that leads to salvation and eternal life, to secure repentance and remission of sin. The place for preaching the gospel is the whole world. The tools needed is the word (Christ) through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We must trust in God. It is easy to trust God for those things which we already trust in him for. We must learn that new circumstances in our lives is like starting over. Our desire to learn is a continual lifetime commitment. Our worldly nature has a tendency to seek its own interest. We must strive not to allow our human failings to rob us of the comfort of Gods dependability. Spiritual growth demands obedience and faithfulness to the word of God and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28: 20,.... I am with you always, even to the end of the age....

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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