

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2019

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.

Coping with disappointment

Romans 8:18

There are times in our spiritual lives that we wonder if God is going to grant the desires of our prayers, and we wonder why it is taking so long. When our hopes and prayers take a long time to come to pass, the time of waiting can become very disappointing. So, how do we cope with this spiritual disappointment.

Sinners, on the other hand, cannot cope with disappointment, so they replace it with something, and that something which is our first instinct, and that is to turn to a worldly solution to fix the disappointment that we feel within, which causes us to turn away from the only true resolution and that is Christ.

Romans 8: 18,....For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us....

As believers, there are three things that we must learn to do to cope with our spiritual disappointments.

- #1 We must continue to seek God.
- #2 We must continue to wait for his timing.
- #3 We must continue to hope for, or to long after his spiritual fulfilling.

So, how do we accomplish these three things, by standing on the promises of God's word and allowing him to encourage us, as we go through our time, of what we see as disappointment.

Study and meditation on Gods word, to know his promises, is the only remedy for our hearts. God wants us to bring our cares to him, share with him the sadness of our heart, so that the Holy Spirit can lead us in the direction that is needed to fulfill our spiritual desires. It is the power of the Gospel that sustains our souls in trials and tribulations.

Romans 8: 18 – 25,.... For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us....for we are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope, for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for it, but if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it....

Do we consider the sufferings, or do we never stop to consider, instead of just complaining about it, or feeling sorry for ourselves. When we do this, we are just nurturing and prolonging the inevitable. These sufferings, that we do not consider are, afflictions, persecutions, sickness, trials, and tribulations just to mention a few, and God uses them to increase our faith, build up our spiritual character, sustain our perseverance, and to show the hope of our salvation to others.

This is, that which we are going through in this present time, which means what we are going through, in our live right now. Not what we went through yesterday, not what we are going to go through tomorrow, but what we are going through now, and this is due to the fact, that our worldly self, tends to keep piling these things up around us.

But the word tells us that this is not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed within us, because this suffering is temporary, it is not going to last, unless we prolong it ourselves.

So, the glory that is going to be revealed within us is eternal. When we are saved, we are filled with God's glory. As Christians the glory of the Lord is in there, even though the sufferings bring on a sense of incompleteness. The longer, that we do not consider it, and let it go, the more the incompleteness turns into frustration, frustration to depression, and depression causes us to go through things that are beyond our imagination.

The next couple verses explain this adverse effect that takes place in our life. Suffering came about because of man's sinfulness and it affected more than just man himself. It also had a profound effect on everything that God created. It is the same with our spiritual life. When we do things that are not pleasing to God it affects more than just ourselves.

So, because creation was subject to the futility of man it no longer had good results, and it no longer had the purpose it was created for, so God had no choice, but to curse everything, because of sin. But, God did not do it without providing a promise of hope.

So, the word says that creation groans due to it suffers because of man's sinfulness. We ourselves groan also to do sinfulness, but our sufferings are not unexpected. As Christians we are aware of our limitations, so we wait eagerly in expectation of hope, and it is in this hope that we find salvation.

2 Corinthians 4: 16 – 18,....for which cause we faint not....the inward man is renewed day by day....for our light affliction is but for a moment....for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal...

Coping with disappointment is finding hope in the Lord and that hope is more than just wishful worldly thinking. Delayed hope is a part of life and there are many things which delay it. We must learn to allow our disappointed heart to focus on the confident expectation from God of what is yet to come, and certain to come.

For hope is, the confident expectation of what God has promised, and his strength is in his faithfulness.

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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