

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

1.3.2020

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.

Experiencing Gods Time

James 4: 13 - 17

As Christians, we do things without taking a truthful view of our life and what God has in store for us. We need to realize, and acknowledge, that we have less control over our lives than we think, and that we need to place our absolute dependence on God, before we do any planning for our lives. Worldly wisdom only results in our own arrogance, in believing that we are the masters of our own fate. As believers, we realize that we cannot predict, or control the future. God would like for us to understand our human limitations, instead of trying to pass them off as something genuine. We must be aware, that every moment is dependent upon God's grace, his mercy, and his will for our lives.

James 4: 13 – 17,....come now, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city....whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow, for what is your life, it is a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this and that...to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin....

The answer to whether our plans can be accomplished or not, lies in God. We must remember that our plans are conditional, and Gods plans for our lives are permanent. For this reason, we should be consistent in talking with God concerning his permanent plan for our lives. Understanding the uncertainty of our conditional planning helps us to realize the difference in, just living our life and holding onto and savoring what really matters in our life. That is God's love, not only for ourselves, but for all others as well. Even though we will exist eternally, whether it will be eternally with God, or forever separated from God, in hell, is entirely up to us, we as Christians understand that time is precious and our earthly life is short, while eternity is forever, so therefore every minute of this life counts.

2 Corinthians 5: 10,....for we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad....

Gods desire is that our time upon this earth will count for that, which is significant and has eternal value.

Philippians 2: 14 – 16,.....do all things without complaining and disputing....holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain....

As obedient believers, we hold fast to the gospel and the truth of God's word. Therefore, our efforts are not in vain, due to investing this time of our salvation into other people, helping them to be productive in serving the Lord. Gods desire is to take joy in us, and our desire is to take joy in the maturity of the body of Christ.

In order, to experience Gods time, we must, learn to live dependent upon Gods saving grace, trust in God, when making plans in our lives, and allow Gods word to direct our paths while accomplishing his will.

Live dependent upon Gods saving grace.

1 Timothy 6: 11 – 12,....but you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses....

In order, to live dependent upon Gods saving grace, we must understand the choice that must be made. Mankind will either live in worldliness, which is in his own weakness, confusion, blindness, and failure, or he will live in Gods majesty, greatness, and power. Everyone who has been saved, and has the Spirit of God indwelling within, has the desire not to be a man of the world, not to be a man of the flesh, but to be a man of God. As a man of God, the word tells us to flee worldliness, to follow after our, spiritual qualities and abilities, and fight the good fight of faith, taking hold of the eternal promises of God.

2 Timothy 1: 8 – 9,....therefore be not ashamed of the testimony of our Lord....but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God....who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel....

As Christians, we should not seek to distance ourselves from other Christians, but, this a natural human tendency, especially if they are being persecuted for the gospel of Christ, because we want to avoid the same situation in our own lives. We should welcome the opportunity to stand with others and to help others to endure, when it benefits the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Trust in God when making plans in our lives.

Proverbs 3: 5 – 6,....trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths....

Mankind's understanding of planning and making choices in our lives is always subject to error. What usually appears to be the right choice, does not mean that it is God's choice for us in our life. The Lord always knows what is best for us, and it is up to us, through the guidance of his word, to recognize our own limitations. Once that we begin to realize this, we will see that God is still in control of everything in our lives. Our understanding may need time to catch up with God's will, but we will soon see how that his workings always pertain to what is best for us.

Romans 12: 3,....for I say, through the grace given unto me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a new measure of faith....

God has an amazing plan for our lives. He continually calls for us to follow him, and to do his will through obedience to his word. The result of our obedience to God, will bless us, and lead us into an eternal life with him. This obedience to his word, will change the way that we live our life, we will seek to be used for his purposes and not that of our own, which will allow us to see the world through our salvation. It takes faith to see the world through our salvation because in doing so, we must see ourselves truthfully and objectively, so that we may learn to trust God to do in us what he has intended for us to do.

Allow God's word to direct our path in accomplishing his will.

John 16: 12 – 15,....when the spirit of truth has come, he will guide you into all truth....he will glorify me, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you....he will take of mine and declare it to you....

Part of our service to Christ is to listen to the Holy Spirit's leadership and guidance in our lives. We must also be submissive when prompted to accomplish the truth of the gospel into which we are being guided. Through the gospel of Christ, we are given Godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding to discern the will of God in every aspect of our lives.

Romans 12: 9 – 18,....let love be without deception. Despise what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another....distributing to the needs of the saints....do not be wise in your own opinion....repay no one evil for evil....if it is possible....live peaceably with all men....

So, what does it mean to live a Christian life. It means responding to Gods grace and mercy. It means utilizing the spiritual gifts that God has bestowed upon us, it means to serve in the body of Christ. We are called to find ways, through the leadership of God, to express his love, to all of those who will hear. How do we experience Gods timing in our life, by learning to see the world through his perspective and not our own. To invest our time and energy in securing, and in keeping the truth of the gospel of salvation, to the glory of God. God wants the truth about himself, and eternal life, to be known, to be felt, and to be spoken of, throughout the world, as a part of our reason for being. Our accomplishments, are Gods blessings to us.

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3177 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

