

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.11.2021

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.

Do Not Look Back

Genesis 19: 12 – 26

Due to sin, God has predicted his judgement upon mankind. Even though God has given us numerous warnings in his word, mankind still, at times, must be physically removed from the worldliness that surrounds him. These warnings may seem catastrophic, but they are motivated by God's mercy and compassion for us. As Christians, we must not look to doctrines that might deceive us and lead us away from the truth of Gods word. We must begin to take thought for those things that are going to impact our eternal life, and we must choose to keep our eyes upon God.

Genesis 19: 12 – 26,....and the men said unto Lot....whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place, for we will destroy this place....the Lord hath sent us to destroy it....when they had brought them forth....he said, escape for thy life, look not behind thee....lest thou be consumed....then the Lord reigned....brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven....but his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt....

Genesis 19: 12 – 13,....and the men said unto Lot....whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place, for we will destroy this place....the Lord hath sent us to destroy it....

In our life as Christians, we ourselves feel safe in our salvation and eternal life. But God warns us of greater dangers that are coming. These may not be things that will question our eternal life, but they will be things that will burden our heart, concerning the salvation of those around us, which is our family, our loved ones, and our friends. God is going to pass judgement on those who will not accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and he calls upon us to seek out, and to rescue anyone who denies his redemptive plan of salvation. God has promised that he would not destroy those who seek after his righteousness, and his continued blessings will be upon all, who will attempt to find those in need, and help them to see the salvation of Jesus Christ, and follow after him.

Philippians 2: 1 – 5,....if there be any consolation in Christ....fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded....in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better than themselves....look not every man on his own things, but everyman also on the things of others....

Through his word, God commands each believer to treat all of humanity with humility and selflessness. We must put the needs of others before our own, meaning that the salvation of others is more important than any worldly asset that we could ever acquire. We as Christians are also called to help more than just one person at a time, this starts with helping the saints, and then moves us on to helping those who do not yet know Christ as their personal savior. Having an unselfish attitude, and humbleness of spirit is the key to maintaining our joy in the Lord. Christ teaches us to show humility, by giving credit for our works to the Father, remembering that the second of the greatest commandments is to love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22: 39,....thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself....

A true believer desires spiritual success for his Christian brothers and sisters, as well as his own spiritual maturity.

Genesis 19: 17,....and it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, escape for thy life, look not behind thee....

God genuinely cares for those who have faith in him and have believed in him. His mercy is upon all those who will, follow after him, and those who are willing to live for him. God will one day return for his church, and then soon after, through the fulfillment of his word, he will destroy this world, and the sinfulness in it. His message to us is to flee from sinfulness, to escape from the worldliness, and that we should never look back upon what he has brought us out of. All too often, even as Christians, we choose to stay in the ways of the world. We must pray for God to strengthen us, and to give unto us the ability to turn away from this worldliness. He will reveal unto us, the things that we need to escape from, and he will create in us a new life, full and abundant in his glory.

James 4: 1 – 7,....from whence comes war and fightings among you....even in your lusts that war in your members. Ye lust....yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts....whosoever therefore will be afraid of the world is the enemy of God....the spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy. But he giveth more grace....submit yourself therefore to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you....

Within the body of Christ, there is a source of sinful pursuits, and that source is self. It is worldly lust that will cause us to follow after worldly pleasures, worldly possessions, and worldly power, which is the source of all pursuits. The worldly cravings of the flesh will always conflict with the spiritual desires of the new man in Christ. As we mature spiritually in our Christian life, we will come to understand that Christ is the one who can separate the good that we do in the spirit from the opposing worldliness that we want to carry out in the lust of the flesh. Through the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of God's word, we see and compare the results of living by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, versus the results of living in worldly wisdom. Success according to the world is defined by the things which we acquire in our worldly life. Success in God, and in our salvation is defined by our peace of mind in Christ Jesus, this means that we have escaped the life of sinfulness and we must never look back.

Genesis 19: 24 – 26,....then the Lord reigned....fire and brimstone from the Lord out of heaven....but his wife looked back and became a pillar of salt....

Make no mistake that God's judgement will fall upon all humanity. This means, against those who will not accept the saving grace of his Son, the one who gave his life on the cross, and the one who was then resurrected into newness of life in God, so that we might have eternal life, these are those that reject and remain in sin. All must be careful not to make light of God's wrath, because his wrath is justified. We must not fail to recognize God's wrath, and we must not forget that, we all depend upon the grace of God to save us from this wrath, through our faith in Christ Jesus. God is willing and ready to judge the unrighteous, and to rescue the righteous.

2 Peter 2: 6 – 10,....and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, he condemned them....making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly....the Godly out of temptations, and to rescue the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished....

The word of God reminds us how short life is, our need for faith in Christ, and the need to live Godly lives. Gods desire for us is to grow in grace, and to be secured in Christ. Sin must be punished, in order for God's righteousness to remain unblemished. But those who are saved by the grace of God, those who resist temptation, those who walk in the spirit and in faith, applying God's word in their lives keeps the heart pure, and prevents us from following after the desires of the flesh.

We must be careful not to allow ourselves to be caught up in the worldly destruction going on around us, which is due to our delay of spiritual maturity. Looking back, implies that we still have within us continued affection for the sinfulness of the world. Even though God is merciful, he will not allow sin to stand. God's judgement is coming, and there is a boundary between God's patience and his wrath. So, how far is to far to go in sinfulness, how long will God be merciful, where does hope end, and where does it begin. Hope ends in death without salvation, this is spiritual separation from God. Hope begins in salvation and continues in eternal life with God. Do not look back.

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/>

