

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

5.30.2021

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.

Man's Response – Pursuing Gods Plan of Salvation

Ephesians 6: 11 – 13

Our spiritual motivation and strength come's through the Lord, and is of the Lord. With this motivation and strength, we not only receive wisdom, knowledge, and understanding from the Lord, but we learn to apply that wisdom that we have received in our real life world applications. Only by asking God for strength, and relying on him for that strength, do we find the ability to utilize the spiritual tools given unto us to succeed in living our life in the will of God in our life. Through this spiritual maturity we began to understand our position in Christ, and we begin to gain a better understanding of the on going spiritual battle that is constantly taking place in this sinful world that we live in. In order to overcome, we must not take courage in our own strength, nor should we rely upon ourself, but we are to stand firm in the power of an almighty God. It is only when we begin to recognize our own weaknesses and liabilities that we begin to look to the Lord for the strength that we need, which he gives unto us, through the power and the gifts of the indwelling Holy Spirit. For only when we recognize our weaknesses, and we die to self, will we be strong in the Lord.

We have been talking about pursuing God's plan of salvation in our life, and through this we have talked about how that God reveals himself to mankind, and we have talked about God's solutions to the daily accomplishments in our life, as well as those things that are not pleasing unto him. Today we are going to look at man's response to the Lord's will in our life.

What is God's will in our life. It is to accept him, to live for him, and to tell others about him. The word gives unto us the means by which we should live our lives.

Ephesians 6: 11 – 13,....put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the veil day, and having done all, to stand....

As believers, we must plan to utilize all the tools made available unto us by God in our Christian life. We will not be successful in our spiritual battles unless we have included, in our life daily, every part of God's spiritual armour. Satan seeks to destroy every good work that we have accomplished in our life, thankfully his power can not compare to God's power that is within us. Prayer, and the word, gives unto us the faith, to trust, and to rely upon God, which is the key to surviving Satan's spiritual attacks.

1 Peter 5: 8,....be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....

Our eternal life with God is secure, and Satan cannot, in any way separate us from the love of God. So, what can he do unto us, he can seek to damage our submission of faith unto God. Satan wants to leave us as weak, and as vulnerable as he possibly can, so as to leave us as ineffective as he can, in our service unto God. Therefore, we must be spiritually alert and watchful, relying upon God in all things, and at all times, because these spiritual battles will occur when we are at our weakest, or when we least expect it.

2 Corinthians 10: 4 – 6,....for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience in Christ, and having in readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled....

As believers, we will encounter many false teachers, and false teachings, as we live our life for the Lord. However, these struggles that we have are not going to be generated by physical confrontations, but spiritual. Satan will, over, and over again, attempt to attack our emotional well being, leaving us vulnerable to anxiety, depression, and even physical sickness in our life. For this reason, the tools, and the armour given unto us by God, powered by God, through the Holy Spirit, are essential and vital to us in understanding the true knowledge of God. Our goal, which is God's goal in our life, is not one of victory alone, for ourselves, but to bring glory to God through the obedience of the whole body of Christ. When we are obedient to Christ, then he is in our thoughts completely, and abundantly, which means that we are influenced less of others, and also influenced less of ourselves. We will begin to think more and more about Christ and his will for our life, and less and less of our own worldly selves. He will be the focus of our thoughts, and every image that is in our thoughts, will be in obedience to him.

Ephesians 6: 13,....wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and have done all to stand....

In order, for our lives to work out as God has intended, we must have salvation. There is no substitute, and this salvation must come through the truth of Gods word. Next in our lives must come prayer, and the study and meditation of Gods word, which brings about his righteousness in our lives. As these things begin to work together in all areas of our life, we begin to experience spiritual maturity. This spiritual maturity keeps us constantly on guard in our life, living in a state of spiritual preparedness, so that we may stand firm in our endurance against the sinfulness of this world. As we, put on Christ, and as we abide in Christ, we will find rest in him alone, because he now abides within us.

James 4: 7,....submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you....

We cannot say that we believe in God, and then not trust in him. And even though he will not reject us, he takes our disobedience to him personally. Resisting Satan takes faith and works. Resisting means, that we through the power, and the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will actively pull ourselves away from the sinfulness that surrounds us. Satan will not remain in the presence of the goodness, love, power, and the truth of God's word. It is our choice to make. We can either allow sin to rule in our lives, by giving into the desires of our fleshly nature, or we can, as believers, consider ourselves dead to sin, and become alive to God, in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to decline sinful temptations, turn down worldly, lustful desires, and to refuse the deceptions of the world, by simply saying no. God gives unto us the authority over our bodies, this body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit, means that we are to present ourselves as instruments of Gods righteousness, holy and acceptable unto him, this is are holy, spiritual response unto God.

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://hollowowlfarm.com/>

