Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.18.2021

 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 God’s word.

Nehemiah Combats Derision and Danger

Nehemiah 4: 1 – 9

As believers, we were once sinners saved by grace, through faith in Christ. Once justified and redeemed, we then are expected by God to continue living our life by faith. We are to walk by faith and not by sight, and we are instructed to pray in faith believing while maintaining an unshakeable trust in the word of God. We choose to walk in spirit and in truth, which will help us to remain in the fellowship of God, by abiding in the humility of his Son, Jesus Christ, and in willing obedience to his word. As Christians, we have received everything that we need to hold on to the ability that God has given unto us and that is to pray in faith believing according to his will. God establishes our confidence in himself by bestowing upon us the privilege and the power of prayer. Salvation and everlasting life come’s by the unchangeable word of God. When we offer up prayers in accordance too Gods perfect will we are guaranteed that God hears and answers these prayers. As believers, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, God equips us with the ability to discern his will by studying and meditating upon his word. The stronger that we grow in the Lord, the more that we will see and understand that when we pray, it is in accordance too his will, and with this spiritual confidence we know that he will hear and answer our prayers.

Nehemiah 4: 1 – 3,….it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the jews….and he spake….and said….what do these feeble Jews, will they fortify themselves, will they sacrifice, will they make an end in a day, will they revive the stones….even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall….

As Christians, we must expect resistance when we are doing the work of the Lord. This is due to the fact that we were born into a sin nature which is enmity with God. But, through salvation we are born into a new Christlike nature, reconciled to God. From that moment on, the conflict within, begin, God through his awesome power could have chosen to remove the old sinful nature, but allowed the two natures to coexist in our earthly body, so as to remind us to always maintain a humble dependence upon Christ. For this reason, the word of God instructs us to yield to the Holy Spirit of God so that we may grow in his mercy and his grace, so that we may be transformed into the person that God wants us to be.

John 15: 19,….if you were of the world, the world would love his own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you….

Our sin nature is always seeking after worldly approval. As Christians, being called out and chosen by God, makes us offensive to the unbelieving world around us. As we refuse to join in with this sinful worldliness, the world tends to respond with hatred and mockery. Choosing to follow God causes humanity around us to become uncomfortable, but we can rest assured and take comfort in knowing that this is a sign that we are identified with Christ. Christ warns us through his word that the world is going to hate us. But, through prayer and supplications, our awareness of his undying, genuine love for us grows deeper and deeper in our life.

Matthew 5: 1,….blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake….

Humanity who is living in sin will naturally despise those living in righteousness, due to that righteousness exposing their sinfulness. Satan will then begin to afflict believers in order to deter them from living for God. Sadly, some Christians will compromise their faith to avoid persecution. But if we are willing to take up our cross daily and follow him, then we will not compromise our faith, but we will realize that this suffering which we face is actually proof of our salvation, and will be greatly rewarded by God eternally.

Nehemiah 4: 4 – 5,….hear, O God, for we are despised….for they have provoked thee to anger….

Often times, when we face opposition in our lives, our first response is to get even, which usually results in anger. This week’s lesson shows unto us that our first response must be prayer. Prayer reminds us that as we submit to an all powerful God, and even though we are going through many trials, tribulations, and persecutions in our lives, that if we put our trust in him, he will give unto us the strength to endure and to respond in such a way as to allow the love of God to shine forth through our salvation.

Matthew 5: 44,….but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you….

In our daily lives, humanity as well as the church, is being taught that it is alright to have ill disregard for those whom we believe to be our enemies. But Gods plan of righteousness, goes well beyond our feelings of self righteousness, to a love that desires the salvation of all humanity. However, there will be times when it will become necessary to disprove false teachings, and to stand up for the truth of sound doctrine, but it must always be done through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, which will always glorify God, and this must come through prayer. This allows us to fight our spiritual battles, never getting so distracted by them that we forget our main purpose as believers, and that is to proclaim the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ to all mankind.

Nehemiah 4: 6 – 9,….so we built the wall….and the wall was joined together….and the people had a mind to work….and the walls of Jerusalem were made up, the breaches began to be stopped.…then they were very wroth, and conspired all of them to come and to fight against Jerusalem….nevertheless we made our prayer to God, and set a watch….

When opposition comes, God brings his people together in unification. This unification is to build up our determination in God’s word, so as not to be distracted or discouraged in the sinfulness of the world, and miss out on what God is truly doing in our lives.

1 Corinthians 1: 10,….now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement….

We are not only called by God to enter into his righteousness, but we are also called into unity and fellowship with others in the body of Christ. Sadly, disharmony and disunity exist in the church today. We must develop the same spiritual characteristics toward one another in the body of Christ that we have with Christ Jesus himself. Christ crucified and resurrected should be the standard for all believers which should be instilled in our thoughts and in our minds. The world will try everything within its power to destroy God’s people and therefore render the church helpless.

As believers we must learn that we are not defenseless in our persecutions. We have a sovereign, omnipotent God that we can go to, one who cares for us and loves us unconditionally. It is not what we do that matters, but what is important in our lives is where that we go to leave these matters behind. We must be that person that God would have us to be, so that we will not allow the world around us to dictate who we will be and what we will do. The body of Christ must stand together, day and night, always being prepared for the worst that the world can bring against us, but with the eternal hope of God within us, leading and guide us into his best.

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/>