

## *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

4.3.2022

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.

Exact no more than that which is appointed to you

### **Luke 3: 4, 6, 8 – 13**

Believers should not think that because they have a religious heritage that they automatically belong in the family of God. The accumulation of our spiritual deeds is directly related to the seriousness of our faith to repentance. What we acquire and how we use that which we acquire exposes what we value in life. If we ignore God's commands and promises then how can we claim that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And if we prioritize our own spiritual wellbeing above that of others in the body of Christ, then how can we claim to love our neighbor as ourselves. There is a thin line dividing good and evil and it reigns in the heart of every human being. Which one of us can truthfully claim to be all good with no evil. We must allow God's love, his power, and his strength to help us in overcoming our selfish desires, so that we may live not only according to his love, but that we are also committed to his love.

**Luke 3: 4, 6, 8 – 13,....**as it is written....the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight....and all flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord....bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance....every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire....and the people asked him....what shall we do now....and he said unto them, exact no more than that which is appointed you....

With the season of Easter fast approaching we want to take a good look at the role of the believer today in what we recognize as being the justification of our salvation through the redemptive work of Christ and the cross, and the celebration of our glorification into eternal life with God through the promise of the resurrection. It is by John's example that we are shown the characteristics of our role in Christ.

**Romans 12: 5,....**so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another....

We are the voice of one, of many in the body of Christ, crying out from the worldliness which surrounds us. A voice strengthened by the indwelling Holy Spirit, a voice which speaks the simple truth of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, this is the voice of the church which now speaks the words of preparation to the non-believer, words which are the way of the Lord. Not only are we to show the way of salvation to those who have not yet believed but we are also to edify one another and to esteem them very highly in love for their works sake.

**1 Thessalonians 5: 11 – 13,....**comfort yourselves together....edify one another....know them which labor among you....esteem them very highly....to be at peace among yourselves....

As we follow the promises of the word of God, then shall we see the salvation of God. Even though the promise is given that all shall see the truth of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, sadly not all will choose to accept that saving grace.

**Luke 3: 8 – 9,....**bring forth fruits worthy of repentance....every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire....

What kind of things constitute the repentance that God seeks of us? If we are seeking to please God, then we must have a heart full of God's love when it comes to the needs of others.

**Micah 6: 8,....**he hath shewed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God....

In what we feel to be the darkest moments of our life, God will still always give unto us hope. God continually desires to change our hearts and lives so that we might be a living example of himself. Without Gods compelling love, our sacrifices or rituals would never be enough to change our hearts for the better. God is the only one who can work miracles within our lives, and he wants nothing more than to transform our lives into the likeness of his Son Jesus Christ. We must learn to see the true character of God. A God who hates sin but loves the sinner. Gods call, is for us to listen to him, to seek to hear his voice, to work responsibly before him. Just as Gods character is merciful to us, his call to us is to live in this same mercy, both in our relationship with him and in our relationship with others. God also desires that we rely fully on him and his wisdom, instead of seeking our own wisdom in the world.

**Romans 12: 1 – 2,....**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service....and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God....

As believers, we are to practically apply all that we are taught by the word of God to our life in Christ. By this we understand that we are saved entirely because of Gods amazing grace. Now, there is nothing that we can do to repay God, but, we can offer ourselves unto him, by living and presenting ourselves holy and pleasing unto the Lord.

**John 7: 38,....**he that believeth on me, as the scripture saith, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water....

God continues to offer to all, the invitation to come, and to drink of the living water which he freely gives. This living water is given unto all who will trust in Christ and his sacrificial work on the cross. God is our strength, and in him alone is salvation. This salvation is our well of water springing up into eternal life.

**Luke 3: 10,....**and the people asked him....what shall we do....

How do we as Christians show that our repentance is sincere. We put works with our faith.

**James 2: 7,....**even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone....

True faith that honors God demonstrates our true Christian character. True faith is accomplished by acts of kindness, good deeds, and works that are worthy of Christ. Good works and kind actions should be an important identifying mark of every child of God. God has prepared good works for each one of us as his children, so to carry out in our Christian life. Works that are carried out in the strength of God rather than our own efforts, are good works and will be rewarded. May we always understand that it is not the good works that we do that saves us, it is the work of Christ on the cross on our behalf by which we are saved. Therefore we live and work the works of God, by his power, for his glory.

**Luke 3: 13,....**and he said unto them, exact no more than that which is appointed unto you....

Often time, as Christians we get ahead of God. When this happens, even in our life in Christ, we become greedy. Let us remember that greed is part of our sinful nature. We think that what we have, we deserve, because we have worked so hard for it. Even in our spiritual life we may tend to not only hoard our possessions, but we also tend to hoard our spiritual knowledge and our spiritual life in Christ. We want to keep everything to ourselves. Let us remember that what we have we have because of the grace of God. Yes, we worked for it and yes, we earned it, but we should never think that it belongs to us, and we deserve it, because God gave it to us. The fruit of our repentance is to always turn toward God.

**Hebrews 12: 1 – 2,....**let us lay aside....the sin which doth so easily beset us....looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....

Despite many trials and tribulations, we are called to obtain a good testimony through faith. It is the sin of unbelief that challenges our faith in God. Through our assurance and determination in the word of God will we pursue our goal in Christ, so that in our Christian life we should not fall into the sin of unbelief, which distracts us from our ultimate goal of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

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/>



