

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.3.2022

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.

Haggai Calls for Faithful Service

Haggai 1: 1 – 11

Today's lesson, would have us to ask ourselves the question, is it time for us, or is it time for God? Does our spiritual worldly desires outweigh or take precedence over the desires that God has intended for us in our life. Our personal desires can mislead us when we strive to fulfill our own agenda and gain material wealth in the world. Gaining material wealth will give unto us a false sense of success, and because of it we will have to endure an even greater filling of emptiness that will come, because of it. For this reason, we will never be truly happy because we will have missed out on what God wanted most for us in our life. How do we know if the desires of our heart are pure? This comes through obedience to God's word. If we are truly obedient to God, and if all that we do gives us delight through his word, and if what we do gives us joy because it is pleasing unto God and follows his priorities, then and only then what we desire in our heart, and what we want most in our life will be the same as what God is blessing us with. One thing that we do not want to do is to come to the end of our life and discover that we have gained the whole world while forfeiting our own soul.

Matthew 16: 26,....for what is a man propheted, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

As Christians, we must be willing to deny our own wants and desires, giving up every part of our own agenda and totally submitting to the will of God and his purpose for our life, and for the body of Christ. Earthly success can only last until our physical death. Before this happens, we all must choose, either to lose everything that we are in the world, so that we might follow Christ and be eternally saved, or keep all that we are in the world, serve our own lustful desires, and lose our soul forever in eternal condemnation.

Haggai 1: 1 – 7,....in the second year of Darius the king....came the word of the Lord, by Haggai the prophet....thus speaketh the Lord of host....the people say, the time is not come....then came the word of the Lord, by Haggai the prophet....is it time for you....thus saith the Lord....consider your ways....ye have sown much, and bring in little, ye eat, but have not enough, ye drink, but ye are not filled....ye clothe you, but there is none warm....earneth wages to put in a bag with holes....thus saith the Lord....consider your ways....

How is it, that as Christians, that we can live for God, but not do spiritual works. We use excuse after excuse and blame God for our lack of opportunity and works, because we claim that his timing has not yet come. This is not spiritual reasoning but worldly reasoning that we use for an excuse of our unwillingness to do Gods will. We have replaced the priority of Gods will in our life with the desire of our own personal preferences. This means that Gods work in our life has taken a second place to our own desires. So, we must ask ourselves the question, is it time for us, which means are we living for ourselves?

Romans 14: 7 - 8,....for none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself....for whether we live, we live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord, whether we live thereof, or die, we are the Lords....

No matter what happens in our life, each one of us should be fully convinced of our own position in the Lord. As Christians, we have been given great liberty in Christ and with this liberty we are entrusted to make wise and godly decisions. It is very important that we live our lives in service to God and do everything for his greater glory. Our life should be so committed to God, that he is everything to us, and we are nothing.

Galatians 5: 1,....stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage....

We are told in today's lesson, not once, but twice, to consider our ways. We are living our lives according to the path in which we have chosen to travel. Therefore, the word of God tells us to re-evaluate our ways and make those changes, which are necessary, to get in line with the promises of God. Because we try to provide for ourselves, we miss out on the blessings of God, and because God is displeased with our thoughts and our actions, he will show his displeasure by withholding these blessings. Although we are sowing plentifully, we are not reaping the benefits of our work, this is because we have allowed something other than God to become top priority in our life.

Haggai 1: 8 – 11,....go up to the mountain....build the house....and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified....ye looked for much....and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it....therefore the heaven over you is stayed....and I called for a drought upon the land....

The most important thing in life is to accomplish the will of God. To do this, God gives unto us specific instructions to follow, and with these instructions he gives unto us the ability to fulfill his will. Our obedience to following God's instruction will give him pleasure and glorify him. As we become obedient to God, he will lead us and guide us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Often time, God will lead us in a direction without giving us a clear indication as to why. This means that along with obedience, we also need great faith, and great understanding. When, by faith, we follow his leadership and guidance, even without a clear indication of direction, this is when we begin to grow in our understanding of God and his eternal plan.

Proverbs 4: 1 – 7,....hear....the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding....let thine heart return my words, keep my commandments, and live....get wisdom, get understanding, forget it not....wisdom is the principle thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding....

Humanity sets goals and they work hard to reach them. All these objects will fade away in comparison to the value of acquiring spiritual wisdom and understanding. There is nothing as valuable to mankind then the wisdom to know God, to do God's will, and to understand how to respond to his opportunities. We can pursue many things in our life, but true satisfaction comes only from knowing God. Godly wisdom and understanding gives unto us the ability to choose the correct solution for any situation. It is knowing how to think, how to speak, and how to act, so that we might please God throughout our life here upon this earth. Without wisdom and understanding, mankind is easily deceived and led astray, which can cause confusion in following the direction that God would have us to go in our life.

When this happens our level of increase will not measure up to what we had hoped for. In this, God will leave no doubt that he is withholding his blessings from us. God does this to get our attention and to persuade us to change. We are to change from looking out for our own interest which causes us to ignore the things that glorify God. If we are to become faithful to the call of Gods service, we must learn to be obedient, taking action in those things which God has promised unto us through his word.

Colossians 2: 1 – 3,....that there hearts might be comforted....of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge....

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.

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