

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

7.31.2022

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.

Loving God – With all thy mind

Matthew 27: 37

God, through his grace, has given unto us the knowledge of truth, so that we may yield to his correction, learn from our mistakes, and come to God for his divine instruction. We receive information from God, we reason on it, we come to his understanding, we allow him to draw our conclusion, and then we follow his plan of action. With our mind we yield our will to Gods will, and with this we rule our body and our actions to obey Christ and his word. We choose to love God, who gives unto us the desire to seek him more and more every day. We know this to be true when our thoughts dwell on him continually. Now, this does not mean that the power of the old nature is eliminated, therefore we must diligently pursue after the knowledge of God and his word. True Christians will desire God to dominate their lives with his will. This true love is something that we do purposefully, based upon our knowledge of him, because we cannot love that which we do not know. The more that we search the scripture, the more that we focus our attention on God and the more we will understand and be driven to do that which he has in store for us to do. Remember, true knowledge and understanding bear's fruit.

Matthew 22: 37,....thou shalt love the Lord thy God....with all thy mind....

How can we love God with all our mind? We find ourselves experiencing greater love for God as we hear him speak the truth to us through his word. This will help us to separate the growth of our spiritual faith from worldly emotional experiences that leave us dissatisfied and empty inside. Loving God with our mind takes spiritual perseverance and will prove to have great rewards for our spiritual development, discernment, and maturity.

Thessalonians 2: 13,....when ye received the word of God....ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe....

We should not approach Gods word with the hope that something will leap off the page at us with little to no effort from us. We should approach the word of God with the mindset that we are going to allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us through the scripture in such a way that we are in total expectation of his understanding.

Psalms 1: 13,....blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly....but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night....and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper....

Gods desire is that we would want his word to influence our life. This means that we do not just read, but we meditate, we also cherish his promises, we heed to his commands, we confront our sins, and we conform our thoughts to Gods thoughts. The more time that we spend with Christ in his word, the closer that our relationship with the Father will become and the more that we will be captivated by his word.

Romans 12: 1 – 2,....present your bodies a living sacrifice....be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind....

One of the first things that we must learn in our spiritual maturity is to stop living our lives like everyone else and start living according to Gods will. This renewing of the mind starts with the question, what does God want for me in my life? This is a daily, ongoing process that we must choose, because our sin nature, which is conformed to this world is constantly compelling us to follow after our old desires. Meditating on the word of God will keep our thoughts and our mind influenced by the perfect will of Christ.

Psalm 40: 8,....I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart....

As Christians, we should be thrilled to do Gods will, our life is a testimony, and we are delighted to do and to show others the will of God. We are servants of God, called to be his witness to a world in need, so that all of humanity might find pleasure in his saving grace and become transformed in their hearts and minds to live eternally in his mercy and grace.

Philippians 4: 8,....whatsoever things are true....honest....just....pure....lovely....good report....if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things....

The more that we choose to love God, the greater the battle in our life becomes, this is because our minds become filled with both spiritual and worldly thoughts, therefore our mind is a battlefield. We must surrender our every thought to God, serving him in each one. In this passage in Philippians, Paul gives unto the church several qualities of our mind to focus on. We are commanded to make our thoughts true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and virtuous. To do this we must have discipline so that we may come into the obedience of his word.

2 Corinthians 10: 5,....casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity, every thought, to the obedience of Christ....

As believers we have the God given ability to destroy every argument and opinion just by bringing into obedience our every thought. This means that we think, spiritually, before we speak. False teaching will lead to wrongful thinking, but the true knowledge of God will lead to righteous thinking. Our greatest concern should not be about what others are doing, but it should be to bring our own thoughts in line with Christ Jesus. Our spiritual maturity does not lie in the wisdom of others, nor does it lie in our own knowledge. The more we think about Christ, the less we will think about others and ourselves. Christ in our thoughts means that he is all in all.

1 Corinthians 15: 28,....when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all....

One day Gods glory will reign supreme, but for now we must choose to allow him to reign in every part of our being, and this starts with the thoughts of our mind. God can only be our all in all when things worldly are not present in our lives, therefore, while we live upon this earth this can never take place. So, we strive for perfection through the leadership and guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Psalm 73: 25 – 26,....whom have I in heaven but you? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee....my flesh (or my body) and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever....

Do we want to love God with our mind? If we want to keep our thoughts, true, honorable, just, pure, holy, of good report, and virtuous, then when our worldly emotions began to overcome us, and when our minds began to wander, and our thoughts began to pull us into a state of unrest we must remember these words and what they mean.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. We have God, and that is enough. Our eyes are upon God, and our mind is upon the Lord. The word of God does not portray our life here upon this earth as being an ideal situation as some false prophets would have us to believe, but it gives unto us a picture of our emotional and spiritual struggles, and reveals unto us the thoughts of our mind, which often time we would prefer to hide. But it also gives unto us a way to overcome, a way to be victorious, if we will allow God to continue to be our strength, for he is the only thing that we can hold fast to that will never fail and that will never end, for he is eternal.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

