

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

7.10.2022

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 your Heart

Matthew 27: 37

How great is the influence of our emotions on our life? Our emotions have a very strong influence on our daily lives. Emotions are reactions that we experience in response to different situations in our life. We make decisions based upon the type of emotion that we are experiencing. As believers, we should be influenced by our godly emotions, but due to the sinful nature that we were born into, often time it is worldly emotions that influence our ability to make decisions. This means that the type of emotion that we experience is going to be based upon the circumstance that is taking place in our life. Therefore, most people, are slaves to their emotions. If we are obedient to God, he will give unto us strength and power over our emotions. Our emotions can be good and helpful when we are in charge of them. As Christians, we must strive, fervently, to keep our emotions pure. Our decisions, our actions, our reactions, the way that we feel, and the way that we think, if our emotions are pure then everything that originates in our life will be pure.

Proverbs 4: 23,....keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life....

Keeping our emotions pure is very important in determining the course of our life. This is because it is our emotions that control our thoughts, and our thoughts run our life. We have been equipped, by God, with emotions, to glorify God, and to enrich our lives. Therefore, we should never give our emotions free reign to rule in our lives and influence our decisions, but we should always use our emotions in connection with God, so that we may experience a full and abundant life in service to him.

Matthew 22: 37,....Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart....

To love God with all your heart means to have pure godly emotions and to love God unconditionally with them. Loving God with every emotional part of our being is a day-to-day learning process. We are born with a clean, pure heart, but it becomes impure when we willfully sin. We must make the decision to give up our own selfish will and follow after the will of God.

David prayed:

Psalm 51: 10,....create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me....

We must desire a heart that is full of love for God. A desire to choose God's will, means a renewed heart that is clean and pure, one that we do not have to fight repeatedly to purify, but one that we do have to do the work of God to keep it pure. By loving God with all our heart, our emotions are allowing us to experience the fullness of the joy of our salvation, which comes from living in the righteousness of God.

Psalm 9: 1,....I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will shew forth all thy marvelous works....

What better way to love the Lord thy God with our whole heart than to fill our hearts and minds with the word of God. God's word is the strongest resource that we have in overcoming the worldly emotions that Satan tries to deceive us with. A heart of gratitude towards God is a reminder of God's love and faithfulness for us and our love and faithfulness to him.

Psalm 119: 50,....this is my comfort in my affliction, for thy word hath quickened me....

It is very important that we come to know the value of God's word.

Matthew 4: 4,....it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God....

Nothing was more important to Christ then to carry out the word and the will of the Father. Christ lived his life on earth in obedience to the Fathers word. Our obedience to the word of God is of the greatest value to our life in Christ, for it is our total dependence on Christ that allows us to glorify the Father.

How do we learn to follow our godly emotions and leave our worldly emotions behind?

Psalm 26: 2,....examine me, O Lord, and prove me, try my reins and my heart....

If we want to keep the burden of our worldly emotions and unrest from overcoming us, then it is God that must examine us and not we ourselves.

If our desires are focused on the Lord, if our heart is centered on God, if our hope is in him alone, it is then that we will call out for the Lord to judge us, and then to come to our defense. This means that we ask the Lord to examine our character and emotions to access our actions and attitudes. When we turn to our godly emotions instead of living in our worldly emotions then will we be convinced to walk in his righteousness and claim the promises of our salvation. Through this we will experience the promise that he will fight for us when Satan tries to burden us with the deception of worldly emotions.

Psalm 100: 3,....know ye that the Lord he is God, it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves....

In order to love God with all our heart there are certain things that we need to know. First, we should learn that he is the sovereign God of the universe, the supreme ruler of all things. Second, he is the creator of all things, he is omnipotent (all powerful), he is omniscience (all knowing), he is omnipresent (he is everywhere, at all times). Thirdly, God's goodness, his mercy, and his grace always has been and always will be, eternal. Lastly, he has given unto everyone the opportunity to believe upon his Son, Jesus Christ, for life everlasting.

1 Peter 2: 9,....ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the promises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light....

As Christians, as members of the body of Christ, we have a special place in Gods eternal plan. We are indwelled with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance with him. As part of the body of Christ we are called by him to testify of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

God has selected us to come out of the emotional bondage of the world, he has purified our heart with the godly emotions of his salvation, and by faith, through his grace, he has set us apart, so that we might proclaim the truth of that salvation to all that will hear and believe.

Romans 8: 16 – 17,....we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and just heirs with Christ....that we may be also glorified together....

As believers, we love God with all our heart because Christ dwells within our hearts, and in this we have fellowship with the Father. Because of Gods love for us, and the spiritual emotions that he has blessed us with, we now have confidence, through all circumstances in our life, whether trials, tribulations, or temptations, we have the confidence that we belong to God.

1 Peter 3: 15,....but sanctify the Lord God in your heart....

With all our emotion, with all our being, we regard God as the most holy being in the universe. Out of all the things in heaven and earth, God is the one that we must honor, cherish, and love most. This gives us our desire to love the Lord thy God with all our heart.

Let us pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3177 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

