

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

7.17.2022

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 soul

Matthew 27: 37

Genesis 2: 7,....and the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul....

The human soul is that part of person that is eternal, the part that lives on after this mortal body dies. The human soul can be saved, or it can be lost, it is imperishable. Therefore, every soul will continue eternally in one of two places, heaven, or hell. Some, will reject Gods love, and as a result will have to pay for their sins with death, and since the soul is eternal, it will be an eternal death. Then there will be those who accept Gods free gift of salvation which comes through Christs atoning sacrifice, and even though this mortal body will die, the soul will live eternally with God in heaven. Every person is a soul, which lives in a body, and possesses a spirit. Loving the Lord God with all our soul has do with our devotion to him. Our soul defines who we are, it is our spiritual identity, which is either worldly and sinful, or godly and heavenly. Our choice between the two will show what it is that we are committed to, that which we value the most.

As believers, we have made the choice to commit ourselves unto God, devoting ourselves to pursuing after the obedience of his word, living a life of humility and meekness by the spirit of God that now indwells within us.

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

With all thy soul is the willingness to give up our entire life to God, devoting our whole life to his service, to live for him, and to him. This requires loving God in such a manner that transforms us in our time here upon this earth to the place that we surrender our eternity to him.

Do we trust God for our eternity?

Psalm 25: 1 – 2,.... unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul....O my God, I trust in thee....

If we trust God for our eternity, then why do we not trust him completely with our life now?

This would mean committing his desires as our desires. What we desire to be in our life is exactly what we already are and is what our life is already all about.

Is our life all about God, or is our life all about ourselves?

Psalm 9: 10,.... they that know thy name will put their trust in thee, for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee....

Trusting God assures us that God not only knows all that we are, but that he also cares about all that we are. God is gracious, full of loving kindness and goodness. He is faithful, he is forgiving and merciful, and he is long suffering toward all those who have believed upon his only begotten Son.

How could we not trust in this eternal God, and live according to his desires for us?

If we are to commit to Gods desires, we must know what his desires for us are.

John 17: 24,.... Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory....

Gods desire is that all humanity might have an eternal destiny with Christ, his Son. This means believing in his work on the cross, and his glorious resurrection. By this we are covered by his blood and clothed in his righteousness.

So, what is there about the life of a Christian that is not to love?

Would it be that we do not love the Lord thy God with all our soul?

Would it be that we are not completely and totally devoted unto him?

The fact that we are not wholly committed to God confirms our spiritual blindness, which means that we have hardness of heart.

Romans 2: 8 – 9,....but unto them that are contentious (self-seeking) and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil....

God will judge each believer according to their works. No one can hope to stand before God on his own merits.

1 Corinthians 3: 13 – 15,....every mans work shall be made manifest....the fire shall try every mans work....if any mans work abide....he shall receive a reward....if any mans work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss....

God one day will judge the quality of the work done by the Christian people. It will show whether these works were a worthwhile service to God, or if they were worthless. Worthwhile works come from our devotion to Gods word and will be rewarded, worthless works will suffer some unexpected loss, which may come as God revealing unto us that our efforts while living this life upon the earth were nothing more than selfish, wasted potential, this will come to us as a devastating loss as by fire, as if we had done no work at all.

Psalms 119: 18,....open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law....

Which is out of the word of God.

Devotion to God means focusing on the instructions given unto us by our heavenly Father, through his word. The word of God is our life and health, it is our joy and hope. We are not just servants, but we are also students, searching the scripture daily to discover the truths which God desires to teach us, so that he may train us in the way in which we should go. Following after Gods desires means that we are not lusting after the things of the flesh. To behold the works of God's word means seeing the greatness of his promises with excitement, and with expectations.

Proverbs 4: 20 – 22,....my son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings....let them not depart from thine eyes, keep them in the midst of thine heart....for they are life unto those that find them....

What is it that we expect to receive from the word of God?

Our expectation can only go as far as our wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of Gods word will allow. Therefore, without study, without meditation, without prayer, we will have no idea what the word of God has to offer. The word of God is the life of the believer, we live by the word, and our expectation is that the Lord will confirm his word unto us so that we may benefit from it. Nothing in our life is hidden from Gods word, and it can address every issue in our life. Therefore, we must commit ourselves totally to it, for when we do, we are committing ourselves totally to God.

Proverbs 16: 3,....commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established....

There is only one goal that is worth striving for every day of our life. There is only one entity or place that is secure enough to position our hope in. There is only one being that is worthy of all our attention and devotion. Therefore, we should love the Lord thy God with all our soul.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

