

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

8.21.2022

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.

Glorifying God in Tribulation

Romans 5: 1 - 5

When going through troublesome circumstances in our life, do we feel sorry for ourselves, which will express doubt and worldly fear, or do we put our faith and trust in God. In difficult situations it becomes easy for us to allow worldly fear to overcome us, which in turn causes us to doubt the conquering power of God. We should focus ourselves on God instead of the worldly circumstances going on around us in the world. This does not mean that there will not be some kind of discomfort, whether physically or mentally, but it does not mean that through the obedience of Gods word, and putting our faith and trust in him, we will be at peace, when we are faced with struggles, in both our physical and spiritual lives.

Mark 14: 38,....watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak....

As Christians, we must be alert to the events that are going on around us and allow the Holy Spirit to show us when troublesome times are starting to occur. This is because, if we are not watching, we will not see it coming, and we will not be able to see that it brings with it the possibility of falling prey to its temptation.

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

Sadly, a lot of Christians have the tendency to turn back to worldly persuasion. This is because, often time, while enjoying the spiritual freedom which Christ has brought unto us by his sacrifice, we should not allow these spiritual freedoms to cause us to falter into the idea that our acceptance to God is based upon our own self-righteous obedience. It is for this reason, that we must go through trials and tribulations, so that our faith might be strengthened, and that our spiritual maturity will strengthen. Therefore, in all things we must glorify God.

Romans 5: 1 – 5,....being justified by faith, we have peace with God....by whom also we have access by faith into his grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God....we glory in tribulations....knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope....hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is....in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us....

Our we aware of the abundant blessings that became ours at the time of our salvation. In order for us to be aware of all the gifts of grace that God wants to bestow upon us, we must learn of them through his word. The first gift of our salvation is justification, we are made righteous with God, and therefore we have peace with God through his Son, Christ, which allows us to rejoice in the promises of the hope of Gods eternal glory. How, and when we rejoice and glory through the circumstances of our life is laid out before us in the written word of God, which is signed by the blood of Christ, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to live everyday for Christ, eagerly awaiting his return.

Colossians 3: 2,....set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth....

As believers, we have been raised up into a new life in Christ, we have exchanged our earthly residency for a glorious citizenship reserved for us in heaven. Therefore, we are to live our life by trusting in Christ and not by trusting in our own abilities. By trusting in Christ, we will find our abundance in Christ, knowing that even though we will experience tribulation in the world, Christ has overcome the world.

John 16: 33,....in me ye might have peace....in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world....

Let us understand that becoming a Christian does not guarantee an easy life. Our joy and happiness come not from the world, but from knowing that Christ obtained victory for us through the cross and the resurrection, and nothing in this world can undo that. Yes, hard times will come, and even though they may take us by surprise, they do not take God by surprise, because these times are part of Gods eternal plan.

John 15: 20 – 21,....remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord....if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you....all these things will they do unto you for my names sake....

God has given unto us his word to encourage us during difficult times. Knowing in advance that difficult times will come, and knowing that they are under Gods control, will make them easier to endure. Everyday our faith will be tested, and when all hope seems gone, let us remember that sometimes our hope dwells in what may seem to be darkness, but actually, it is just hope that is waiting to be found through the power of Christ.

Romans 8: 18,....for I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us....

Gods word puts things into perspective for us which is: suffering is placed alongside great glory, sadness is contrasted with lasting joy, despair is opposite to the glorious hope that is set before us. Suffering in this world will keep our eyes off the things of this world because it is in times of suffering that we will learn from the Lord. Therefore, we should not be surprised, when God, at times, will take his perfection, and subject it to a humble status, so that his greater good might be accomplished.

1 Peter 1: 5 – 7,....who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time....wherein ye greatly rejoiced, though now for a season....you are in heaviness through manifold temptation....that the trial of your faith....might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ....

We are born to glorify God, we are saved to glorify God, we are kept in glory by God, for the glory of God. In all of this, we are being prepared for the glory of God, by the things that we suffer in this temporary, mortal life. We are set apart for God, so that we might live in obedience to God. It is only by Gods abundance mercy and grace that we retain a living hope in Christ, an inheritance that will never fade away.

1 Peter 1: 6 – 7,....wherein ye greatly rejoice....that the trial of your faith....might be found unto praise and honour, and glory....

Trials and tribulations in this life are to be expected, and suffering will always be a part of this life. Let us seek God, and find strength in his word through obedience, so that we might keep our faith, and strengthen our trust in him during the troublesome circumstances that occur in our life in Christ, knowing that from these circumstances God will create a greater good.

Let us Pray.

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