

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

8.7.2022

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 strength

Mark 12:30

The sum and the conclusion of all our reasoning is that the Lord is worthy of all our love because it is with every part of ourselves in which he has created, he has established within us to love him. Our thankfulness for the eternal life that he has given unto us comes through our love for him and living unto him. God's love compels us to do something loving, for it is our commission to glorify God by doing the work that he has for us to do, which takes spiritual perseverance. Before salvation, we had perseverance in the world, so this means that we still have the same perseverance, God just changes our direction. God has given unto us all, talents and abilities, and we are to use these talents and abilities to glorify him. Loving God with all of our energy, with all of our spiritual gifts, means serving God with the ministry that he has blessed us with, we the must decide if it is worth our time to do our best for the Lord. This is when we realize whether we are loving ourselves, which would mean being pleased with our own worldly efforts and results or are we focusing our efforts on loving God. This kind of focus requires submission to his word, and with this he will make us spiritually stronger than we could ever imagine. This gives unto us the strength to be Christlike, to humbly love and to faithfully forgive, just as Christ has forgiven us.

1 Chronicles 16: 11,....seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually....

Seeking God is all about our spiritual growth and maturity. The more that we grow in Gods strength, the more that we will realize our need for him. Knowing Christ, knowing his will, having his understanding, is just some of the godly characteristics that we inherit as part of our strength in God.

Mark 12: 30,....and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength....

As believers, we come to realize that without Christ we can do nothing, but in him we can do all things. As we grow in the strength of our love for the Lord, we are enabled by him to transform that strength into the good works that he has prepared for us to do. It is by this, that the strength of our love is centered upon him, and we give our attention over to loving him with every part of our being, which is body, soul, and spirit.

Philippians 4: 13,....I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me....

God gives unto us his power and strength so that we may love him with the entirety of that strength. The secret to having total dependence upon God is knowing that true contentment in Christ is only gained from completely abiding in him. Discovering our strength is Christ and loving him with all that strength gives unto us the understanding that we can live a triumphant Christian life through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, this means triumphing through any and all circumstance in our life.

John 15: 4,....abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me....

How sure are we concerning our relationship with God? We must come to understand that the only thing that is true, is God. Therefore, we are to be joined unto him in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Obedience to his word means believing the truth of his word. Loving God with all our strength is having a deep, trusting dependence upon him, in every area of our life.

1 Corinthians 16: 13,....watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong....

We are encouraged, as Christians, to watch and to wait, to be ready, to be alert, to stand firm in our faith in Christ, to act like men and not to be as little children, but to be strong in the Lord and to be of one mind. This will enable us to overcome the temptation and deception of Satan, who seeks our downfall.

1 Peter 5: 18,....your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....

We are surrounded with many false prophets and false teachers, these are deceitful workers, who have been allowed to come in unaware to the body of Christ. They come as angels of light, deceiving those who are spiritually immature, turning them from the truth of God's word.

2 Corinthians 11: 14 – 15,....and no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works....

Satan so cleverly disguises himself in such a way that he can effectually deceive and convince people into believing that what is evil is actually good, and that worldly, sinful darkness is actually light. Twisting the truth of God's word will deceive people into accepting that which is false. False prophets will try and turn believers from the truth of God's word in order to gain their loyalty. They are impressive speakers, claiming to have miraculous abilities that have been given unto them by the power of God, when in fact they preach a false version of the truth, pretending to be something that they are not, in order to gain for themselves worldly power and wealth. God warns us through his word, not to get too close to these men, as their end will be according to their deeds. For this reason, we are to put our strength in the Lord.

Ephesians 6: 10,....be strong in the Lord and the power of his might....

What is strength? It is not just wisdom, knowledge and understanding, but it is our real-world application of that understanding. It is the power of God that sustains us, not our own physical strength. Asking God for strength and relying upon that strength means loving him with that strength. Only when we are aware of our weaknesses can we look to the Lord for the strength that we need.

Hebrews 12: 2,....looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God....

God works through those who have true, godly faith, which is trust that produces obedience. This obedience in turn gives unto us strength, strength to pursue the path that God has placed in front of us. We must never waiver in doing the will of God.

Hebrews 11: 14 – 16,....for they....declare plainly that the seek a country....and truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned, but now they desire a better country....

When we have the understanding of the promises of God word, we then see the evidence of these promises that God plans for us, which are ultimately eternal. Our strength in God keeps us from looking for earthly benefits and gives unto us the willingness to trust in Gods abilities, to bring about his promises in our life. Trusting in God takes faith that leads to obedience, which comes by our strength in him, which gives unto us the ability to love God with all our strength.

Let us Pray.

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