

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

9.18.2022

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.

Do Not Give Worldliness Equal Value of Our Time

James 4: 4 – 8

The Christians life should be a Christ centered life. Believers have been born again into Gods family and therefore have a new identity in Christ. This new identity motivates us, so that we will live as one of Gods children. We must not center our lives on the world, or on our own self-righteousness, or on the wisdom of others, but we must focus our lives on Christ, serving him in all that we do. We must be willing to give ourselves totally and completely unto the Lord. Our motivation does not come from within ourselves, but it comes by understanding who we are in Christ. Our identity as a child of God is eternal, which means that God is not limited, as we are, by the perception of time, which causes us often time, to hastily rush into circumstances in our life, using poor judgement. Mankind is willfully unknowledgeable, deliberately choosing to reject God and living in self-righteousness, but as believers we must not let such worldly reasoning cause us to stumble. As being a part of the body of Christ, we must live our days wisely, in the spirit of God, as we wait for his glorious return.

Philippians 3: 20,....for our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ....

Our ultimate destiny is with the Lord. Our focus is set on Christ and his return, and our concerns are not on the happenings of this world, but on those things which are pleasing unto God. This means that we need not be mindful of the earthly things that will pass away, but we should fix our hearts and our minds upon the coming of the Lord. Through our salvation, we have a full assurance of our eternal life with Christ, therefore we must not give worldlines equal value of our time.

James 4: 4 – 8,....know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is an enemy of God....but, he giveth more grace....God resisteth the proud, but gives grace to the humble....Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you....draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....

As Christians, we should not live according to worldly wisdom. Worldly wisdom teaches us that success is doing all that it takes in the world to gain what we want out of life. Godly wisdom has a different approach. As believers we should trust God to provide all that we need, both physically and spiritually. Spiritually speaking, Christians are cheating on God, with the world. Believers cannot choose to live according to the wisdom of the world, which comes through envious ambition, seeking their own wants above all else, this we are told in the scripture are examples of people who are an enemy of God.

Mark 8: 38,....whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels....

Christ himself is saying that rejecting the Father and chasing after all that the world has to offer, this is adulterous in the sight of God. Now, humanity will deny and reject this teaching because their idea of what is shameful, and what is honorable or dishonorable, is totally different from the truth of God's word. The church age today does not have a problem professing Christ, nor do they have a problem with attending church, however, they do have a problem when it comes to being obedient to the word of God, because they feel that the bible and its teachings are out of date, and that this teachings have no place in this church age, so therefore, they change the meaning, and the interpretation of the scripture to fit the lifestyle that they are living.

Romans 1: 24 – 25,....wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves....who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator....

Continued rejection of God, through unrighteousness, will just lead to greater rejections, and more self-righteousness. Mankind, in his sinful state, will hide his eyes to the truth of God's word, and therefore, can only choose worldly conclusions to the outcome of the works in which they are participating. Even though, they still long to worship something, their worldly mindset becomes self-righteous, their hearts deny the possibility of a one true God, so they create worldly images in their minds, and foolishly worship these imaginary images, telling themselves, and others that it is of God. Due to the choices in which we make, God, steps aside and allows mankind to reap the consequences of their foolish choices. For this reason, humanity, which includes the church, seeks, through means of the world, ways to control the outcome of their sinful consequences. We are taught, by the scripture, that the only way to control the disobedience in our life is to submit to God.

James 4: 7,....submit yourselves therefore to God....Resist the devil, and he will flee from you....draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....

Submitting to God means giving up the desires of our worldly pursuits, and then, willingly receiving the goodness of that which God has given unto us. We must surrender our own efforts, that we use to achieve our own desires, so that we may achieve the desires of God in our lives. Resisting the devil is a requirement on our behalf. We must choose to actively pull away from the worldliness that we have voluntarily became a part of. As believers, we must continually make choices in our life. We can either allow sin to rule and reign in our lives, which will give unto us the sinful desires of our earthly nature, or we can choose to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6: 12,....let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof....

When we allow sin to govern our choices, we then place ourselves back under the influence of the world. Submission to God is the first step in renewing our spiritual walk with God. We must not allow sin to keep us in the obedience of that sin. We have been set free from the authority of sins rule over us, but we have not lost the desire to sin, for this reason we must not let sin dictate what we do.

1 Corinthians 10: 13,....there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it...

Temptation is always going to be a part of our lives, and often time our desire to sin can be greater than our desire to do that which is righteous before God. As Christians, we must understand that salvation does not bring us immunity from the godly consequences of our own worldly behavior. However, we have the assurance that God still loves us, and that he is still there for us, and that he is ready, willing, and able to help us. We might not always believe that we can overcome temptation, but Gods promise unto us is that we can. If we seek a way to say no to the sinfulness that is compelling us, God makes us the promise, that he will help us to find that way to say no. With Gods help, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we do not have to give worldliness equal value of our time here on this earth, because our time belongs to God and is very valuable to God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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