

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.6.2022

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.

Building A Christians Life, Part 2 What Not To Do

A Continuation of If The Lord Will

James 4: 13 – 15

As we continue to answer the question in James Chapter 4, For What Is Your life, we see that our life is based upon either being a believer or a non-believer. As a believer, in order, to build our life in Christ, we will have to make choices. These choices will define the strength of our faith, and our trust, in the Lord. All that we do, or that we do not do according to the truth of Gods word will directly affect our ability to remain humble, and obedient in our Christian life. Our Christian life is to be based upon knowing God, through a relationship with his Son, Christ. The spirit of God, which indwells within us through salvation, instills within our hearts and minds, understanding of his gospel, so that we might honor God through all that we do.

But let us be honest, sometimes we just do not feel like doing those things that we know that we should be doing for the Lord, this is all part of the choices in which we must make. For this reason, the word of God shows unto us those things which we should do, and also, the things that we should not do in order to build our life in Christ. Last week we worked on the to do list, this week we will look at, what not to do, and at the top of the list, we would say, do not give up on God. When life's circumstances seem overwhelming, don't turn from God, turn to God.

1 Peter 5: 7 – 8,....casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you....be sober, be vigilant, because you're your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....

It is not Gods will that we should live our life under the weight of worldly burdens, it should come as no surprise to us to find out that we cannot manage our daily problems on our own. Where we go wrong, this is when we make the choice to allow the old sin nature, which is full of self-ego and worldly pride, to try and manage circumstances in our life. God will freely give unto us his strength, but first we must admit to our worldly weaknesses and inabilities.

2 Corinthians 12: 10,....therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ sake, for when I am weak, than am I strong....

If we listen to the old nature, there will never be contentment in our lives, and if we just read the word of God without understanding it, and applying it to our life, then we still will have discontentment. In this passage of scripture, we will see, that which makes the difference, in finding contentment in our life, and that is, we must do it for the sake of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4; 17,....for our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceedingly and eternal weight of glory....

We must be willing, with spiritual eyes, to look past the discontentment in our lives, to the glory that is given unto us, which came through the pain and suffering of Christ on the cross. Only then, do we have the ability, to see our discontentment with godly grace, patient endurance, and unspeakable joy. Our discontentment is preparation for a glorified future, which has no limitations, and will remain for all eternity.

Matthew 11: 28,....come unto me, all ye that labor and our heavy laden, and I will give you rest....

Bondage to sin is a burden that all humanity must carry, but through the work of Christ on the cross we can find comfort, and rest for all soul. This rest is an eternal rest, that cannot be earned or purchased, and is free to whosoever will come.

Another thing that the bible tells us not to do while building our Christian life, is not to be conformed to this world.

Romans 12: 2,....be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God....

It is our service to the Lord, to yield our lives, our selves, and our bodies to him, each day. This is because our lives, are a reflection of Christ, who is a living sacrifice for us, therefore, we are to be a living sacrifice unto others. Daily transformation, by the renewing of our minds, is a lifelong process and requires perseverance. This daily process is a freewill choice to keep our focus upon Christ, so that our minds are fixed upon heavenly things that are true and honest, just and pure, wholesome, godly, and of good report. It is a very true statement, that in our life, we become like that which captivates our heart, and that which one spends the most time in its presence. As we set our minds upon Christ, then, we will of necessity, be conformed to his will.

What is it that brings about conformity to worldliness in our life? It is the desires of our flesh.

Galatians 5: 16,....walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh....

As Christians, we are called by the word of God to live a spiritual life in Christ, and that is to live in the spirit, pray in the spirit, and walk in the spirit. We can only do this when we place our lives in Gods complete control, by submitting to his will, and to his authority. When we are submissive to his leadership, and obedient to his correction, we then will trust in his word, listen to his voice, and depend wholly upon him. Submitting ourselves to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit by grace, through faith, enables us to live as God intended for us to live.

The last thing we want to mention when it comes to building our life in Christ, is not to have worldly fear.

Matthew 10: 28,....fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell....

Persecution is another adversary that we will face in our Christian life, and if we are not steadfast in our faith, it will cause us to stumble in our life in Christ. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit, we must not respond to persecution with worldly fear. When this happens, and sin is the direct result of it, this is displeasing unto God. An effective way to replace worldly fear with a growing faith, and spiritual maturity, is by seeking first the kingdom of God in our lives.

Matthew 6: 33,....seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness....

Gods word gives unto us many uplifting promises when it comes to useless fretting, worry, and anxiety, which is caused by the choices that we make, through worldly deception, concerning the necessity of relying upon the Lord. Our thoughts, and pursuit, should be on the eternal kingdom of God, and securing the salvation of others, while patiently waiting on the return of Christ. Let us learn to develop a right perspective, so that we may exchange our natural thinking for godly thinking. We must remember, that God is able to do far more abundantly than we could ever think or understand. Therefore, let us make God our main focus when it comes to building our Christian life in Christ.

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.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

