

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.13.2022

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.

Touch Not, Taste Not, Handle Not

Colossians 2: 6 – 10, 13 – 14, 20 – 21

The word of God gives unto all believers, examples of worldly attitudes, which we are to avoid. Christians should not feel obligated to follow after man made rules and regulations in order to please God. Living under rules and regulations in our spiritual life might look good to some, but it is not how God has called unto us to connect with him in our relationship with Christ. As Christians, we are called to be aware of the unbiblical teachings and doctrines of humanity, and we are to know and to practice the truth of God's word. The best way to discern whether something is a lie or not is to simply know the truth. The best way to identify the false doctrines of the world is to study the word of God so that we may know the truth. Following after any self-righteous practices of the world is contrary to the teachings of the word of God and should be avoided. Humanities motto is: If it feels good then do it, and sadly the church has become infected with the same worldly approach when trying to gain holiness with God. As the body of Christ, the church desperately needs self-discipline in order to regain Godly stature. False teachings, and man-made rules will not give unto us victory over fleshly desires. Self-control and self-discipline, through growing faith and spiritual maturity, by submitting our whole life to Gods will is the only way to deny oneself and give total control of our life willingly to Christ.

John 8: 31 – 32,....if ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed....and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free....

The greatest enticing aspect of sin is the promise of freedom. From the very first temptation in the garden of Eden, Satan promised man that if he would deny God, then he could control his own destiny. There is no freedom in sin. Sin corrupts our thoughts, it controls our actions, it destroys our peace of mind, and worst of all, sin brings separation between us and God. As believers, we must come to understand that lies, no matter how comforting they may seem, are never as beneficial as knowing the truth of God's word. Not wanting to hear the truth means that we are trying to make good decisions and sound choices by following the deceptiveness of a lie, and this cannot be. True freedom is found only in forgiveness of sin, and service to God.

Colossians 2: 6 – 10,....as ye have therefore received Christ....so walk ye in him....rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught....beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men....and not after Christ....ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power....

Our spiritual life in Christ must not be based upon human performance or it will be destined to failure. Our walk with God must be rooted and grounded in faith and those who have received Christ will live by that faith. Our salvation remains constant because it is based upon Christ and what he has done for mankind on the cross.

Colossians 2: 8,....lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit....

As believers, we should not live the same lifestyle that we did before believing upon Christ. Christ, who is our life, is the fullness of our life, he is our eternal life, and he gives unto us abundant life. Therefore, we are either children of God, accredited with his righteousness, save from the wrath of God, or we are children of Satan, susceptible to the wrath of God, and instruments of unrighteousness. When we are saved, our life is hidden with Christ, in God, and we should reflect his perfection.

Hebrews 10: 14,....for by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Christians are positioned in Christ, placed in a union with him, and set apart for him. This merger can never be changed in our time or for all eternity. We are being changed from glory to glory as we mature in our faith and as we grow in God's grace.

Colossians 2: 14,.... blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross....

Christ death on the cross was the complete sacrifice for both the sins that we have committed during our lifetime here on earth, and the sin nature in which we inherited from the very beginning of time from Adam. Christ death on the cross conquered sin, and by his resurrection he instilled within us a brand-new nature which is our new life in Christ. Our sin was judged forever at the cross because Christ took our sin punishment and covered it with his righteousness and therefore declared us holy before God.

Colossians 2: 20 – 21,.... wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances....touch not, taste not, handle not....

As members of the body of Christ we are to hold fast to Christ and draw all of our strength from him. This means that his grace is sufficient for every circumstance that we will ever face. Sadly, the influence of the world is very strong, and Satan uses religious formalities to deceive the hearts of humanity. Participation in man-made rules and regulations, combined with the sin nature of man, causes many believers to be pulled back into their worldly ways which means following after the fundamentals of a worldly religious system. The word of God calls on us to examine our lives as Christians to see why it is that we are still living as though we are still a part of the world. As Christians should we adhere to worldly practices and religious rules and regulations. Religion instead of salvation is humanity's attempt to save himself without being held accountable to an almighty God, this ought not to be. We must always come to the remembrance that Christ is the only way, which is ordained by God, for humanity, to have eternal life.

Romans 1: 4,.... and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead....

Christ, was the Son of Man that was born, as well as the Son of God that was given. Christ had to be fully God and fully man in order to qualify as our redeemer. Only as a man could Christ be identified with humanity and offer his perfect life for the sins of the world, but only as God, could he pay the price for our sin.

2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 6,....Finally brethren, pray for us, that the word of God may have free course....and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men....the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil....the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ....

Our life in Christ cannot succeed without prayer, and prayer cannot be effective without the word of God. The word of God leads us in truth and shows unto us that the greatest fulfillment available in our life comes through the obedience of God's word. Our life in Christ is not lived by worldly wisdom. The things that sound good to religious philosophers are often wrong and therefore we do not live by those regulations, but by Christ. Our victory over sin does not come from our ability to keep rules and regulations, but it comes from Christ on the cross. Rules and regulations have no authority over us, they are simply mankind's commands and teachings, and although they have an appearance of wisdom they are of no value to our spiritual life in Christ. For this reason, we no longer need to be controlled by those powers and practices that Christ has already triumphed over. Therefore, as Christians, we have complete freedom in Christ Jesus, who is our source of life, and we are glorified through him.

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/>

