

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2.26.2023

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.

True Encouragement

Isaiah 41: 10

When was the last time that we were encouraged by another believer? On the other hand, when was the last time that we encouraged another believer? Some may feel that they have experienced godly encouragement, when in fact they have not, and others may say that they have not experienced godly encouragement, when in reality, they actually have. Many times, in our Christian lives we fail to experience godly encouragement, and many opportunities pass us by in which to show others godly encouragement, simply because we do not know what true encouragement is. True encouragement is not about making others feel better about themselves, that is just plain and simple worldly flattery. True encouragement is in our preparation to help others to understand the meaning of salvation, and God's word, which brings about humility, and hope in God. This means that godly encouragement tells the truth, and it can only be as fruitful, as it is faithful. Faithful encouragement is all about trusting and obeying God. So, we must ask ourselves, does our godly encouragement to others bear the fruit of obedience in every good work of God, and do we use the godly encouragement that we receive to help in resisting temptation, so that we may take up our cross daily and follow Christ.

Luke 9: 23,....he said to them all, if man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me....

True godly encouragement will strengthen our hope in God. Apart from God, we can do nothing, but through him we can do all things, and he will be with us wherever we go.

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

Matthew 28: 20,....lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world....

Isaiah 41: 10,....fear thou not, for I am with thee, be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee, yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness....

These words of encouragement are spoken by God himself, and they are words of assurance that God himself has the power, and he has the desire, to bring salvation to all of humanity. With this comes his ability to do the seemingly impossible, and all that God ask from us in return is that we would put our trust in him and be obedient to his word. Obedience comes as we learn not to fear, nor be dismayed by the world around us. Our faith grows when we trust that God is with us, when we trust that he is truly our God, when we trust that he will strengthen us, when we trust that he will help us in every situation, and when we trust that he will uphold us in his righteousness. Motivated by his endless love for his people, God encourages those who believe upon his Son, to trust in him.

John 16: 23,....these things I have spoken to you, that in me ye might have peace....in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world....

Gods word gives unto us many promises of encouragement, but no where does he promise that there will not be trials and tribulations from the world in which we live. And yet, for the believer we are able to walk through it all with a sense of spiritual purpose because of godly encouragement. As Christians, we can face anything, because in Christ we too have overcome the world. Just as Christ spoke to all mankind in a positive manner, so must we. He did not say that he would overcome the world, which would mean that he waited for things to come against him to overcome them, he said I have overcome the world, which means that before things came to pass, he already claimed victory. Christ wants us to be prepared for even the most challenging times that we might face in our life. In order to do this, we must be humble.

1 Peter 5: 6 – 7,....humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he might exalt you in do time....casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you....

One of Gods greatest means of encouragement for us comes through preparation. Preparation takes place through instruction in his word, and we can only head to instruction by developing a teachable attitude. Instruction in righteousness, so that we may grow in Gods grace, takes time to develop, and humility is needed for godly development to take place.

James 4: 6,...but he giveth more grace....wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble....

The word of God teaches us that the spirit of God watches over each of us with a godly jealousy, and this godly jealousy desires that we walk in spirit and in truth, and that we live humbly before Christ. We have the assurance, that even though we do not always live by the grace of God, that we cannot out distance God's grace, because God gives more grace. If we confess our sins, he will forgive us of our sinfulness, and he will continue to supply us with the righteousness that we have not earned. Even when we attempt to be Lord over our own lives, God lovingly, and jealously calls us to repent, and to come back to the faithfulness of trusting in him.

Matthew 11: 29,....take my yoke upon you, and learn of me....and ye shall find rest unto your souls....

Christ spent his life here upon this earth living as a man that trusted entirely upon God, which means that he accomplished daily the things that the Father had in store for him to do. This is that which Christ would desire for us to learn, and that is the only way to live a Christian life, is to totally rely upon him, through faith believing, admitting that we are helpless without trusting in his strength and his power. Allowing Christ to put his yoke upon us, means giving him complete control of our life, and allowing him to direct our every effort. Christ carried the burden that we were meant to carry. His perfect obedience is applied to us through faith, and his righteousness, he exchanged for our sin debt on the cross. Therefore, our obedience to Christ and his word becomes our glorification to God.

Philippians 2: 5 – 9,....let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus....made himself of no reputation....he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death....wherefore God also highly exalted him....

Conflict in our mind will bring discouragement. The most effective cure for discouragement is a mind that is focused on Christ. This means submitting to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We can only do this as we allow the word of God to dwell in us abundantly. Only by seeking God through his word, can we stay away from contentions, strife's, and selfishness, and seek to live in total dependence upon God, so that our words, deeds, actions, and attitude, might be a true reflection of Christ, who is our Savior.

John 15: 10,....if ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love....

As Gods children, we need spiritual encouragement. We need it because the pressures and frustrations of life often times overwhelm us. We live in a fallen world, confronted continuously by temptation that is meant to discourage us in our life in Christ. The world offers discouragement, but Gods word is a never-ending source of encouragement. Gods word is a divine basis for our faith, which strengthens us within, so that we can make godly choices, and continue to do his will. True encouragement comes through the strength of our salvation, and the strength of our salvation comes by the word of 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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