

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.16.2023

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 that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Faced with Decisions

Proverbs 18: 13

Whenever we are faced with decisions, do we ask ourselves, what the wisest thing is for us to do, or do we just go ahead with the first emotional thought that pops into our mind. As believers, the easiest thing to do would be to stop and ask the Lord for direction, and then wait to proceed, until he answers. If we will wait upon an answer from the Lord, and then continue on in doing his will, then we will never have to make excuses for our actions.

As believers, every day we are going to be faced with decisions that we must make, and those decisions will affect the direction of our life in Christ. This means that our relationship to God will either become stronger or it will fall prey to obstruction. Part of our growing and maturing spiritually in the Lord is learning to discern the difference between Gods will for us, and those things that are not according to his will. We must remember that God is the one who must define our life, which is the key element in our decision making. So how do we know if the choices that we make are the right choices according to Gods perfect will? Whatever challenges that we might face in life, God wants us to see and to understand the process of decision making, and this is based upon what he desires for our lives. It is better to pray for direction than it is to try and be perfect on our own.

Proverbs 18: 13,....he that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him....

Worldly wisdom and abilities come with hazards because worldly wisdom makes it easy for those who lack experience, wisdom, and discernment to spread deceptive opinions to others. Speaking before hearing is a sign of arrogance and overconfidence in one's self-righteousness. Vain pridefulness will make a person think that he knows what to say without the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

James 1: 19,....wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to wrath....

And then if you jump on down to verse 26:

James 1: 26,....if any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this mans religion is in vain....

Let us first understand that if all that we have is religion, then we have nothing except an emotional state of mind that is ruled by rituals and rules, which we think will earn us some kind of divine favor with God. This means that we have nothing that is of eternal value. But, if we have the saving grace of Jesus Christ, then we are encouraged by the spirit of God, and we believe that God will give unto us his divine knowledge when making decisions in our life.

Proverbs 2: 6,....for the Lord giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding....

The only true source of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding is the Lord himself. Christ is Gods great gift to mankind, he is a storehouse of knowledge, and we are encouraged to seek after this great treasure, which is his written word.

John 1: 1,....in the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God....

John 1: 14,.... And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth....

God's word provides encouragement, and that encouragement commands us to obedience, which gives unto us the confidence, through faith believing, the confidence in knowing that Christ understands our weaknesses and gives unto us the boldness to press forward unto spiritual maturity so that we may face persecutions without worldly fear.

Psalm 32: 8,.... I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go, I will guide thee with mine eye....

By following Godly wisdom, we will learn the best way to live our life and that is to live our life by faith in Christ, but not only must we live our life by faith, but we must also walk by faith. Sadly, not all believers seek spiritual maturity, this is because we will allow sinful desires will break our fellowship with God, and this means that these unconfessed sins will bring and continue to bring confusion to the life of the believer. Only when we stop trying to hide our sins, and then as we confess them before God, will he be able to restore our fellowship with Christ.

That is why back up in verse 5:

Psalm 32: 5,.... I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid....I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin....

As Christians, we must confess our transgressions unto God. Christ died on the cross and paid our sin debt for all of our sins, this means past, present, and future. Our past sins were forgotten when we by faith, believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Our present and future sins must be confessed before God so that he might forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In doing so he restores our relationship with Christ, so that we might continue to make godly choices when faced with everyday decisions.

1 John 5: 14,....and this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us....

So, let us establish that, yes, God does hear our prayer when we pray according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He hears our prayers, but it should come as no surprise that he responds to our prayers according to his will and not our own will. Even though at times we wonder how it is that we can know God's will, and how can we be sure that we are praying according to his purpose and plan in our life, he shows unto us by his spirit that we have his word, which is the greatest indication of his will for our life. All believers are given the same opportunities to walk in his newness of life, and to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. The more that we pray according to the will of God, the greater our confidence will be when we are faced with the decisions of life.

Philippians 4: 6,....be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God....

Prayer is a privilege for those who are saved by grace through faith in Christ, therefore we should pray with confidence about everything. We are not to be anxious about anything, but we are to bring every decision-making choice before God so that we may keep our hearts free from worry, and that we may abide in Christ and he in us, for he cares for us. Remember, the choices that we make will either draw us closer unto God or they will take us in a direction that God does not want us to go.

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://hollowolfarm.com/>

