

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.30.2023

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.

Leaving This World Behind

1 Timothy 6: 7

Whether mankind wants to believe it or not, the purpose of our life here upon this earth is spiritual and not material. Our life on this earth is a life of preparing for eternity. The world teaches us to strive for our desired possessions which adds nothing to our spiritual growth, because worldly wealth is only self-gain. Therefore, self-gain becomes very easy for us to acknowledge that all which we gain and accomplish is great in our life, but in comparison to the importance of our relationship with Christ, all that we gain in the world means nothing. This is because our accomplishments and all that we gain is for earthly use only. Our personal relationship with God should rise above and beyond all of our worldly accomplishments. Our pursuit in life should be more than worldly material wealth, it should be godliness, which leads to eternal life.

Mankind tends to make idols out of their worldly wealth. We can see this when individuals speak of how blessed they are, but they only speak of things with worldly value. Yes, God has blessed us with family, with friends, with material possessions, but the most important thing that he has blessed us with is salvation and the gift of eternal life to all who will by faith believing receive him. This should be the topic of our blessings, for it is this that has eternal value. As we consider our life here on earth, we must ask if our pursuit is godly or worldly. No, it cannot be a little of both, for one will eventually overcome the other.

Matthew 6: 24,....no man can serve two masters, for either he will hate one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one and despise the other....ye cannot serve God and mammon....

Too often we try and place a dividing line between the material things in our life and the spiritual things of God. This is often time reflected in our attitudes, and effects what we say, and what we do in our Christian life. Material possessions can certainly be put to many good uses when used for the righteousness of God, but in a lot of instances it will cause believers to wander away from their faith in Christ, which will eventually take precedence over our relationship with God. Therefore, let us always be spiritually alert, so as not to affect our spiritual mindset, and that our heart will not be affected with worldly pursuits.

1 Timothy 6: 7,....for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out....

Accumulating worldly wealth and material possessions, especially just for the sake of the possessions themselves, is just pointless, because all of those things will be left behind when we die. It is plain to see according to the word of God, that we are not going to take any worldly possessions with us, no matter what choice we make for our eternal destination. Now, worldly riches are not evil when we use them for the glory of God, but even so, in death, we learn the vital lesson that we were born into this world with nothing, and we cannot take anything material that we accumulate between our birth and death with us. Now, the thought of death is not to instill worldly fear, but it is a gift of God's grace that causes mankind to search for the spiritual truth of eternal life, which can only be found by faith believing in Christ Jesus.

Mark 8: 36,....for what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul....

Humanity wants to see this world as having everything that we need for a happy, joyful, peaceful, fulfilled life, and therefore their desires seek for just that. But God wants us to see that there is nothing more precious than our immortal soul's potential to live eternally with God. When, as Christians, we begin to let the word of God work in our life, it exposes the real life that we are living, unto us. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we will discover the sinfulness that we struggle with, and we will discover who we really are in Christ Jesus. The word of God will reveal unto us why that we think the way that we think, and why we do the things that we do. This is all for the purpose of helping our faith to grow and maturing spiritually in our walk with God.

Philippians 3: 7 – 8,....but what things were gain to me, these I counted loss for Christ....I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord....that I may win Christ....

Mans greatest accomplishments, even if they are religious, are of no value when compared to the greatness of knowing Christ. Believers should gladly trade their time spent in the world for more time spent with God. The greater our fellowship with God, the more that we will recognize the inefficiency of the world, and all that the world has to offer. Earthly treasures might bring glory to ourselves, but by comparison to our new life in Christ, they are highly insignificant.

Luke 12: 15,....he said unto them, take heed, and become of covetousness, for a mans life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Christians must allow themselves to be aware of how easy it is for a believer to take his eyes off of that which is godly, and to concentrate on that which is worldly and temporary. Temptation, through deception can cause us to look away from our hope of eternal perspectives and direct our attention to earthly pursuits and desires. Gods' great incentive is for us to live a life that is pleasing unto him. Christ made this clear when he said that his kingdom was not of this world.

John 18: 36,....Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world....

The world thrives on fleshly desires, carnal lusts, and the pursuit of worldly pleasures, but we are encouraged by Gods word to be on guard against worldly covetousness, for our life in Christ does consist of the abundance of earthly possessions. For a time, as we live our life upon this earth, we will experience hardships, trials, and tribulations, and it will appear that the ungodly are flourishing and those who are godly are struggling. We must remember that our treasures have been stored in heaven not on earth.

Matthew 6: 19 – 21,....lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also....

Job 1: 21,....and said, naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked I shall return thither, the Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord....

Often time, the Lord will permit Satan to test our loyalty to God, so as to challenge Gods sovereign authority. Satan will always wager that we will choose worldliness over godliness, but Christ gives unto us the power to acknowledge that everything that we have is a gift from God, and he retains the right to bestow these gifts upon us. Even when we do not know or understand why difficulties plague our life, we must stay prepared to cry out to a merciful God who is willing to comfort us with his mercy and grace.

1 John 5: 5,....who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God....

This morning asks yourselves these questions. What do we think we are worth? How valuable to we feel that we are? What would we trade for our soul? Is there anything worth more than our soul? It is a very foolish thing for people to neglect God, who is the giver of every good work. When it comes time to leave this world behind, the value of our net worth is our salvation, for all else is lost.

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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