

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

6.18.2023

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.

Rooted and Grounded

## **Ephesians 3: 17 – 19**

For believers, it can be very challenging at times to stay settled in the word of God. This is because the world seems so captivating and appealing to our natural desires, much more so than the still small voice of God. God's desire is that we would have a firm foundation in his word, so that we are not easily shaken by the strife and contentions of this world. If we are going to live out our purpose as followers of Christ, then we must be rooted and grounded in Christ, which is the only way that we can grow and flourish spiritually in our life in him. For this reason, God allows controversies in our life so that we might spend more time in study, and in prayer, meditating and searching the scriptures for answers, and then applying the knowledge and understanding that the Holy Spirit has revealed unto us. Now, study and meditation does not necessarily mean finding something new that is mind shattering, it just simply means finding the truth of what is already written for our benefit. So, have we ever stopped to think about what it is that God would have us to be rooted and grounded in?

**Ephesians 3: 17 – 19**,....that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with the fullness of God....

The word of God speaks of three main attributes of our spiritual characteristics, which are faith, hope, and charity, which is love.

**1 Corinthians 13: 13,....**now abideth faith, hope, charity these three, but the greatest of these is charity....

In this passage of scripture, two of these attributes of our spiritual characteristics are mentioned. The first one being faith, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. This is speaking of our salvation, being born again, it all starts with our faith.

**Romans 10: 8 – 9,....**the word of faith, which we preach....that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved....

Without faith there is no salvation, so then you might say that faith should be our greatest spiritual attribute, and yes everything that we do in our life in Christ takes great faith, but your faith is only as good as the entity that you put your faith in. Did you not know that even sinners have great faith, their faith is just in the wrong desires of the heart. This is why we are commanded that Christ dwell in our hearts by faith.

Christ himself said:

**John 16: 6,....**Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me....

Therefore, we are told to be rooted and grounded in love. Why, because God is love.

**1 John 4: 8,....**he that loveth not, loveth not God, for God is love....

If you remember, back in 1 Corinthians we are told that the greatest of the three attributes of our spiritual characteristics is love. That is because the love that the word of God is taking about is Christ himself who dwells within us. God is love, God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one.

**1 John 5: 7,....**for there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one....

Christ is the entity that we must put our faith in, that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, whom I might add was and still should be the greatest desire of your heart, because one of the greatest moments of your faith in your life was at the time that we were born again. Therefore, we must be rooted and grounded in love, but it can only be the true love of God, that comes by Christ dwelling in your heart by faith.

Now, the reason that it is so very important to learn the truth of God's word concerning becoming rooted and grounded in love, is because humanity as a whole is rooted and ground in love. Sadly, many who proclaim to have a love for God, do not have the love of God in them.

Remember 1 John 4: 8,....he that loveth not, knoweth not God....

Proclaiming Gods love and possessing Gods love is not one in the same. Satan has used the worldly emotion of love to deceive mankind since the very beginning of time into believing that they can be as good as God, without the need to be obedient to God. You hear many people say, I love God, or I love my church, or I love my church family, or in some instances I just love our preacher, well I love cake and ice cream, and you can see what it has done for me, I have allowed it to become harmful to my physical body. Love that is not of God, even though it might seem good, or feel good at the time, soon becomes harmful to the body of Christ. Therefore, not only do we proclaim Gods love, but we should come to truly know the love of Christ.

**Ephesians 3: 19,....**to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God....

God's love is beyond the mere knowledge of mankind, and therefore it is beyond our comprehension. The fullness of God is the total sum of everything that he is, his attributes, his character, his perfection, his holiness, his power, and the fullness of himself in Christ, and we as believers have been brought into that same fullness in Christ.

**Colossians 2: 9 – 10,....**for in him ( Christ ) dwelleth all the fullness, of the Godhead bodily....and ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power....

Becoming rooted and grounded in love, which is in Christ Jesus, can become indifferent if we allow false teachings in the church to prevent us as believers from coming to a true understanding of who we are in Christ.

**Psalm 1: 2 – 3**,....his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night....and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper....

Every person is in search of love, and this search for love can bring out the best of our behavior at times, and at times it can bring out the worst of our behavior. Rooted and grounded in the love of Christ does not mean that we are going to escape every trial and persecution, but it does mean that we will be made strong so that we may endure the trials and persecutions in our life. Christ love provides a solid foundation for the believer to build a life of good works and spiritual maturity that will glorify God. The believer who is grounded in Christ love will have stability and joy in every aspect of their life. So, what are you rooted and grounded in?

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/>





