

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

7.9.2023

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.

God's Word Tries Us

## **Psalm 105: 19**

When we ask God why, we are acknowledging that our testing comes from him. So, why are we tested? The purpose of our testing is to prove our faith, but God is not proving our faith for his satisfaction, for he knows all things, he is proving to us that our faith in him is real so that nothing can overcome our faith, and so that we know that we are truly a part of Gods family.

**Psalm 139: 23,....**search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts....

Testing comes from our heavenly Father, therefore testing in our life is a blessing from God, which means that it is for our spiritual benefit when we go through the trials and testing's that God has allowed in our life. All of our trials work toward Gods perfect purpose and plan, therefore our testing is governed by Gods mercy and grace.

**2 Corinthians 12: 9,....**and he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weaknesses....most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, for that the power of Christ may rest upon me....

Even though testing can feel like a negative action in our life, when we are tested by God it is for a specific spiritual purpose, a matter of the heart, a way to empower us so that we might find strength in our time of need.

Every person has weaknesses in their life due to submitting to the sinful nature which we are born into, and because of these weaknesses we tend to focus on our worldly needs instead of God's grace. We are focused on the wrong thing; therefore, God will test us in order to shift our focus off of the world and back to him. This is because, through God, the result of our worldly weaknesses will become his strength within us. Weakness brings the opportunity for God's divine power to be manifested within us. This is what our life in Christ is all about, which is walking by God's power and strength and not our own. Often time in our life we feel helpless, but through the righteousness of God we are never hopeless. So here is the way that it should work in our life: the greater that we see our weaknesses, the more we should see God working in our lives, and the key to this knowledge is found in understanding the truth of God's word.

**Psalm 105: 19,....**until the time that his word came, the word of the Lord tried him....

How does the word try us? The word tries us through many ways to see if we really believe in it, to see if we are truly holding fast to the promises that God has declared unto us through his word. God's desire is that His church will grow and mature in their faith, so that each individual in the body of Christ might be able, not only to face the challenges that arise, but also to have the strength to stand firm through these challenges, which is accomplished through God's testing in our lives.

**Proverbs 4: 20 – 22,....**my son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings....let them not depart....keep them in the midst of thine heart....for they are life unto those that find them....

Attentiveness to instruction is the key to wisdom. So how well do we pay attention to instruction? We need wisdom, which comes from instruction through the word of God, because wisdom is the key to understanding. Therefore, we must hear, we must comprehend, we must retain, and we must apply wise instruction.

**Proverbs 9: 9 – 10,....**give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser, teach a just man, and he will increase in learning....the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

A wise man listens well because he knows that is the only way to learn. A foolish man believes that he already has all the answers, he refuses to listen, and therefore lives a miserable life. Proof of wisdom is shown in our humbleness to hear instruction, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must apply it to our lives.

**Luke 18: 37,....**Pilate....said....art thou a King? Jesus answered, thou sayest that I am a King, to this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth....every one that is of the truth heareth my voice....

Christians must learn the truth of God's word. Not knowing the truth of God's word means not enduring the sound doctrine of Christ, which is by faith, believing in him, and the crucifixion and the resurrection. Christians who do not endure sound doctrine will seek out entertaining teachers and preachers that will satisfy their worldly desires and lusts with enticing stories and fables.

**2 Timothy 4: 3 – 4,....**for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itchy ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables....

Through his word, God will try the believer so as to teach, and to warn each one concerning the seriousness of false teachings within the body of Christ. As believers, we are to turn away from lustful desires that would have us to follow after men who are distorting the truth of the gospel of God's word, which will destroy our faith. The plain truth of the gospel of grace is all about sin and salvation, about heaven and hell, about Christ who is the one and only way to be justified of God, through faith believing in his Son, Christ. Contrary to what some may teach there is no universal salvation where everyone is eventually saved by various religious opportunities. Humanity is looking unto a works-based religion that offers prosperity and wealth, rather than a grace-based faith that offers the hope of an eternal life with God.

**Amos 8: 11 – 12,....** behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord, and they shall wonder from seas to sea, and from north unto the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it....

What a great lesson we can learn from the warnings that God gave unto Amos to take unto the children of Israel. When humanity repeatedly refuses to acknowledge Gods word, and obey the truth that is contained therein, God will give them over to their own lustful desires. A lack of spiritual food, spiritual food which comes by hearing of the truth of God's word, which nourishes the soul, a lack thereof is truly disastrous to our life in Christ. We live in and will continue to live in a time where mankind is experiencing a famine of the truth of God's word, a spiritual straining that will lead to a spiritual death that is not recognized because of the chosen deception of the world that has brought about spiritual blindness.

**Romans 1: 24 – 25,....** wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts....who changed the truth of God's word into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator....

How important is it that the word of the Lord tries us? It is eternally important; therefore, we must seek every opportunity to gain the truth of the word of God. Being tried by the word of God helps us to remain focused on his purpose and plan, not only for our own life, but for the lives of others as well, so that we might love the Lord our God, and love our neighbor as ourselves, so that all men might be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.

Let us Pray.

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