

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

7.16.2023

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.

Seeking To Dwell in Gods House

Psalm 27: 1, 4

Being in the presence of God should mean more to us than anything else because it is living within the presence of God that is the believer's true dwelling place, and this is because God Dwells within us. Our ability to dwell in the presence of God comes only by the grace of God, through the sacrifice of his son, Christ. Therefore, the greatest desire of our heart is to be, and to remain in Gods presence. So, why as Christians, if Christ dwells within us, are there times that we do not feel the presence of God in our lives.

Galatians 2: 20,....I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

Born again means being positioned in Christ, we now are identified with all that he is, and all that he has done for us. We live by faith in the Son of God, therefore, it is not I that lives, but Christ that lives in me, but sometimes I still want to live on my own, and therefore, I do not follow after the will of God, nor am I obedient to the promises of his word, and it is for this reason that there are times in our life that we do not feel the presence of God. When I seek my own, I am not seeking to dwell in Gods house.

Psalm 27: 1, 4,....the Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?...one thing have I desired of the Lord, that I will seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple....

Many believe that in order to be in the presence of God you have to be in a church somewhere, but the word of God tells us that our body is his temple. This does not mean that God does not want us to assemble together it simply means he does not wants us to gather for all the wrong reasons.

1 Corinthians 6: 19,....know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God....

The Holy Ghost is the spirit of God, and it is that which places within us the desire to gather together, and to fellowship with one another. This means we must have a desire to share, a desire to learn, a desire to worship, and to sing praises, a desire to lift one another up in the righteousness of God, and a desire to pray for one another.

Hebrews 10: 25,....not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....exhorting one another, and so much more as ye see the day approaching....

This privilege that God has given unto us allows us to come together and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit which God has instilled within the lives of other believers in the body of Christ. As Christians we need fellowship. Fellowship helps to motivate and encourage one another in our life in Christ. Having fellowship in the body of Christ greatly influences our spiritual maturity, which will help our faith to grow.

Psalm 27: 4,....one thing I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life....

Our desire as Christians should be to live in the presence of God always. We look to God as a means to an end, when we should be looking to God as our eternal end. More than anything else in our life, our greatest desire should be our close relationship with God.

If you could ask God for one thing only, what would it be. Humanity would have many worldly requests, because it is humanities preference to follow after worldly desires instead of seeking after Gods will for their life. God wants us to have a heart that desires to dwell in his presence alone.

James 4: 8,....draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....

There are three different characteristics to this passage of scripture, a warning, a command, and a promise. Why do we need to see all three, because mankind tends to focus on himself rather than on God. We need to understand that there are consequences to rejecting God, therefore, when we are obedient to the commandments of God's word, it is then that we will receive the blessings of his promises. We ask God, but we ask with the wrong motives in mind. We try so hard to gain for ourselves that which only God can freely provide for us. Moving toward God means that God is getting close to us. As we focus less on ourselves and more on him, the more obedient we will become to his word. God has provided many details in his word concerning our walk with him, but often time it is very easy for us to get lost in the details. God is not trying to complicate things, and he does not make walking with him burdensome, he is just simply reminding us that we must desire to live in his presence, and by doing so he will strengthen his presence in our life.

1 Chronicles 28: 9,....if thou seek him, he will be found of thee....

Living in the presence of God begins with sincerity. A sincere desire, a sincere attitude, starts with humility, which leads to submission, and if we are truly submitting to God then will we have a desire to know God, and to mature in our relationship with him. Drawing close to God requires moving away from worldliness. Remember, God knows why we do what we do. There is no pretending, or fooling God, so the motivation behind what we are doing for him better be sincere.

2 Corinthians 6: 4,....but in all things approving ourselves as ministers of God....

A life that is lived for the glory of God is a life lived following the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, which means that we draw all of our power and strength from God. One of the greatest distinguishing features of a true servant of God is to be one who demonstrates great endurance in the midst of trials and tribulations, while maintaining a godly characteristic for the well being of others, who are going through trials and tribulations of their own.

1 John 3: 8,....let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth....

We practice one of two things, we either practice the principle of worldliness and sin, which originates through Satan, or we practice the righteousness of God, which comes through Christ Jesus. Christ perfect righteousness is instilled in those who are born again through the indwelling Holy Spirit. The new nature that we have received is Christ's own sinless nature. However, the original sin nature that we inherited, which is incapable of producing the good works of the righteousness of God, is still present, and therefore lusts against our new life in Christ. For this reason, we must always seek to be living in the presence of God.

Psalm 37: 3 – 7,....trust in the Lord....delight thyself also in the Lord....commit thy way unto the Lord....rest in the Lord....

Here we see four characteristics that are essential to living in the presence of the God. Trust, delight, commit, and rest. Acknowledging Christ in all our ways, no matter what emotional strife we are in will allow God to direct our lives in a way that is best for us, and for those around us, and will also glorify him. When we are living in the presence of God, we will live, and move, and have our being in submission to the spirit of God.

Acts 17: 28,....for in him we live, and move, and have our being....for we are his offspring....

Through faith, and obedience, we gain strength and power through prayer and the word of God so that no matter what happens in our life, our life is hid in God's hands. Therefore, we are to do that which he has prepared for us to do, as we allow him to guide us as we continually seek to dwell in God's house.

Let us Pray.

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