

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

8.27.2023

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. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

The Blessings of God

1 Corinthians 3: 18 – 23

Often time, as Christians, we do not understand the blessings of God. Now, God blesses us as he sees fit, for only he knows what is best for us in our life. But there are times in our life that we want God to bless us with that which he does not want us to have, therefore, we want the blessings of God in our lives, we just do not always want the blessings that God has in store for us, because they do not fit the lifestyle which we want to live. God will give unto us the things which we need, whether we realize that we need them or not, and the reason that often time we say no to the blessings of God, blessings that we do not think that we need, is because we do not understand the blessings and why he is bestowing them upon us. Thankfully, God does not base his blessing for us on our understanding, but he will continue to bless us whether we understand it or not, because he knows our need, and even when we say no, he will use his Holy Spirit, through his word, in some form or action to open our hearts and minds to his understanding, so that we might put our complete faith and trust in him.

1 Corinthians 3: 18 – 23,....let no man deceive himself....let him become a fool, that he may be wise....for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God....therefore let no man glory in men, for all things are yours....whether the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours, and ye are Christ, and Christ is Gods....

Everything in our life in Christ is a blessing from God. To understand this, we must first realize that God's blessings, whether we want them or not, whether we understand them or not, has everything to do with his purpose and plan for our life. It is God, giving unto us the power to do that which he has created us to do. Therefore, God's blessings are based upon the promises given unto us through his word. This means that we are to take the truths of God's word and apply those truths to our lives.

Blessings come in many forms, and even though we are taught by the world that God blesses us for the purpose of our own well-being, the true purpose is to build up our relationship with God, by strengthening our faith in him and helping us to mature spiritually in our life in Christ.

Matthew 6: 27,....which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?....

Stop here for a moment.

Why do we often time reject this blessing of God which we do not understand, it is because we do not trust God completely, we do not trust that he will help us by leading us and guiding us through the circumstances that we are facing. We do not depend wholly upon him to take care of us, which by the way, he is trying to do through the blessings of the circumstances that we are experiencing in our life. God does not want us making decisions in our life based upon our misunderstandings of his blessings, he wants the direction in our life to be established on the eternal truths of his word.

Let us continue.

Matthew 6: 28 – 33,....take no thought....for your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of all things....seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all things shall be added unto you....

Remember back in:

1 Corinthians 3: 18 – 23,....for all things are yours....all our yours....

When we seek first the kingdom of God, which started, when by faith believing we trusted in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, then all of these things which shall be added unto us are already the things which belong to us through our salvation, these are blessings from God.

Now remember, the word of God tells unto us that blessings come in many different forms, and it is for this reason that mankind we tend to say no to some of the blessings that God has in store for us in our life. One way for us to know if our blessing is from God, blessings from God have eternal value, they are not earthly, nor are they temporary.

Ephesians 1: 3,....blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ....

God blesses us with salvation through his mercy and his grace. He also blesses us with the indwelling Holy Spirit, by convicting us, by leading us and guiding us, by empowering us, by bringing us into spiritual understanding, which produces within us the fruits of his spirit, which helps to transform us into the image of his Son, Christ.

So, what about material prosperity and possessions, are these gifts or blessings from God.

Romans 11: 36,....for of him, and through him, and to him, are all things....

We cannot produce anything on our own, everything comes from God, he is the source of everything that we could ever need, but we must receive him in our life as that true source, by faith, and put our complete trust in him....

Jeremiah 17: 7,....blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is....

Even though God supplies our needs with gifts of material prosperity and possessions, we are to be thankful for his wonderful gifts which comes through our salvation.

2 Corinthians 9: 15,....thanks be to God for his unspeakable gifts....

This gift of blessing is from God, which is our salvation, from which all other gifts come. Therefore, we are to be thankful for these gifts, but the blessings of God does not lie within these gifts themselves, for worldly wealth nor worldly possessions cannot get us into heaven, but our blessings lie within the faith and the trust that we have in our salvation, and in our relationship with the one who has given unto us these wonderful gifts.

We must never think that our relationship with God is dependent upon our works or the material things which we possess. Instead, God wants us to think about how that we use these gifts that he has given unto us to glorify him.

Ephesians 2: 8 – 9,....for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourself, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast....

Numbers 6: 22 – 27,....and the Lord spake....saying....on the wise ye shall bless the children....saying unto them....the Lord bless thee, and keep thee, the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee, the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace....and they shall put my name upon the children....and I will bless them....

All things in this world are given as means by which God uses to show his love and compassion to all of humanity for the sake of the saving grace of his Son, Jesus Christ, so that it may rest upon all mankind.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....God our savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of truth....

God gives all things for our use, but Christ alone is our blessing. When we begin to understand that all gifts and blessings are given to bring people unto the body of Christ, and also, to understand what it means to live a Christlike life, then will we be able to understand, and accept all the blessing that God has in store for us in our life, so that we might better serve him.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

