

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

10.1.2023

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.

God Confirms Gideons Mission

Judges 7: 2 – 4, 13 – 15, 8: 22 – 25

Our scripture lesson today teaches unto us that if our faith is genuine and true, then we will always see God at work in every situation and in every circumstance in our life. As believers, we need encouragement in our lives, because often time we are reluctant to accept the tasks that God has planned for us to do, plans that are according to his eternal purpose, and for his glory, which is without end. True and genuine faith means that our hearts have been transformed by the grace of God, and a changed heart is a demonstration of our salvation, an example to others, which comes by the works of our faith. Faith with no work, is not real faith at all, it is dead.

James 2: 17,....even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone....

When reading and studying Gods word, it is always good to identify the context to whom it is written, specific people, specific groups of people, or specific nations.

2 Timothy 2: 15,....study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth....

In this passage of scripture James is giving instruction to those who have been born again, and the instruction concerns the important issue of faith. Our faith is to be a living faith, a demonstratable faith, a faith of true Christian character, a faith that honours and glorifies God. It also instructs us that a lack of good works in the life of the Christian demonstrates faith that is dead. Now, dead faith does not mean the loss of salvation, but it does mean that dead faith in a spiritually weakened state means a loss of reward. God has prepared good works for each believer to carry out, but these works are to be carried out in the strength of God, not through our own efforts. These good works, which are fulfilled through Gods strength, are described as living faith. If we are working the works of God, it is a living faith, if we are not working the works of God then our faith is dead. Therefore, we must live and work the works of God, by his power, and for his glory.

Judges 7: 2 – 4,....the Lord said unto Gideon, the people that are with thee are to many....lest Israel....saying, mine own hand hath saved me....therefore go to....proclaim....whosoever is fearful and afraid let him....depart....and their remained ten thousand....the people are yet to many....I will try them....whom I say....shall go with thee....whom I say....this shall not go with thee....

Does God sometimes choose unexpected people to do his work, sure he does, but make no doubt he will equip us with the proper resources to accomplish his work. God's intentions are that his work will be done in such a way that it is obvious to humanity that it is his doing and not that of their own selves. Now, God does not always explain unto us his every decision, therefore, we must learn to obey him with the simplest of faith.

James 1: 22 – 25,....be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, a hearer of the word, and not a doer....beholdeth himself....forgetteth what manner of man he was....whoso looketh in the perfect law of liberty....is....a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed....

No one said that living a Christian life in this fallen world would be easy, but we have the assurance that Christ has overcome the world.

John 16: 33,....in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world....

We are to look intently into the word of God, because Gods word is s reflection of who we are in Christ Jesus. This reflection sustains us with spiritual strength, and guides us into all truth, as we grow in Gods grace, and mature in his faith. Therefore, we are to be quick to hear and slow to speak, so that we may prove ourselves to be sincere, humble, obedient, and faithful doers of the word.

James 1: 19,....my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath....

Judges 7: 13 – 15,....when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream....and said this is nothing else save the sword of Gideon....when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped....and said....the Lord hath delivered into your hands the host of Midian....

If we will pray, and study, and listen, God will, in some manner, give unto us instruction that will help to encourage us, so that we might overcome any and all worldly fear, concerning the circumstances that are taking place in our life. Remember, God is in control of every situation, and in every circumstance in our life, and his timing is perfect. As God gives unto us exactly what we need, and at the right moment that we need it, we will come to recognize the message of understanding that God is trying to show unto us, and we will see the importance of that message as well. It is the truthfulness of our faith, that gives unto us the ability to see God at work in our lives, and in the lives of those around us.

Job 23: 5 – 10,....I would know the words....and understand what he would say unto me....the righteous might dispute with him....behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive him, on the left hand, when he doth work, but I cannot behold him, he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him....he knoweth the way that I take, when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold....

Not one of Gods children is exempt from the trials and testing's that come up before us as we live our lives in Christ here on earth. Often time, burdens that we are obligated to bear may seem great by comparison to other burdens, but God has carefully weighed out the balance of those burdens against the depth of his love that he has in store for each of his own. Like Christ, who was tempted and tried, yet without sin, he still pressed on to the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despised the shame and finished his course here upon earth. As believers, we are call ed to finish the course that is set before us, to finish it with the purpose that God has instore for us in our life. We are taught in todays scripture that we are to come to know God and to trust in his word even if we do not always understand his divine purpose, for he knows the plans that he has set in motion for each of us, plans for good and not evil.

Jerimiah 29: 11,....for I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give unto you an expected end....

Judges 8: 22 – 25,....the men of Israel said....rule over us....Gideon said....I will not rule over you....the Lord shall rule over you....Gideon said....I would desire a request of you....give every man the earrings of his prey....they answered, we will willingly give them....

Once that we come to realize that our own abilities cannot give unto us victory over anything, we then come to know that it is the ability that God works through us that gives unto us victory in every situation and circumstance in our life. This should be a great part of our spiritual desire, which is, that God would be in complete charge of our lives. As we grow in faith, we will learn that it is God who will accomplish the great works that he has in store for us in our life, and he will accomplish this for his glory. As God gives unto us encouragement through his accomplishments, we are not to keep them to ourselves, but we are to pass on this encouragement to help boost the faith of others, with the strength that we have received from God.

Acts 20: 35,....I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive....

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://hollowolfarm.com/>

