

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

9.17.2023

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.

Living a Sober Life

## Titus 2: 11 – 14

Why is it so important to approach every aspect of our life in Christ by God's grace, and through the guidance of his Holy Spirit. Because if we do not, then often time, we will allow ourselves to be influenced by those things that will lead us away from the sound judgement of Gods word. Gods grace teaches unto us the proper approach to living a Christians life, which means, denying worldly desires and lusts, while being strengthened in our obedience to the truth of the promises of God's word. As we renew our minds in the spirit of truth it will change our approach, so that our approach to life will be more in line with Gods will, which will help us in becoming spiritually mature. Our state of mind changes based upon how much time we spend in the world, compared to how much we spend in the word, and surrendering to the influence of the spirit of God.

**Romans 12: 2,....**be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind....

The life of righteousness which we claim to be living, should not look like a life of sin. Rather than allowing the world to dictate that we live our life selfishly, God requires that we change our behavior by changing our thoughts so that we think after and according to the will of God. Whatever our goals in life, these goals should include becoming that which God intends for us to be. By living a life apart from God, we will lose sight of who we were designed to be, and therefore, lose our true selves. In the world we will pursue our sinful desires, but in Christ we pursue his righteousness through faith. By renewing our minds, we will live the reality of the redemption of Christ in our life.

**2 Corinthians 10: 5,....**casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ....

Without question, our whole life is made up of our thoughts, and all of our thoughts as Christians, need to be subject to Christ thinking. How many people, including ourselves, often time, are held captive by the ideas that are products of our thoughts. False religions, and philosophies has created within the minds of humanity, deceptive imaginations, that has controlled the minds of numerous people. Therefore, any idea, opinion, or worldly view, must be brought into obedience through the truth of the word of God.

So, this morning let's turn to: Titus 2: 11 - 14

And see what Gods word teaches us about how to live a sober life.

**Titus 2: 11 – 14,....**for the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works....

What does it mean to be spiritually sober minded. Just as sobriety in a physical sense means being free from the intoxicating influences of alcohol, sobriety in the spiritual sense means becoming free from the intoxicating influences that come from the control of our worldly desires. More importantly it means that we must not allow ourselves to be deceived by any type of influence that would lead us away from the obedience of the sound judgement of the word of God. This means that we are to live reverently of our responsibilities, as ambassadors of Christ, becoming alert, concerning the needs of others, and the importance of the saving grace of Jesus Christ to all who will open their hearts and minds to believe, by faith, upon his work.

As Christians, the way that we live our lives before others is very important, because our lives become the only bible that some people read. Therefore, living with sound doctrine is very valuable in our example of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our lives should be a reflection of the God in which we serve. We are to live before others in a manner that will draw people to the gospel of Christ.

**Hebrews 12: 28 – 29,....**wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for our God is a consuming fire....

God is eternal, and as Christians, we know with a certainty that his kingdom will endure. Our life consists of and will remain eternally with him only because we know who God is, and what he has done for us, through his grace, by Christ Jesus. With this understanding comes great privileges, and also great responsibilities, responsibilities in service to God which can only come by obedience in his word, and obedience to the word of God can only come through the believer's fear, and the believers fear is reverence to God, which is our motivating factor to surrender our all unto him.

**Proverbs 1: 7,....**the fear of the lord is the beginning of knowledge....

As believers, we are not afraid of God as of in the sense of worldly fear, for we have no reason to be afraid of him, because we have his promise that nothing can separate us from his love. Therefore, we are to respect him, obey him, submit our all unto him, and worship him.

**Romans 8: 38 – 39,....**for I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, not things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord....

As believers, we should never feel an ounce of insecurity concerning Gods love for us in Christ. God is present everywhere, and those who are redeemed by his blood are made spiritually and eternally alive in Christ. Now, often time, we may feel like we have been distant from God due to trials and tribulations, and worldly pain and sorrows, which come through various sufferings in our life, but this does not mean that God no longer loves us, because despite all these things, we still have victory through the cross of Christ. Therefore, when we feel separated from God, it is from our lack of perception and understanding of his purpose and plan for our life, it is not from a lack of anything on his part. Remember, God does not promise us a life free of pain, suffering, and affliction, but he does promise to be with us always.

**Matthew 28: 19 – 20,....**go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world....

So often, in the life of the believer, we focus on Gods promises of blessings, but we are blind to the origin of those blessings, and the origin is found in our obedience to God. Obedience is expected of those who claim to be followers of Christ. This means that obedience to all of Gods promises shall become the normal standard of practices in our life in Christ, even before any expectation of blessing. For this reason, God has provided unto us, his Holy Spirit, to occupy all those who will trust in his Son, Christ, in faith believing.

**1 Peter 4: 7 – 8,....**but the end of all things is at hand, be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer....and above all things have fervent charity among yourselves, for charity shall cover a multitude of sins....

With every passing day, we are getting closer to Christ time of perfect rule over mankind. Therefore, we are called to prepare ourselves for the fast-approaching return of Christ. We live in a fallen world and none of us know what we are going to face through the coming days, but we must be spiritually prepared, becoming sound in our obedience to Gods word, and sober in spirit, so that we may prayerfully continue strong and steadfast in our relationship with God, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

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/>

