

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

10.15.2023

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.

A Backsliding People

Joshua 2: 16 – 23

The Lord knows those who are his. He knows the thoughts of a man, and the motivation of his heart. He knows all those who trust in his word and those who turn to him and those who seek after him. Those who are saved by grace through faith believing in Jesus Christ are assured of the fact that God examines the heart of a man and gives unto each one what they deserve. This means that God is righteous and will punish sin, but he is also faithful, and will fulfill his promises to reward those who love him and put their trust in him.

Jeremiah 17: 10,....I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to the fruits of his doing....

No man can understand the heart, but God does. God sees beyond our behaviors, and he understands the heart, because he sees how our behaviors reveal our heart, for out of the heart comes the behaviors of life.

Hebrews 11: 6,....but without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him....

As Christians, we like to profess that much of the word of God is written to the unbeliever, but a great deal is written to the Christian. The word of God gives believers guidance on how to live a life that is pleasing unto God. We are saved by faith, and we continue to be sanctified by faith, and we continue to trust in Christ, though, obedience to his word, through prayer, and by diligently seeking him. Christians who try to live in their own strength or rely upon their own good works do not please the Lord, but God rewards those who diligently seek him with a grace that is sufficient for us to face all of life's problems.

Romans 3: 25 – 26,....God hath set forth to be an atonement through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus....

Our works have consequences, whether they are works of disobedience unto wrath and condemnation or works of righteousness unto blessings and rewards. We might be judged by what we do, but we are saved by Christ, whom we put our trust in.

Judges 2: 16 – 19,....the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them....yet they would not hearken....they turned quickly out of the way....the Lord was with the judge, and delivered them....it came to pass when the judge was dead....they returned and corrupted themselves....

Often time, as Christians, we forsake the Lord, but the Lord does not forsake us.

Deuteronomy 31: 8,....the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee, he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee, fear not, neither be dismayed....

Although God will not forsake us, he will discipline us, and grant unto us deliverance in order to bring us back to a place of forgiveness and restoration in him.

Psalms 32: 1 – 2,....blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered....blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile....

The man who is blessed is an obedient man, and the man who is disobedient, but repents, this man receives forgiveness, therefore, he also is blessed. Acknowledging sin in our life is difficult because it means admitting failure. Repenting of the sin in our life is even harder because it means turning away from the sinful desires that we find pleasure in. True repentance must be more than just looking for a way to escape the consequences of our sin, it is more than just saying the words I'm sorry, it is confessing our sins through the guidance of the spirit of God and allowing Christ to restore us in his righteousness. This means recognizing that forgiveness is available, and then we are to fervently seek after the Lord to find it.

Proverbs 18: 9,....the way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness....

Lazy Christians do not bear fruit and they misuse their opportunities to God. They hear the word, and rejoice, but they waste their lives chasing the sinful pleasures of the world. We must learn to serve the Lord our God with all our might.

Judges 7: 20 – 23,....the anger of the Lord was....against Israel....because that this people hath transgressed....I also will not....drive out....from before them of the nations....that through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein....therefore the Lord left those nations....

Many in the body of Christ today only want God portrayed unto them as loving and kind, they do not want to see him as one who will bring judgement and wrath against the sinfulness in their life. Therefore, God will use many different types of situations and circumstances to test those who belong to him. Often time, we too easily forget those things that the Lord has delivered us from, and for this reason we get caught up in the sinfulness of the world. Without God to hold us accountable, then we sin, and when we do sin, we should not expect Gods help in overcoming difficulties in our lives when we are living in disobedience to him. As Christians, we need trials and tribulations in our lives to help us to grow in our faith, so that we may see them as opportunities to spiritually mature in the Lord. God will only allow his people to be disobedient to his word for so long, then he will use various means to humble us, so that we might choose to turn back to him.

James 4: 6,....he giveth more grace....wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble....

The first step in humbling ourselves is to allow God to challenge our motives concerning the things in which we are about to do. Our sinful nature does not want to be humbled; but our humility will increase when we are willing to be humbled by God. When we are willing, then God will work within us, but he will also allow us to realize that humility can be painful as we suffer through the process of being restored into his righteousness. This is the consequence of sin.

Matthew 23: 12,....whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted....

As Christians, we are to demonstrate our commitment to Christ, which means that we are to maintain a spiritual standard of living our life in Christ. Therefore, we must be careful not to move away from Christ, but rather we are to move toward him. Moving away from Christ does not mean that we have lost our salvation, but it does mean that we have hindered our relationship with God. All of this happens, when we, as Christians, simply portray ourselves as fervent believers, but we have not yet totally committed our life unto the Lord. Yes, there will be circumstances in our life that will cause us to question God, but we must not allow these circumstances to move us away from God, so that we find ourselves living in a state of rebellion. We must learn to see these circumstances as opportunities to bring us close to God through prayer and through the study of his word, by surrounding ourselves with other faithful believers so that our relationship with him will go stronger, even stronger than it was before.

Luke 18: 1,....men ought always to pray, and not to faint....

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/>

