

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

10.29.2023

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.

Unbelief, Straying from the Truth of God's Word

Hebrews 3: 7- 12

Straying from the will of God produces inner conflict in our life, that will keep us as believers from Gods purpose, and his eternal plan. If we continue to stray, and experience the lustfulness of our worldly desires, then our heart becomes less sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. As we continue to go our own way, it is then that we begin to grieve the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4: 30,....and grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption....

What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? We grieve the Holy Spirit when we cause the Holy Spirit to feel sorrow as a result of the choices in which we make, choices that are not pleasing unto God. We grieve the Holy Spirit by not allowing ourselves to be led by him, by choosing our own way, instead of obeying the leadership and guidance that he has to offer. When we begin to realize that we cannot live a life that overcomes sin without the help of the Holy Spirit, it is then that we will realize how important it is to listen to the Holy Spirit when he speaks unto us. Our service to God is to overcome sin through our obedience, in a faith that grows by means of the Holy Spirit. Sin in the life of the believer brings about unbelief, and unbelief causes us to stray away from the truth of God's word. Continuing in sin causes us to deny the reality of who we are in Christ, and this is very destructive to our spiritual maturity in Christ. We stray away from God, because while following after our worldly desires and we forget who we are in our identity in Christ. We study less, we pray less, we deceive ourselves by following our own self righteous worldly identity. So how do we overcome our unbelief, well, we cannot until we choose to obey the truth of God's word through the leadership and guidance of the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 3: 7 – 12,....wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts....take heed....lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God....

The word of God reminds us of the importance of continuously keeping our focus upon Christ through his word. Christ demonstrated his faithfulness toward us by carrying out the will of the Father, when he paid our sin debt upon the cross. Therefore, we must demonstrate our faithfulness unto him by listening to the voice of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and not by hardening our heart in unbelief. As Christians, we are safe and secure in Gods care, and we have his assurance that our eternal salvation is secured forever in Christ. In time, we are called to prove all things by walking in spirit and in truth, and we are to abide in Christ, and we are to obey his commands and promises that are set forth unto us through his word. We are to grow in grace, mature in faith, and live a life that identifies us as belonging to Christ through his saving grace.

John 15: 16,....ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you....that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain....

Now, this does not speak of accepting salvation as some might think, this speaks of the works that we do, and the service to God that we should be performing in our life after we are saved. As believers, we are chosen, and appointed to spread the gospel of Christ to a lost and dying world. We are encouraged, through the word of God to abide in Christ for the sake of the responsibility that has been given unto us, to bring the gospel of Christ, in our appointed time and place in Christ.

Proverbs 11: 30,....the fruit of the righteousness is a tree of life, and he that winneth souls is wise....

A righteous person, one who has gained wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in the word of God, not only attracts, or draws people toward the saving grace of Jesus Christ, but also gives sound instruction on how to accept that saving grace. As a result of righteous living, many souls can be turned away from the foolishness of the world and toward the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 9: 18 – 23,....what is my reward?....when I preach the gospel, I may make of Christ without change, that I may abuse not my power in the gospel....I made myself servant to all, that I might gain the more....I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some....and this I do for the gospels sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you....

As believers, we must find common ground with all men in hopes of winning their souls to Gods kingdom. We must not take any credit for the message of the gospel that comes from God. Our reward for the work that God does through us is our gratification in the joy of the Lord. Now, becoming all things to all men is not an opportunity to compromise Gods moral standards which are set forth in his word, as some do so that they might fit into the church, or to gain followers within the body of Christ, for in doing so it expresses a characteristic of unbelief, causing many to stray from the truth of Gods word. We exist to serve God, and we do this through obedience to his word by acting upon the commandments and promises which he has set forth, and God commands that the body of Christ is to win as many souls as possible into the faith in Christ Jesus. Greater eternal value is placed on the mission itself, and not on our boasting of how well our ability is to carry out the mission. We can only enjoy the blessings of our faith in Christ when we share those blessings with others who have also believed.

What motivates us to continue in the truth of Gods word, so that we do not stray from it.

Proverbs 19: 27,....cease, my soul, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge....

When it comes to the matter of spiritual truth, and spiritual maturity, often time. We may think that we know it all, but no one in this mortal body ever arrives at that point in life. As soon as a person begins relying upon self for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, they begin wandering from the pathway of faith. To cease from the instruction that causes the believer to err, we must see the need to continue to learn and grow in our faith in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10: 12,....let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall....

Unbelief will cause us to abuse the freedom that we have in Christ, for it causes us to have an attitude that is opposite to what the word of God teaches that our Christian life should be. Just because we have a relationship with God, through salvation, it does not exempt us from sin and its consequences. Our actions and attitudes are a great part of our spiritual walk with God. We must not become complacent in our position in Christ. There is nothing that can separate the believer from the love of God, but we must be aware that we can be tempted to fall into sin, and should we become prideful and overconfident in our spiritual walk, the chance of falling into sin is increased. We must never forget that any and all sin dishonor's God, and grieves the Holy Spirit and is a terrible admonition toward the gospel of Christ. Therefore, let us take heed lest we become careless, and dishonor God through our unbelief.

Proverbs 4: 26,....ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established....

Spiritual wisdom, and knowledge gives unto us the ability, but not the guarantee that we will maintain a good use of the word of God and become purposeful in it. By walking in faith, we will consider where we are to step, and therefore we will be far less likely to stumble. As Christians, we should not make hasty decisions in our life, but we should follow after the Lords will until he comes. Unbelief means making plans without considering the Lords will, therefore, we should be careful not to stray from the truth of God's word, but to walk in the wisdom of God, which assures us that a well pondered pathway established within us, constitutes a secure spiritual direction in our life.

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/>

