

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.12.2023

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.

Do Not Get Ahead of God

1 Corinthians 4: 5

The life of a Christian, is a life of dependence upon God, putting our faith and trust in him. This means that we are not acting upon our own self-will and self-determination, but we are obedient to the word of God, waiting upon the will of God, assessing our actions to make sure that we are not getting ahead of God. How do we get ahead of God? We end up running ahead of God when we attempt to free ourselves from worldly situations, situations that we have put ourselves into according to the choices in which we have made. Waiting upon the Lord and trusting in him can be very challenging in our life in Christ, but getting ahead of him can be even worse. Even though we may feel that we are helping God, getting ahead of God means that we are not trusting in him because of our disobedience to his word. Let us remember that God does not need our help, therefore, before moving forward with our own ideas of understanding, we should seek understanding from God. It is not a good idea to take matters into our own hands, for in doing so we are demonstrating that we know better than God. So, whatever we may be waiting on in our life in Christ, we should wait patiently on, because the consequences of not waiting are inevitable, and will ultimately cause us more pain and suffering.

Psalm 27: 14,....wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, wait, I say, on the Lord....

Waiting upon God, instead of running ahead of God and trying to fix those difficult circumstances in our life encourages our faith in God to become stronger. When we take God at his word, and trust in him without question, it is then that he will enable us, and help us to be of good courage while standing upon his promises.

1 Corinthians 4: 5,....therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the councils of the hearts, and then shall every man have praise of God....

The word of God commands us not to go beyond that which is written in his word. This means that everything the believer does should be based upon the truth of God's word. However, there are those that only want to follow, or listen to certain philosophies or leadership that speak only what they want to hear instead of listening to Christ, who does not tell us what we want to hear, but he tells us what we need to hear. We must learn to focus on Christ above all else, for we do not need anything beyond what God has provided for us in this world. Therefore, as believers, we should strive, not only to know the word of God, but to trust in the word of God.

Psalm 56: 3 – 4,....what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee....In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust, I will not fear what flesh can do unto me....

As Christians, we need a strong foundation in the word of God, this is because Gods word is unfailing, and unchangeable. Now, it is one thing to know the truth when things in our life is going well, but what about when things in our life take an unexpected turn, we must be able to confess God, even when our beliefs are not lining up with what the word of God says to be true.

Philemon 1: 6,....that the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus....

Christ lived a life on earth by example, so that we might see the possibility that living a life, striving for perfection means looking to God, day by day, and learning obedience through the things that we suffer. Understanding God's grace means walking with him, not ahead of him. We accomplish this by living in spirit and in truth, by the leadership of the spirit of God. Now, does this mean that we fully understand God's grace, no it does not, but it does mean that the more that we come to know him, the more effective our witness and testimony of him will be. We must never forget that all that we are, and all that we have, and all that we need is ours by Christ alone.

Hebrews 5: 8 – 9,....though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered, and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him....

Christ whole life on this earth from start to finish was for mankind's education, which was an example of how that we should live our life in a manner that God expects us to live it. This means that he showed unto us what it is like to be spiritually hungry and thirsty, despised and rejected, hated, betrayed, and yes even sometimes feeling that we are facing spiritual death from the sufferings that we are going through. All of this, Christ done, so that we might see the love and compassion that he has for us as we go through all the difficulties that we face in our life, so that we might be one in the same, sharing together with one another. Therefore, we are to live as obedient servants, entirely dependent upon God, so that we might resist the many temptations that we must face in this world. The only way that humanity can survive living in this fallen state of man is to carefully follow Gods instruction, which we have, for it is written in his word. This requires a very focused, obedient relationship to his word and to his will.

John 8: 29,....he that sent me is with me, the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please him....

Christ was the only one ever born upon this earth that could honestly say: I do always those things that please God the Father. Yes, there are times that we may say, I would never do that, or I will always do this, but normally we say those things just to exaggerate circumstances in our life, because no matter what the situation we cannot truly, and honestly say that we are completely obedient, and submissive to doing the will of God. And while we may always live up to doing the will of God, we can always strive to do that which pleases him.

Philippians 2: 5 – 9,....let this mind be in you which was also in Christ....made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant....being found in the fashion of men, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death....wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name....

If, as Christians, we would follow after the example of Christ, then we would never find ourselves getting ahead of God. Here in his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul expressed to the believers the characteristics of Christ that would keep them walking with God, instead of walking ahead of God.

The first thing that he tells us is that we must put away our worldly reputation and become a servant of God.

Colossians 3:2,....set your affection (or minds) on things above, not on things of the earth....

The second thing that he tells us is that we must put away our worldly reputation and become a servant of God.

1 Timothy 4: 6,....if thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things....

That is that every servant that is good is always allowing the Lord to sanctify them by the word of God through prayer.

1 Timothy 4: 6,....thou shalt be a good minister (servant) of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine....

The third thing that he tells us is that we must humble ourselves and become obedient.

Jeremiah 7: 23,....this thing I command them, saying, obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people, and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you....

As believers, doing the work of the Lord, there will be a constant temptation driving us to get ahead of the will of God. This happens when we get so busy that we fall prey and start thinking that the work in which we are doing, is all our work, driven by our control, when in fact it is God's work, which is God working through us, and we are invited to become a vital part of it. Let us remember that God does not need us to do his work, but it is a distinct, holy, privilege to be invited by God, to do the work of his salvation. Therefore, let us begin each day by declaring, and giving our lives unto God, as an offering, asking God, what his will would be for us to do, committing to his unconditional wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, which cannot be matched by anyone or anything else. For there is no one like our God.

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.

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