

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.5.2023

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.

What Does a Mans Life Consist of?

Luke 12: 15 – 21

Luke 12: 15,....he said unto them, take heed, and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth of the things which he possesseth....

The human heart is naturally selfish. If we do not make God top priority in our life, we will likely pursue after earthly goods and worldly pleasures. A Christians, one of the hardest lessons for us to learn is that when we professed, by faith believing, Christ, we gave him the authority to govern our lives in a manner in which he sees fit, according to his plan, his purpose, and his will for our life. However, a problem arises, when, God, through the guidance of his Spirit, begins to redirect the priorities in our life, because it is in our worldly nature to want more than we need, and it is Gods nature for us to need more than we want. When we focus our relationship upon God, we will see that we are given that which we need from God, in order to serve his purpose for building his kingdom, where neither pride nor worldly riches can compare, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6: 19 – 21,....lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven....for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also....

Satan, through the world around us makes it very easy for us to look away from the heavenly things that have eternal value, and if we allow, he will direct our attention so as to concentrate on worldly pursuits, things which are temporary with no value. As children of God, we have an eternal perspective, a hope of an eternal life with God, which should be a far greater incentive for us to live a life that is pleasing unto God, a life greater than the accumulation of worldly, temporary things that will soon pass away. As believers, we are encouraged through Gods word to be wise, and to be on guard against covetousness, for our life does not consist of the abundance of our worldly possessions, but of the treasures that we have stored up in heaven.

Luke 12: 15 – 21,....he said unto them, take heed, and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth....he spake a parable unto them....the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully....he thought within himself....I have no room....to bestow my fruits....he said....I will....build greater....I will....take....ease, eat, drink, and be merry....God said....thou fool....he that layeth up treasure for himself....is not rich toward God....

If we as Christians, spend our earthly life focusing on things of this world, and coveting after things of the world that we do not have, then whatever we gain in this world will result as loss in the next. Yes, there will be times in this life that we will experience many hardships, trials, and tribulations, and for a time it will appear that ungodly people are prospering, while godly people are living in hardship and need. How important, therefore, it is to focus our life upon Christ and follow the Holy Spirit, so that in the world to come the life that we lose here upon this earth will be rewarded with the life that we gain in Christ.

So, what does a man's life consist of? As believers, our life consists of Christ. As we read through this passage of scripture, we see nothing about God, but everything about self. What shall I do, I have no room, this will I do, I will pull down my barns, I will bestow all my fruit, I will say to my soul. We must realize that no amount of I, can secure our lives with God. Life is so much more than the abundance of worldly wealth, wisdom, and knowledge.

The Christian who is blessed, is blessed by God. Unfortunately, often time as God continues to bless, instead of using his increase to further the will of God, we become more interested in accumulating, and growing more wealth, than we do in following after the will of God. Managing worldly wealth, wisdom, and knowledge is not what God wants us to devote our life to, if we have allowed these things to become our master, that means that God is not our master.

Matthew 6: 24 – 25,....no man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other....therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life....is not the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment....

We are not blessed by God to hoard those things which he blesses us with, whether it be materialistic or spiritual. We are blessed to be a blessing unto others. We are blessed by God so that we might abound in every good work, to be a blessing in the lives of those who are in need. When worldliness takes a hold of our life, if we do not exercise the characteristics of God, through the fruit of his Spirit, then it will eventually take precedence over our love for God. As we mature in our walk in Christ, and grow in his faith, and in his grace, it is then that he will enable us through his wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, so that we might be an example of the salvation that is indwelt within us.

1 Timothy 6: 17 – 19,....charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy....that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate....laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

What should a believers life consist of, it should consist of the good works of God, and those works should be abundant. When we are consistent in our good works for God then he will bless us, but blessings gained are not for the sake of acquiring more blessings, but blessings are meant to help others, and to be used for the glory of God.

1 John 3: 18,....my little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth....

Having a godly character that reflects the likeness of Christ, means loving others just as Christ has loved us. Simply expressing affection through what we say is easy, we must give of ourselves for the service of others. Dying to self and living for Christ not only manifests the works of Gods righteousness, but also benefits others to the greater glory of God. Affectionate words talk about caring, while practical deeds express unconditional love through our actions.

Ephesians 5: 2,....walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor....

As Christians, we are to be like Christ in thought, in word, in deed, and in our motives. The only way that we can imitate Christ is to look to Christ, and to be transformed into the image and the likeness of him means doing the things that he did, living our life in the same manner in which he lived his life, and following his example. Christ characterized his life through his conduct, his conversation, his attitude, and his actions, all which demonstrated an outflow of love, mercy, grace, and compassion toward all who he came in contact with. Christ was the perfect example of a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God.

1 Peter 1: 14 – 16,....as obedient children....as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy....be ye holy, for I am holy....

Romans 12: 1,....I beseech you....present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God....

We are encouraged through the word of God to live righteously with never-ending joy, always abounding in good conduct, and this comes through the trying of our faith. Faith that is tried and tested brings us into a deeper trust in our relationship with God. God is faithful to bring us to the understanding that when our faith is tested and tried, that in our weaknesses we will not rely upon ourselves, but that we might rely upon the sufficiency of Gods mercy, his grace, his strength, and his love.

So, what does our life as a believer consist of? Our life as a believer consists of Christ, nothing more, and certainly nothing less.

Galatians 2: 20,....I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

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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