

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

12.17.2023

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.

A Voice for Christ

John 1: 19 – 23

One of the many gifts that God gives unto us as Christians is the ability to share the gospel of his saving grace with others. We do this with our voices and our character. Now, whether we believe it to be true or not, as God prepares our heart, when we speak people will listen, so we must use the gifts that God has given unto us to: shape peoples understanding of the gospel, to comfort others sorrows, to encourage others, to inspire others, to teach others, all to point them in the way to Christ. Therefore, we must acknowledge that this unique gift is from God, and has nothing to do with our own self-righteousness, but has everything to do with his good pleasure, plan, and eternal purpose. Through the strength that God gives unto us through the power of his indwelling Holy Spirit we find the confidence and the courage to walk through doors that he opens for us, so that we might communicate the message that he gives unto us, for each opportunity which he has prepared us for. Our gift to communicate unto others is specific to what God has taught us through the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of his word. God has put his word in our heart, because the world needs to hear the message of salvation, and it is our willing service unto him to share the testimony which he has instilled within us, by his saving grace.

Hebrews 10: 16 – 17,....this is the covenant that I will make with them....I will put my word in their hearts, and in their mind I will write them....and their sins....will I remember no more....

John 1: 19 – 23,....this is the record of John, when the Jews....ask him....who art thou? And he confessed....I am not the Christ....and they ask him....art thou Elias?....art thou that prophet?....and he answered, no....then said they unto him, who art thou?....he said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make strait the way of the Lord....

As Christians, we are a voice for Christ. A voice that brings awareness of his word to all those who will respond willingly to it. The awareness that we bring is not a new revelation, but it is a fulfillment of what has already taken place, so there is no need for an extravagant, profound, exhibition to present it unto others, it just needs to be presented in spirit and in truth. We are simply a voice, a messenger of God, nothing more, and nothing less, one who is proclaiming the coming of Christ, and announcing the promise that today is the day of his salvation.

2 Corinthians 6: 2 – 3,....for he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succeeded thee, behold, now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation....giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed....

Part of being a voice for Christ is to encourage one another to remove anything and everything in our lives that might hinder our walk with the Lord. Even though the world does not recognize or acknowledge it, the invitation to be reconciled unto God, through the crucifixion and resurrection of his Son, is a limited time offer. The invitation to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ should not be portrayed as happening someday, but it should be portrayed with the urgency of taking place today. Eventually time will run out and eternity will begin, so there should be no hesitation when it comes to putting our whole faith and trust in Christ while portraying the gospel of God's saving grace. Today the voice of one crying in the wilderness is the church, those who are members of the body of Christ, and for this reason we are much closer than when we first believed.

Romans 13: 11 – 14,....knowing the time....now is our salvation nearer than when we believed....let us therefore cast off the works of darkness....let us put on the armour of light....let us walk honestly....put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof....

Every day that passes we are one day closer to our eternal life with Christ. Throughout our Christian life, our focus should always be on Christ, and as the time of his return draws closer, the urgency to wake up, which comes by the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, who is encouraging us to see that there are still multitudes of people that need Gods saving grace. So let us seek to use the time that we have left on this earth, wisely, alert, and ready. This is portrayed unto us in Exodus when it speaks of the Lords Passover which signifies a type of his coming for the church.

Exodus 12: 11,....thus ye shall eat it, with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand, ye shall eat it in haste, it is the Lords Passover....

The word of God encourages us to live daily in the awareness of God's presence, for every moment in our life in Christ is a moment of opportunity. Our understanding of the Lord's return is going to motivate us to live in the awareness and fulness of our salvation. Keeping ourselves just and pure, with an eager expectation of Christs appearing for the church gives unto us the confidence in our life in Christ to always be found faithful in the love of God.

1 Thessalonians 5: 5 – 11,....ye are all children of light....therefore let us not sleep....but let us watch and be sober....let us....putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation....for God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us....wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another....

Being children of God, means that he has given unto his word, for wisdom and for knowledge, therefore we should be well equipped to recognize the signs of the times in which we live, looking for the return of Christ at any day. Because we are positioned in Christ, we have responsibilities, and therefore we are not to participate in the foolish works of the flesh, but we are to carry out the promises of Gods word, which will show unto us the way in which we must go and will guide us into all truth. Our salvation consists of faith, hope and love, which is our faith in God, it is our love for his Son, and it is our hope of eternal life. Therefore, the responsibility of our salvation is to be watchful, while diligently labouring for the work of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 16: 13 – 14,....watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong....let your things be done with love....

Every Christian should come to know and experience the importance of watching and being alert for the coming of the Lord, because the enemy of our soul seeks to compromise our faith through false teachings and deceitful works. So, we are called to be strong in the Lord, and we are not to compromise our faith, but we are to hold fast to that which is good, steadfast and immovable, for we will be faced with many oppositions in our life, therefore, we must make it our goal to understand that which we believe, and more importantly we must understand the one in whom we have believed in. Our life in Christ requires spiritual endurance, so we must be steadfast as we mature, we must be rooted and grounded, established, and anchored in Christ and his word.

1 Peter 3: 15 - 16,....sanctify the Lord God in your hearts....be ready always to give an answer to everyman that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you....having a good conscience....

Being a voice for Christ means having a readiness to answer anyone who ask about our faith in Christ and our trust in God. We should always be prepared, by being equipped with the word of God, to speak of the blessed hope that gives salvation unto whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord. Now, persecution and suffering are to be expected in these situations and circumstances in our life in Christ, but our response to the suffering should be one that will point others unto Christ. We should reflect Christs teachings of compassion while speaking the truth of his word in love.

Ephesians 4: 15 – 16,....speaking the truth in love....maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love....

AS Christians, we all serve the same Lord, and we all are a part of the same body of Christ. Becoming a voice for Christ means communicating to others that which is helpful to their building a spiritual life in Christ according to their need. We are to speak the truth, not just because we know the truth, but because we have a godly love for those whom we are speaking unto, for we have a desire that they might believe upon Christ, and not perish, but have everlasting life. Our voice for Christ may very well be someone's guide to salvation.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

