

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

12.10.2023

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.

Counting All Things Loss

Philippians 3: 7 – 21

As believers, one very valuable lesson that we learn is that our own works will never be sufficient enough to cover our disobedience, which will lead to sinfulness. Anything that we take pride in, or anything that we rely upon more than Christ will be an obstacle unto us, and will hinder our relationship with God. This is why Christ himself said:

John 14: 6,....I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me....

Now, this passage of scripture not only speaks of our time of justification, but it also speaks of our life in Christ. We understand that, in order to overcome the separation between ourselves and God, that the means to do so must come through the Son, therefore, why would we think that it would be any different for anything else in our life. All things eternal must go through Christ Jesus, for if it does not, then it is a self-righteous work, that we feel should be pleasing unto God, but in reality, it falls short of Gods required righteousness, which was given unto us through his Son, Christ.

Many believers today will not admit to their sinfulness, which comes through our worldly desires, because they compare their righteousness against their own worldly standards, or against the standards of other religious leaders which they look up to. This is because we fail to see, and remember, that even though we are command to:

1 Corinthians 15: 58,....be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of Lord....

We were born into the fallen state of man, and therefore we inherited the sin nature of Adam, which means that we are often time going to fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3: 19 – 26,....we know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God....by the deeds of the law....shall no flesh be justified....but now the righteousness of God....is manifested....the righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus Christ....for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God....being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus....to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins....to declare....his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus....

What makes a person righteous in Christ? Christ took our sin debt to the cross and in return gave his righteousness unto those, who by faith, believed in the work which he done on the cross. Therefore, righteousness does not come through observing the commandments of God, nor does it come through performing self-righteous deeds or religious rituals, but it is given unto us by Christ when we count all other things in our life but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ.

Philippians 3: 7 – 12,....what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ....I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ....that I may win Christ....be found in him, not having mine own righteousness....but that which is through the faith of Christ....that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection....not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect....that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus....

Like Paul, if we would compare everything that we think that we achieve by our own efforts, to everything that God has actually accomplished through us, then we would see that there is no comparison. We do not always see this because we choose to focus upon our own life instead of Christ living through us. Therefore, the things that we gain personally becomes a spiritual liability, because it blinds us from the truth of Gods word. We must come to recognize how insufficient the works of the world are and that our accomplishments, even though we may see them as spiritual, are of no value when compared to the greatness of knowing Christ. Therefore, we should gladly trade those works for a stronger relationship with God.

Galatians 2: 20,....I am crucified with Christ....yet not I, but Christ liveth in me....

This sums up the explanation of our scripture lesson today. First of all, that I may know Christ, secondly, that I may know the power of Christ, thirdly, that I may be a partaker in the works of Christ, and lastly, that I may be conformed into the image and the likeness of Christ. Christ was the perfect example of what a perfect man should be, and as believers we are to be perfect as he is perfect.

Matthew 5: 48,....be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect....

Therefore, we must keep our eyes fixed firmly in Christ, who is our perfect example, and we are to learn obedience through all that we are called to do for his sake. If we trust him to take us through to the end, then we will be perfect like him, without spot or blemish.

Ephesians 5: 27,....that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish....

Philippians 3: 13 – 19,....I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus....let us....be thus minded....if....ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you....let us mind the same thing....be followers together....for many walk....they are the enemies of....Christ....whose end is destruction....

To keep moving forward spiritually, we must actively pursue godliness, and the closer that we draw unto God, the more that we will realize the sinfulness that we have in our life, which are those things that are not pleasing unto him. No one man has attained the ultimate knowledge of God, this means that we always have room to grow, while seeking to reach Gods potential for us in Christ. Therefore, we must stay focused on Christ, and on our goal of truthfully knowing God, and his love for all mankind, and we must encourage others to join in to the same. Faithful obedience to God will allow Gods word to challenge us to practice what we preach. We are to choose that which we are going to follow, whether it would be earthly things or heavenly things.

Romans 13: 12, 14,....the night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light....put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof....

Mankind, whether believer or non-believer, both will tell us that setting goals for our life is essential to achieving success, but we see in today's scripture that this is not true. Setting goals will do nothing for our spiritual maturity, but pressing toward the mark for the prize, not only means our eternal life, but also eternal life for all mankind, which is our high calling in God, through Christ Jesus. Since we have not yet attained the fullness of that prize, because we have not yet arrived at our final destination, we are to strive to possess the fullness of that which Christ suffered and died to fulfill within us as a free gift.

Philippians 3: 20 – 21,....for our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ....who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body....

We should never become so relaxed at home in this world, that we do not continue to long for the coming of Christ for his church. God has placed an eternal longing in our heart so that in every situation and circumstance in our life we have a hope of stability by knowing that there is something more than just this life that we are living here upon this earth. We have the divine awareness that as believers, the soul will live forever eternally with God.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

