

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

1.14.2024

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.

Living Today for Our Eternal Destiny

Matthew 24: 13

Man was created with the ability to make moral choices in life, and we are responsible for the choices which we make. Every decision that we make determines our capacity to choose obedience over disobedience, and although we do not always want to recognize the truth, we know what the result of our decisions will be, and we know that we will be held accountable for each one. We sin, because we choose to sin, we cannot say that fate brought us to the decisions that we make, we cannot say that we were predestined to a sinful destiny, and we certainly cannot blame God, who, in his mercy and grace has given unto us every opportunity imaginable to live in his obedience. So, why do we get annoyed, upset, angry, impatient, all of those worldly emotions that we feel when we are faced with the consequences of the sinfulness which we have chosen to be a part of in our life. This is because, even though we point a finger at circumstances and situations, we point to others, and we even point to God, but deep down we know that our circumstances stem from the choices which we make.

Proverbs 19: 3,....the foolishness of man perverteth his way, and his heart fretteth against the Lord....

When we use the wisdom and the knowledge that God has given unto us, and then we apply our own reasoning to it to make decisions, we make very bad choices. If as believers we do this, then this means that unbelievers, who are completely separated from the wisdom of God, cannot make any choices in their life that will be pleasing unto him, for the truth of the gospel makes no sense to them. Now, as believers, who have the mind of Christ, we must reject all worldly foolishness, by relying upon the Holy Spirit's indwelling power, so that we might make decisions that glorify God. This will not only spiritually enrich our life in Christ, but it will also enrich the lives of those around us. When it comes to our eternal destiny, there are those that are fools because they reject the gospel of Christ, and there are those that are wise, for they have believed in Christ, and have committed their life unto him. Therefore, what we once thought was foolishness while we were in the world, we now realize was God, working through his wisdom, to provide mankind with eternal life.

1 Corinthians 1: 18,....for the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God....

To the unsaved, those who preach the gospel are foolish, believing in things that are never going to take place. This is because those who disbelieve, prefer worldly ideals over the truth of God's word for they cannot find worldly value in spiritual wisdom, and because they lack spiritual wisdom, they are blinded by worldly arrogance, and they see no need for any kind of eternal hope. Therefore, they do not heed to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, which comes through God's love and compassion, which he uses to show unto them just how to seek God's free gift of salvation. Those who are blind to the wisdom and power of God need to see the work of the Holy Spirit within us, so that the message of the cross is portrayed through us, as a loving invitation from God, to walk in the newness of life of his Son, Christ Jesus. Continuing in unbelief will tragically result in experiencing the fullness of God's condemnation and wrath.

Revelation 3: 14 – 22,....I know thy works....because thou sayest....and knowest not that thou are wicked, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in fire....to him that overcometh I will grant to sit with me in my throne....

So, the first thing that we want to look at is in verse fifteen where Christ says I know thy works. Make no mistake, nothing escapes Christ attention, and lukewarm or halfhearted, unenthusiastic faith will bring with it grim consequences. As Christians, being a part of a body of Christ, we cannot simply be content with just maintaining or performing meaningless activities or going through some sort of religious motions just to maintain a membership with financial status.

So, how do we see ourselves in Christ? If we are hot, then we are striving to grow in our spiritual commitment to God so that our faith might become stronger. If we are cold, we are not maturing in the Lord, but at least we are in a place where we can be impacted by our faith, and we can be encouraged to change. But if we are lukewarm our condition is one that we truly believe that we have enough wisdom and knowledge of God to maintain us in our life in Christ, but the truth is, we have no understanding, because we lack real faith, therefore this condition is the hardest to change, for in our mind, we feel that we are secure in our relationship with Christ. For this reason, Christ says:

Revelation 3: 17,....because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked....

We must learn, that even though we might think that we have all that we need, because of those things which we have acquired, what we actually need, only Christ can give, and we can only receive it with a humble, willing, penitent heart. Therefore, we must be encouraged to put our complete trust in the Lord.

Revelation 3: 18,....I counsel them to buy of me gold tried in the fire....

As believers, we are encouraged to replace our worldly wisdom with spiritual wealth. Therefore, God counsels us, or gives unto us his advice, and his advice is true, for his advice is the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

John 17: 17,.... sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth....

It may take years of training, years of patient instruction, but if we are willing to heed to the instruction of the Holy Spirit, we will come to understand the words of Christ when he said:

John 8: 28,....that I can do nothing of myself, but as my Father hath taught me....

We must live our life in total dependence upon the Lord, fulfilling God's will and purpose throughout the entirety of our life in Christ. Our life in Christ is not a now and then relationship, for God has made his dwelling place within us, and we are to make our dwelling place with him.

John 15: 4 – 7,....abide in me, and I in you....if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you....

In order to live our life in Christ now, which means seeking our eternal destiny, we must be clear about our relationship with God. When we, by faith, have believed, we were joined unto Christ, and we must remain attached to him, so that we might grow in our spiritual maturity, and flourish in our faith and trust in him. Without Christ we can do nothing, with him we can do all things, for he gives unto us our strength. To abide in Christ means to rest in his love, hold fast to him in our trust, and be obedient to his word with an unshakable assurance of his promises. This gives unto us the absolute certainty, that he alone is life's sufficiency, now, and eternally forever more.

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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