

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2.11.2024

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.

Commitment or Convenience

Matthew 16: 24 – 25

Is our relationship with God a matter of convenience, or are we committed to our life in Christ. Why do we ask ourselves this question, it is because the world that we live in thrives upon making things convenient. Let us remember that the path of least resistance is not always the better choice. Humanity wants to put forth the least amount of effort, but still get the best results possible. The scripture tells us that loving God and loving others, requires commitment and obedience to the word of God, but our nature is to take the path of least resistance. What if Christ had the same mentality? Make no mistake, it was not convenience that saved us. God's desire is that all would come to the same level of commitment that was shown unto us by his Son, Christ. Seeking after convenience means falling short of God's best for us. Christ did not die for our convenience, he died for our commitment. Still, many believers today do not want to be completely committed to God because it demands too much of themselves. Our commitment becomes someone else's responsibility when it interferes with our schedule of convenience. For this reason, many are not committed to the things of God, they are only committed to what seems convenient before God. Godly commitment should be a part of our everyday lives, it should not be something that we do to feel comfortable in our life in Christ. If we are comfortable in our life in Christ then we are not being conformed to the likeness of Christ.

Luke 14: 27,....whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple....

Many are called to come unto Christ and find rest for their souls, and while there are those that respond, and are saved by grace through faith, only a very few of those chosen will follow a committed path of discipleship with Christ. Christ wants faithful servants, those who have a humble heart, and desire to be an example of a living sacrifice for him.

Matthew 16: 24 – 25,....then said Jesus....if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me....for whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it....

Commitment means sacrificing every bit of oneself, because no one who follows Christ can hold on to even the smallest part of their own agenda. True believers, not only believe in Christ for salvation, but we also must trust that he broke the power of sin in our lives, even when we deny the power thereof. Although our call to commitment is not easy, the reward far out ways the suffering. So, how do we weigh the alternative, is our life a life of commitment, or convenience? It is all about the choices in which we make.

Mark 8: 36 – 37,....what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?....what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?....

One of life's most important lessons is that there is nothing worth more than the eternal soul of a man. To lose one's eternal soul means to die without a right relationship with Christ. Choosing convenience might very well be fast and easy, but fast and easy means worldly, temporary, earthly gains, and sooner or later earthly things will fade away. How we look at things makes all the difference, when it comes to our perspective on life. There are those who view life as if this is it, there is nothing that is eternal to come, and we are just living for the things that this world has to offer. Then there are those who know, by faith believing, that the life that we are living is in preparation for our eternal life to come. When we truly believe that life will be lived in eternity, then the convenient temporary things that this world has to offer will no longer be important, when we compare it to a committed eternal life with Christ. So how do we see the conclusion of our soul, whether we are playing in the convenience of the world or are we living in a committed relationship with God. Therefore, we must examine ourselves through the guidance of the spirit of God.

2 Corinthians 13: 5,....examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove yourselves....know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be condemned....

How important is it to bring things into perspective and give great consideration to our relationship with God. We cannot look into our own lives without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for we would not be truthful and honest with ourselves. Only the Holy Spirit can examine the details of our faith to see if it is according to the truth of Gods word. In doing so, we will come to understand the presence of Christ within us, which will motivate us to reject the worldly, sinful temptation of convenient living.

Psalm 139: 23 – 24,....search me O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting....

One of our primary concerns, as believers, is to help promote spiritual awareness in the body of Christ. God has carefully planned every moment of every day in our life, so that we might become aware of his presence, that no matter where we are in life, we know that he is there to lead us, to guide us, to support us, to protect us, to comfort us, to equip us, to heal, and to help us. And even though we live in a world surrounded by sinful uncleanness, we know that it is God alone that calms the heart, and brings us into an eternal, inner peace through his Son, Christ Jesus, for he alone is our only source of grace and truth, mercy and love, peace and hope, and we are guaranteed through our committed relationship with him, an eternal life with God the Father.

Luke 9: 57, 62,....it came to pass....a certain man said....Lord, I will follow thee whether so ever thou goest....Jesus said....no man, has put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God....

We know that committing our life to Christ is going to challenge our obedience to the truth of Gods word. The greater the understanding we have of the mind of Christ the more that we will recognize the ternal value of all that lies ahead for us, regardless of the things that we might face in life.

Jeremiah 28: 13,....ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart....

Seeking God becomes our commitment, and entails developing a consistent relationship with him. Commitment, means being devoted unto God above all else, regardless of situations and circumstances in our life. Our relationship with God should be one of giving him full access to every aspect of our lives at any moment in time. So, what is our relationship with God, is it a matter of convenience or commitment, be sure to choose wisely, because our eternal destiny depends upon it.

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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