

# *Mt Lebanon Church*

Sermon

3.24.2024

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.

Depending Upon God

## Jeremiah 17: 7 – 8

Depending upon God is a necessity in our Christian life. We had to depend upon him for salvation, and we must continue to depend upon him while living in our life of salvation. We must depend upon God for wisdom, for knowledge, and for understanding, we must depend upon him for everything and in everything. Now, there is one thing that we must not do, and that is to depend upon him foolishly, which means that there is a difference between depending upon him, and foolishly putting God to the test. Therefore, depending upon God does not mean that we refuse the gifts that God provides unto us so that we might live stronger, healthier lives here on earth. This would include doctors, medicines, employment, and the list goes on and on. All part of depending upon God is also knowing that these things were provided by him, for our use. Now, there are times in our lives when we can do nothing else but depend upon him, and it is at these times, that he gives unto us the faith, and the strength, that we need to carry us through whatever trials, tribulations, situations, or circumstances that we may be going through in our life. As children of God there is instilled within each of us the desire to depend upon him for everything that we need.

**Psalm 18: 2 – 3**,....the Lord is my rock, and my fortress, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust....the horn of my salvation....I will call upon the Lord....so shall I be saved....

God protects and provides for each of his children. He defends, he delivers, and he will not allow us to be tried beyond the ability that he has given unto us to endure. Therefore, he will provide a way of escape as we go through life's difficulties. Although we may never be removed from the difficulties of life, God will keep us shielded, as he safely guides us through the dangers of the worldly situations and circumstances that are set before us. Yes, Christ is our refuge and our shield, and we are hidden with him in God.

**Colossians 3: 1 – 3**,....if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above....set your affections on things above....for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God....

Now, here is what this means in the life of the believer. The issue of sin and death was settled on the cross, our sins were forever forgiven, therefore, we are eternally redeemed. So, every sin, whether past, present, or future, was dealt with on the cross, so in God's eyes, sin is no longer an issue in my life, not now or forever more. But there is more. Through the resurrection, we share in the same life that Christ has, our sin which he bore is no longer there, it could not hold him down, and it can no longer hold us down, it was defeated, and overcome, therefore, our union is not with sin, but with our life in Christ and we are forever hidden in him. Now, often time, the condition that our life is in may appear to be a contradiction of the truth of God's word, but we can rest assured that because of our dependence upon God, our union with him, through Christ Jesus is 100% secure. As far as God is concerned, our new life in Christ is already eternal, for we are united in him.

**Jeremiah 17: 7 – 8**,....blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is....he shall be as a tree planted by the waters....that spreadeth out her roots....her leaf shall be green....neither shall cease from yielding fruit....

Depending upon God means having faith in the word of God and trusting in all that he reveals unto us through his written word. The more that we trust and believe in the promises of his word, the less that we will allow the circumstances and the emotional feelings of the world to distract us from our relationship with God. Only those who rest in the Lord and put their complete trust in him will gather unto themselves the strength and the power which comes through the Holy Spirit of God, who is able to establish the hope of our eternal existence in God within us. Within this message of hope we are secure in knowing that even when we are faithless, he remains faithful, when we are weak and fail, his love and his grace remains strong toward us for it never changes. This confidence which God instills within us will help us to reject our worldly fear, as the problems of life's difficulties arise in our life, so that we might yield much fruit to the glory of God.

For this reason:

**Jeremiah 17: 10**,....I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his days....

One of the many promises that we are taught by the word of God is that the Lord knows the thoughts of our minds, thoughts which motivate the decisions of our hearts. Therefore, he is able to see the heart of a man, and he knows all those that trust in his word, and he knows all who belong to him. This means that God examines the heart, and gives unto each one that which he deserves, based upon the works that we have performed. Therefore, God punishes sin, but he is also faithful in his promises to those that love him and place their trust in him.

**1 Corinthians 3: 7 – 8**,....so then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase....now he that planteth and he that watereth are one, and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor....

Depending upon God means understanding that it is always Gods work that is being accomplished. He is working through us, and other believers, at specific times and specific places, and it is God who accomplishes it. We are reminded through his word just how easily it is to become focused on someone or something and lose our focus on God. If we are not careful, we may get so caught up in what we believe to be great movements of God, that we lose sight of God himself. We must always be on guard to make sure that we are seeing God as the source of all that there is. In our life in Christ, it is all about recognizing God, so that we might be instruments for God in the work that he has for us to carry out in the world around us.

**Colossians 3: 23 – 24**,....whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ....

Let us first remember that works will not get us into heaven, and works cannot save us, for salvation comes by faith, and working for the Lord is a great part of our salvation. All of our works should be done with the goal of pleasing and glorifying God. Our actions, and our efforts must come from our devotion to God. As Christians, we are to work out of God's love, his grace, and his mercy, with a heart of sincerity that cares for others, and puts the well-being of others higher than ourselves. Our service for God comes from a willing heart, motivated by living our lives in a way that glorifies God.

**Jerimiah 33: 3**,....call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not....

Depending upon God means being faithful to our calling in God. And even though we must endure what seems to be unbelievable circumstances in our life, through our life in Christ we must not lose faith, nor should we lose focus upon God, for there is always hope in the Lord. We may be surprised to find out, that if we work at everything as if unto the Lord, instead of seeing and assuming the worst, we will have a greater understanding of what truly depending upon God is all about.

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.

*Tim Hughes*

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>