

Mt Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.10.2024

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.

Listening to God

Proverbs 2: 1 – 6

As Christians, we want to hear God's voice, but how do we know if it is actually God who is speaking unto us. Listening to God comes by hearing what he has to say unto us through his word, but it must start with prayer. We must ask the Lord to open up our hearts and our minds, through the guidance of his spirit, so that we might hear what it is that he is trying to say unto us, so we must go to prayer before we read and study his word. Through the Holy Spirit, will come unto us thoughts and feelings that will stand out in our minds, and those thoughts and feelings will align with the truth of God's word, for it is the truth of God's word that is our guide to living according to his purpose, and his plan in our life.

Hebrews 4: 12,....for the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the hearts....

Why should we as Christians listen to God? Because God wants us to put our best effort into fulfilling his will in our life, which means completing the work that he has given unto us to do. Therefore, the word of God separates those things in our hearts and minds that are completely entangled together to the point that we no longer know the difference between that which is godly and that which is worldly. The word of God provides everything that we need to show unto us the difference between our self-righteousness and the righteousness of God. So, is it possible to read Gods word, and still fail to follow Gods will? Sure, it is, for without listening to God, we lack the understanding that we need that will help us to become obedient to the truths and the promises of his will. Listening to God is a lifelong process that continues to separate the old nature from the new, and conform us into our new life in Christ, which we received through Gods saving grace. As long as we choose to allow ourselves to listen to God, his word will never cease to divide the good from the evil, the right from the wrong, spiritual faith from worldly fear, and that which is of Christ, and that which is not. Therefore, we must, by the humility of the heart, with patient endurance, examine the truth that is written for all mankind, by listening to God.

Proverbs 2: 1 – 6,....my son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee, so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and, apply thine heart to understanding, yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding....then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God....for the Lord giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding....

True wisdom, knowledge, and understanding not only comes from accepting that which we are taught, but also considering the value of what we are taught, and the source from which it comes. We must recognize the value of understanding God, and then act accordingly in our life. Once we find the source of our understanding then we must do everything we can through the power of God to obtain it. We are to receive the word of truth with eagerness, and we are to take the word of truth and store it within our heart, so that we may continue to experience God's grace, which keeps us from falling prey to the sinful deceptive ways of the world.

Proverbs 2: 2,....so that thou incline thine ear....and apply thine heart....if thou criest after....liftest up....seekest....searchest....

Listening to God through the wisdom and knowledge of his word becomes our understanding when we remember it, not just for our own use, but also when we pass it on to others. Listening to God for understanding, and applying that understanding requires effort on our part, therefore, we are to make our heart attentive to his understanding. In order to acquire understanding, we must recognize our lack of understanding, and then we must realize that God is the only one that can supply the understanding that we need. It is not just the knowledge of Gods word that is important, but we also must have a heart that is fully submitted unto him. We must listen to God to gain understanding.

Isaiah 55: 1 – 3,....ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters....come, buy....without money and without price....do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me....incline your ear, and come unto me, hear, and your soul shall live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you....

God offers to all of humanity the free gift of salvation, so that we might come and receive that which we have not earned and cannot pay for. God wants us to come and listen to him with the purpose of having a life that is eternal. We must come to God and receive mercy, we must come to God and receive that which we do not deserve, we must come and receive that which only God can provide. So, why does God command us to come, because of the result of disobedience to God, there is a need within every man for mercy and forgiveness. God, through his Son, Christ, offers unto us his living water, so that he may provide for our spiritual needs. The invitation for forgiveness and restoration extends unto all mankind. All who are thirsty for the truth of God's word are encouraged to listen to God and partake freely of the understanding which he has to offer. Whether it is forgiveness unto everlasting life, or of spiritual maturity unto a greater fulfillment of his righteousness.

John 8: 47,....he that is of God heareth Gods words....

A person's actions reveal our inner nature, and the way that we live proves our inner character. We are to believe in God and obey his truth even though we do not always understand it. Our obedience to God approves our character as a child of God. Anyone who belongs to God must gladly listen to the words of God. In order to hear from God, we must make ourselves available to God, for there are many things that can distract us from spending time with God. We cannot expect to hear Gods voice if we do not focus our attention on him. The greater our relationship with God, the more we will learn to hear his voice. God is always in control, which means that we need to allow him to be in control of our life. God wants us to know him, he wants us to hear what he is saying unto us so that we might live according to the perfect plan that he has for our life. We will never understand everything that God is saying unto us, but we can learn to trust him in every circumstance of our life, if only we will learn to listen to God.

Let us pray,

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