

Mt Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.17.2024

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.

Obeying God

Ecclesiastes 12: 13 – 14

What does it mean to obey God? It means taking up our cross and following Christ. We show our love for Christ when we obey him in all things. This means that our obedience is a vital part of our faith in God. We obey him, because we love him, and we love him because of our faith in him. Now, are all who show an outward appearance of obedience to God, righteous before God? There are those who do seemingly acts of obedience just to try and hide a heart of self-righteousness. Therefore, it is important to remember that our obedience to God is our desire to submit wholly and completely unto him. Now, despite the fact that we will never be perfect in our obedience, God will forgive our disobedience, and if we confess our sins, he will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 5: 7 – 9,....who....when he had offered up prayers....with strong crying and tears....was heard in that he feared....though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered, and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him....

Christ, who is our great instructor, is an important example of our obedience to God, and even though none of us can begin to comprehend the suffering which he endured, so that we might have an eternal life with the Father, Christ is still the perfect example of how that we should live a holy life of obedience and dependence unto God. Christ entire life was one of prayer and praise, thanksgiving, and worship. Only Christ, a perfect, sinless man could be a substitute for fallen man, and because of his reverend obedience and submission to the Father, he became the first fruits, breaking the power of sin for all who will place their faith and trust in him, through the obedience to his word.

Ecclesiastes 12: 13 -14,....let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter....fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man....for God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil....

Like Solomon, who was an anointed king and a prophet of God, there are those within the body of Christ, who allow the temptation of worldly success and material blessings to turn their hearts away from the Lord. Therefore, the word of God reminds us how pointless, and fruitless it is to gain all that the world has to offer, causing us to lose the opportunity that God gives unto us to live for him. Yes, following after our own self-righteous advice may lead to a life that is full and pleasurable in the world, but it comes at the cost of being excluded from the presence of God.

As believers, who have been chosen, called, and accepted to be followers after Christ, we have been given all that we need for life and godliness, but unless our relationship with God remains true through our obedience, which is founded upon the Lord Jesus Christ, then our fellowship with him is broken, and no amount of material possessions, or worldly popularity that we may achieve will satisfy our spiritual fulfillment. Therefore, we learn that when everything is said and done, and we seem to have tried and tested and exhausted all worldly possibilities, the only fulfillment that we can count on is to: fear God and obey him.

1 John 3: 23 – 24,....this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son....and love one another....he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him, and hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the spirit which he hath given us....

Abiding in our relationship and fellowship with God has everything to do with our obedience to God. Now, as Christians, can we choose not to abide in Gods will, sure we can, we do so every time that we are disobedience unto sin. But as we follow after the spirit of God, it is the influence of the spirit of God in our life which shows evidence, that we are part of Gods family. It is by abiding in Christ that we have the ability to keep his commandment, which is to love as he loved. We cannot love as Christ loved unless we allow him to love others through us, for his love comes through the believer, and then out to others. For it is not I, but Christ that lives in me....

Luke 11: 28,....blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it....

As Christians, we are either obedient to God, or we are obedient to the devil. Those who follow one cannot follow the other, those who do not choose to follow Christ will be claimed by Satan. God values obedience over all else, therefore, we are taught the importance of not only hearing his word, but also doing what the word of God commands us. Our eternal redemption comes by grace, through faith, and for this reason, good works should naturally flow from our salvation. To trust in Christ is to rely upon him while seeking to obey him. Those who hear the gospel of salvation, and by faith are obedient to its calling, receive a new life in Christ, and rather than seeing blessings based on external circumstances, we must invest our time, which is Gods time, in the word of God, and seek to make it a part of our lives. A growing relationship with God comes from reading and obeying Gods word.

Romans 6: 16 – 18,....know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness....ye were servants of sin, but have obeyed from the heart....being then made free from your sin, ye became the servants of righteousness....

Humanity has the free will to choose between two pathways. We can choose to be a slave to sin, or we can choose to be a slave to obedience. There are no other options, we either walk with God in his righteousness, or we walk with Satan in darkness unto death. It is only through a union with Christ, and positioning ourselves in him that we can be freed from the power of sin. Therefore, we are given the choice to choose to either stay entangled in the sinfulness of the world, or submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and become a servant of obedience, which leads us to the righteousness of God. We become willing servants of Christs righteousness so that we may grow in his grace, and increase in the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of his word.

John 14: 31,....but that the Lord may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do....

Some of Christs last words of encouragement, advice, and guidance, which he gave unto his disciples and unto us, was that just as he has done, we are to do exactly what the Father commands so that the world might come to know that we love the Father. Christ was a demonstration of the very life that God created for mankind to live. A life of dependence, commitment, and obedience to God, totally, completely, and wholly submitted to carrying out his will in our life, led by the Holy Spirit of God, in humble obedience, a life that is based upon glorifying God. In order, to carry out the commandments of God's word, we must first listen, and then obey the voice of the Lord, always seeking to carry out his will in humble obedience to him.

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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