

Mt Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.7.2024

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.

Waiting Upon God

Lamentations 3: 25

For believers, why is it that often time we are not patient enough to wait upon God? Due to trials, tribulations, and circumstances in our lives, our faith can become shaken by worldly doubt and fear. For this reason, it becomes very difficult for us to understand that it is often time hard to wait patiently when life seems unfair. When we do not wait upon God, we develop values that can only give unto us worldly perspectives, which will lead us to consider achieving material wealth and power as our life's goal. For this reason, God speaks unto us through his word, for his spirit within us speaks promises of encouragement, calling unto us to set our minds upon things above, and to patiently wait for the blessed hope of living a life in Christ that is based upon the eternal promise that he will one day receive us unto himself, that where he is, we may be also.

James 5: 7 – 8,....be patient....brethren, unto the coming of the Lord....behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it....be ye....patient, stablish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh....

A successful life in Christ requires keeping the mindset of Christ, especially as we go through the challenging times in our life. If we remain established in God, we will be ready to stand firm in anything that we might face. Waiting upon God, means that often time we must endure hardship, with patience, all the while pursuing a lifestyle that is persistent in serving God. We are to live with eager expectation, looking forward to a valuable harvest, but remaining patient while waiting upon God to work in the lives of those around us, by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it says in:

Galatians 6: 9,....let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season it shall reap, if we faint not....

Lamentations 3: 25,....the Lord is good to them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him....

Why is waiting upon God so difficult, and why does it feel like a complete waste of time? It is usually because when we are waiting upon the Lord, it seems that we are not doing anything to improve our current situation, but isn't that the point, we should not be doing anything that is of our own self-righteous power, but we should be waiting upon God to work within us and through us. To wait upon the Lord means to place our complete hope, trust, and confidence in him. We wait upon him because he is God, and we are not. If waiting upon God puts us in an uncomfortable place in our life, then our life is out of control, and we are out of the will of God. We must see waiting upon the Lord as an opportunity to learn life-changing lessons, to learn the value of lessons that may seem to come slowly, only after we have stopped trying to do things on our own. Waiting upon God sometimes will bring about worldly fear, for it may seem that the waiting is never ending. Therefore, God reminds us that his plan has purpose, and his purpose has promise, and although at times it may not seem so, his promises are ultimately victorious.

Romans 8: 24 – 25,....for we are saved by hope, but hope that is not seen is not hope, for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for it? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it....

As Christians, we wait for a hope that we cannot see with our physical eyes, but even at that our hope is sure, it just has not arrived yet, which means that we are waiting with patients for the best possible reality that could ever be imagined, and that is our eternal life with God. Therefore, our future is a glorious one, for our redeemed bodies will allow us to be with our heavenly Father forever.

So, why is it that we are not always found waiting upon God? Because we have been spoiled with the materialistic opportunities of the world. Whenever we begin to experience suffering in our life, which I might add that God allows suffering so that we might learn to be patient, and endure, but because of these sufferings we turn to the world for what seems to be a satisfying fix, but it is only temporary, and like most temporary things, the more that we crave satisfaction the more that we will desire the fix that it brings, and with that comes an addiction in our life that consumes our thoughts, and our actions, and pulls us farther and farther away from our relationship with God. We lose sight of our eternal hope because we are no longer waiting patiently for it.

So, how do we get back to where we need to be with the Lord, and how do we overcome the worldly addictions that have consumed us? We must look to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit to turn us away from the temporary satisfaction of the world, and turn back to a more permanent, solid truth of God's word.

Psalm 130: 5 – 6,....I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope....my soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning, I say, more than they that watch for the morning....

One of the mistakes that we make as believers is that when we wait, we do not wait patiently with hope, but we wait with desperation and worldly, emotional despair. Most will say that this is when we hit rock bottom, and the good news is that there is no where to go but up, but that is not good news at all, for when we allow circumstances in our life to continue without turning them over to God, then there is no up, there is only rock bottom. Therefore, through his word, we must come to realize that our life depends upon God, and the good news is that God is still there, God is always there, and his love runs deeper than rock bottom.

Psalm 27: 14,....wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, wait, I say, on the Lord....

Trusting God at his word, despite what the inner works of the old nature is telling us, and regardless of what the outer distressing circumstances of the world are doing unto us, trusting in God's word will enable us to wait patiently upon the Lord, and to be of good courage. Through this our soul is strengthened by the spirit of God, for his strength is made perfect in our weakness. Waiting upon God means understanding that his promises are sure and indisputable.

Micah 7: 7,....therefore, I will look unto the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation, my God will hear me....

The word of God challenges us to turn from the ways of the world and warns us of the consequences of failing to do so. As believers, we can either be ruled by the flesh, or be governed by God and walk in spirit and in truth.

Joshua 24: 15,....choose you this day whom ye will serve....as for me and my house we will serve the Lord....

Everyone without exception will reap the consequences of their choices. By proclaiming our willingness to serve the Lord, we are promising God our faithfulness in waiting upon him. This choice to wait upon God challenges every believer to examine himself to see if his faithfulness is trusting in God, to see if we as believers are walking in the spirit of God, and to see if Christ is our all in all. There can be no compromise in our life in Christ, for the Lord will not share his glory with another. Waiting upon God shows our commitment to encourage others to make the right choices, to resolve to serve the Lord by relying upon his sufficient mercy and grace, by committing to strict obedience to his word.

Wait, I say, on the Lord.

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/>

