

Mt Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.28.2024

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.

What He Wills, What We Want

Psalm 143: 10

Whether sinner or saint, believer or non-believer, every person ever born into this world, who has the mind of responsibility will be held accountable for their actions and will face the consequences of their choices. The idea of believing that we can do whatever we want without any repercussions is a self-centered perspective. Because we have a sin nature, we want worldly freedoms, we want freedom to make choices, and we want freedom to live our lives in a manner which we see fit, but we must remember that with freedom comes responsibility, for without responsibility freedom is just an excuse to live a carefree life, having feelings for no one but ourselves, which will only result in a life full of emptiness and despair. Therefore, as time in each one's life arises, all of humanity is given the opportunity to harken unto to the voice of the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Now, as believers, who have by faith believing accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we have chosen to live a life in Christ, taking full advantage of the free will of choice which was given unto us by God, but now as servants of Christ we do so by the responsibility of our salvation, so that we might learn to live according to his will in our life, and not according to our wants.

Romans 1: 20,....for the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and godhead, so that they are without excuse....

Because man is born into sin, we are unrighteous before God, and therefore we try to suppress the truth of God by refusing to acknowledge his existence. But God has plainly shown to all mankind what is understandable about himself, and this he has done through that which he has created. Now some might argue, that coming to the conclusion of looking at nature to see God is not a given, but Christ himself said:

Matthew 7: 7 – 8,....ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened....

God has instilled within all of humanity enough knowledge that they should seek him, and those who respond by seeking God will always find him. For those who do not look for the basic nature of God from what they see in creation, then they are without excuse....

Hebrews 3: 4,....for every house is builded by some man, but he that built all things is God....

Christ, who came to earth as a man, so that by his sacrifice his church might be built, a spiritual house of God in which all believers are living stones, being built up day by day, by Christ, who he alone is the foundation stone. Therefore, as believers, we are to conduct ourselves in the household of God as members of the body of Christ, and we do this by following after Gods will in our life.

So, if you will turn with me to the book of Psalm, we want to see what the word of God says concerning our life and Gods will for our life verses what we want in our life.

Psalm 143: 10,....teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God, thy spirit is good, lead me into the land of uprightness....

When all feels hopeless, when all feels lost and out of control, murmuring and complaining is not the answer. God is the answer, because he alone is faithful, and righteous, and we can find rest for our soul.

Matthew 11: 28,....come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest....

So again, I say that murmuring and complaining is not the answer, the answer we find in:

Matthew 11: 29,....take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your soul....

Gods yoke may not be what we want, but it is his will for our life. In order to take Gods yoke for ourselves, we must learn of God, which means instead of murmuring and complaining, which, by the way is the yoke that we ourselves have chosen, we must present unto God a petition, and this prayer is where we confess of our own self-affliction, we confess our own discontentment, our own sadness, suffering, pain, and torment, and as we pray we must appeal to Gods goodness, his mercy, and his grace, not in the form of desperation, but in complete faith, and complete trust, acknowledging our dependence upon him. Those who confess by having the knowledge of Gods will in their life are those who are obedient to his word, understanding that his grace is sufficient, and that he will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, but wait there us more:

1 Corinthians 10: 13,....there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it....

So, first of all, we must understand that there is no promise in God's word that says that he will keep us free from difficulties, trials, tribulations, or persecutions in our life, but he will provide a limit to the intensity of those circumstances, and he will provide a way of escape. Now, this way of escape is not so that we may get out of situations and circumstance that arise, but so that we might be able to bear them. Remember, these are things that we bring upon ourselves through disobedience to Gods word.

So, we know that nothing that we are going through in our life is profound, we do not have the security of saying that what I am going through is significant, and that no one else has ever been through it before. There is a reason for this, which is that we may find hope, and strength in God, knowing that such is common unto man, and that we have proof through the teachings of Gods word that God has provided a way of escape when helping others, so that we may see it as a means of enduring, so that we may find hope and comfort in knowing that his grace is sufficient in all occurrences, and his grace encompasses all that humanity will ever be called upon to endure in this life.

1 Peter 4: 1 – 2,....for as much then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind, for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God....

So, what will it take to change the direction of our life in Christ, so that we might not need to continue to experience the never-ending cycle of suffering through our disobedience and sinfulness. Can we do it by achieving sinless perfection, not in this mortal body, because we still make choices that include sinful desires and wants in our life, which is disobedient to the will of God. Therefore, to change the direction of our life in Christ, we must first learn to expect persecution as part of our God given purpose here on earth, and we must choose a pathway that leads away from indulging in our sinful desires as a means of a productive lifestyle. Those who are prepared to endure suffering are those who are motivated to do the will of God, even as they go through the sufferings in their life.

1 John 2: 16,....for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world....

We must learn to stay away from what we want in our life, and we must desire what Gods will is for our life.

Let us Pray.

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