

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

5.26.2024

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. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Defeat, Never an Option

Exodus 17: 9 – 13

Why, as believers, would we ever be willing to accept defeat? There will be times in our life, that because of various situations and circumstances, we will not understand the outcome of our happenings, therefore, since we do not see a way out, the opportunity of temptation becomes very real in our life, and we may see defeat as something that is inevitable. So, when we are facing hardships in our life, it is very important that we turn our attention toward the one who will strengthen our faith and encourage us to spiritually mature in our life.

Romans 8: 31,.... what shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

As believers, we are declared righteous due to our identity in Christ. No matter what the circumstance that is going on in our life, no matter what the difficulty that may so easily beset us, no matter what God may call upon us to face, his mercy and his grace secures us in every situation, so that it might be used for our eternal benefit, and his greater glory. Often time, because of the distractions of the world around us, we might find it difficult to grasp the truth, that yes, God is for us. This means that he is always working on our behalf, and he has given unto us his spirit, to guide us through every walk in our daily life. There should be nothing more important to us in our life than God. Yes, there will be those things in our life that will come against us, for the reality of our life is that we will have to endure physical, mental, and emotional struggles, which means that often time, we will experience the feeling of wondering if God is truly for us, but by choosing to abide in the power of an almighty God, that which comes against us will never be successful. With God, we have nothing to worry about, for there is no comparison between earthly opposition and the eternal power of the one true God.

Hebrews 4: 16,....let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need....

Thankfully, for the believer, Christ not only understands our struggles and failures, but he also overcame them for us, by going through them firsthand, in our place. God's word is that which we are to prove all of our thoughts and deeds against. Christ, through his word has already shown unto us the way, for it was through his sufferings, his temptations, and the crucifixion, that he overcame these circumstances, and he done so without sin. This means that we can go to God in prayer, knowing that Christ fully understands our weaknesses, for he has experienced our pain, therefore, we can be assured that nobody hears and understands better than he does.

Exodus 17: 9 – 13,...choose us out men....go out. Fight....to morrow I will stand on....the hill with the rod of God in my hand....it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand....Israel prevailed, and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed....Moses hands were heavy, and they took a stone, and put it under him....and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands....and Joshua discomfited Amalek....with the edge of the sword....

The first obstacle that we will face in our life in Christ is ourselves. Our own waywardness, our own wanderings, our own hardheartedness, are all products of our sinful desires, that will ultimately lead to defeat in our life, if they are allowed to continue. God needs for us to admit to him when we are weary, and when we feel exhausted, for this is the first step to overcoming defeat in our lives. Now, we do not need to try and do this on our own, for we have God on our side. Sometimes, the hardest lesson that we have to learn is knowing that God will take care of us, therefore, our complete faith and trust must be in him.

1 John 5: 4,....for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith....

As believers, we are overcomers, therefore, we are not to be overcome by evil, but we are to overcome evil with the goodness of our salvation. The battles which we face have already been won by Christ, and with our faith in Christ Jesus, then it is our faith that overcomes defeat in our life, our faith is our victory. Through our faith in Christ Jesus came our saving grace, and with this we have been equipped with the tools that we need to overcome life's trials and hardships. With faith we overcome, but faith must have an object, and that object of our faith is Christ.

John 16: 33,....in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world....

Just because we have believed, does mean that we will have an easy life, yes there will be persecution. Our Christlike joy does not come from living a life without persecution, it comes from living a life knowing that Christ has already obtained victory. As believers, we must understand that the circumstances which we experience are part of Gods purpose and plan for our life. Persecutions and hardships will come, but as believers, we can remain faithful, having the confidence in knowing that Christ victory overshadows the difficulties of the sinfulness of the world.

Romans 6: 11 – 13,....reckon ye also yourselves to be dead....unto to sin....but alive unto God....let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body....neither yield....as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God....

As believers, we must change the way that we think, we must no longer think of ourselves as self-serving, but we must always first think of ourselves as serving Christ. Many do not take this to heart, this truth of the word of God, therefore, many live a defeated life, because of their unbelief. We must believe Gods word, and we must act upon Gods word. Gods power is made perfect in us as we abide in the truth of his word, for it is only by his word that we are able to test and approve what his good and perfect will is for our life. We no longer need to follow after the pattern of the world, for we now live according to his will.

Romans 6: 17,....God be thanks....ye were servants of sin, but ye have obeyed....that form of doctrine which was delivered you....being....made free from sin....ye became the servants of righteousness....

Even though, as believers, we have the spirit of God within us, to empower us, we still face temptations, therefore, we must strive to stand firm against sin, we must wholly and completely commit to the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The sound doctrine of the word of God must remain the basis for our instruction, so that we may live Godly lives unto spiritual maturity. With this purpose in mind, we will then be able to produce the Christlike qualities needed to become rooted in the word of God, so that we might become a living example of God's grace, and his mercy, to his praise, and to his glory.

James 1: 12,....blessed is the man which endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him....

Often time, because of our sufferings, all that we see is defeat. We lose sight of the perspective of what Gods divine purpose is for our life. How easily we forget that as children of an almighty God, we are highly favoured with his grace. Therefore, instead of living a defeated life, we are blessed with living a fulfilled life according to Gods promises and precepts. When we embrace hardships, instead of becoming defeated by them, it is then that we will recognize the opportunity for spiritual growth that comes from knowing that God is at work within us, therefore, defeat is never an option in our life in Christ.

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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