

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

6.30.2024

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.

Motivation

## **Matthew 19: 26**

What gives us motivation in our life? Many might say that it depends upon the situation and what they are being motivated to do. Therefore, humanity looks to various forms of steps and measures as a source to motivate themselves, a source that will take them in a direction that they feel that they want to go. It is for this reason that there will come failures in their life, and the end result of these failures are simply just giving up. Motivation must have a beginning, which means that we must discipline the choices that we make, for without discipline we will be compelled to follow after a worldly source, or means, with it steps and measures of hopes and dreams without ever experiencing a positive outcome. So, how can I discipline the choices that I make? The answer is simple but not one that we want to hear, I cannot discipline my choices without God.

**2 Corinthians 3: 5,....**not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God.

Now, as sinners we did not want to hear that we could not make disciplined choices in our life without God, because we were not ready to give up our life in the world, and frankly we thought that we could lead a prosperous, healthy life all on our own. But as Christians, we now have begun to understand that we need Gods direction to make choices in our life, and even at that there are still many choices that we make in our life that are not disciplined by God, and therefore we must suffer the consequences of those choices. When God calls us into a work that he has prepared for us to do, we must allow God to work through us. Our own ability is always insufficient, we must rely upon Gods abilities, for our sufficiency comes from him alone. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we come to realize that we can do nothing of ourselves and must therefore allow the worldly characteristic of self-motivation to be removed from our life, and we must start living in total dependence upon God.

**1 Corinthians 13: 11,....**when I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things....

One day, as Christians, we will mature into the fulness of Christ, but that day is not today. This day will only come when Christ takes us to be with him, but for now, we are to continue to stay his course, putting away worldly understanding, so that we might continue to grow in our faith, and in our spiritual maturity. We must never assume that we are wise to the point of understanding all things, rather, by faith, not knowing everything, we retain the hope of our salvation, working together through God's love, and unity, toward the goal of eternal life with him.

Can we be content with what we do not know, or maybe we should ask ourselves should I be content with what I do not know? Sure, we can as long as we strive to live according to the teachings and guidance of the Holy Spirit, through our obedience to Gods word, knowing that one day his promise will be fulfilled to all who believes.

**Philippians 4: 10 -`13,**....now at last your care of me hath flourished again....not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned, in what soever state I am, therewith to be content....I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need....I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me....I desire fruit that may abound to your account....

Contentment, whether physical or spiritual is a learned characteristic, and we gain it through experience, and true experience in our life in Christ comes through discipline and obedience to the word of God. We come to understand that every situation and circumstance in our life, whether we see it as good or bad, is a privileged occasion given unto us by God for spiritual growth, so that we might become mature and complete, not lacking anything, which is our opportunity to allow the power of God to shine forth from within us. Confidence is being satisfied with what we have by knowing that contentment with Gods goodness and grace is great gain, for our life is anchored in Christ Jesus, and it is not focused upon that which is worldly and temporary, but our life is focused upon that which is not seen, and that which is not seen is eternal.

**Ephesians 2: 11 – 12,....**remember, that ye being in times past gentiles in the flesh....at that time ye were without Christ....having no hope, and without God in the world....

Remember the question we asked ourselves, how can I discipline the choices that I make, and the answer was: I cannot without God, for without God, a relationship through his love, mercy, and grace does not exist, therefore there is no connection to the unity of the body of Christ, there is only separation from God. Therefore, we can have no part in the eternal promises brought forth unto us through his word, for there is no eternal hope without knowing Christ, which means, that without God, man is alone in this world, and because of this dreadful burden that is now being carried, there can be no discipline in the choices which we make.

But wait, there is hope in Christ.

**Ephesians 4: 7,....**but unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ....

Through salvation, we are united in Christ, identified by his righteousness, motivated, because now in God we are disciplined through Christ, who is our source, so that we might live and walk in the divine calling of his purpose and plan for our life. Therefore, our behavior should glorify God, because we have chosen the responsibility of carrying out the gospel of our salvation, which we have been entrusted with, and we are instructed to go into all the world representing the one who gave his life, so that we might have life eternal, and for this reason we are to endure all things for Christ's sake.

**Matthew 19: 26,....**Jesus beheld them, and said un to them, with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible....

So, what gives us motivation in our life? Good works are not sufficient, riches cannot do it, nothing we do on our own can earn it, we can give our all and still not have the ability to acquire it, nothing that we do on our own will help us to obtain the discipline that we need to achieve the motivation that we can only find through the saving grace of Christ Jesus. Christ, often time will use our self-righteousness to show unto us that God alone is good and his mercy endureth forever. God uses his word to show mankind that even if we are normally kind, and generous, and giving, with Christ there is always something lacking in the hearts of man. There is no one that is completely good, no not one.

**Romans 3: 10**,....as it is written ( Psalm 14: 3 ) there is none righteous, no, not one....

Our motivation comes not from what we must do, but it comes from knowing in whom must I believe. Everything is impossible with man, but all things are possible with God through the gift of his grace given unto all who will believe in Christ work on the cross.

So, how important it is that we recognize the need for discipline in our life, it is not so that we might choose worldly direction, but so that we might choose the right source for our motivation, and that source is Christ. For I cannot discipline the choices that I make in life without God.

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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