

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

7.7.2024

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.

Responding To Christ

## 2 Timothy 4: 1 – 4

God does not just exist for our sake of seemingly enjoying his word, but his word exists for the sake of enjoying the promises of God, through obedience to his word. God reveals himself unto us through his word so that we might see who he truly is. Humanity in general lacks the capacity to understand spiritual truth, for man cannot grasp the truth of the gospel unless God opens his eyes unto it, and grants unto us repentance, which comes by faith believing in Christ, and it is very important for us as believers to keep this in mind when we are presenting the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ unto others. So, how should we respond in like manner to Gods word of truth? We should proceed with teachings of warnings of his condemnation and his judgement to come. Instead of proclaiming that joy and happiness alone will get us into heaven, we need to hear that there is no joy when we try to come to Christ without confronting and confessing our sins. Humanity is curious to see spiritual works, but they are not regretful or repentive about their sins. Many people want to watch a good show of miraculous works but are quick to explain away any sign that these miraculous works could come from an almighty God, because they are not willing to follow after him. The problem in the world today is not a lack of evidence of the power of God, which even many Christians profess that there is, the problem is the lack of repentance due to the disobedience of God's word. Humanity does not want to admit that it is the person themselves living for Christ that is the sign, not their words or worldly works, because humanity doe not want to live for Christ.

**Matthew 6: 4,....**a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall be no sign given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas....

The sign of Jonah was his portrayal as s type of Christ.

**Matthew 12: 40,....**for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whales belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth....

There is more to our testimony as believers than just joy and happiness and health and wealth, we are to be a testimony not only of Gods judgement against sin, but also of Gods mercy, grace, and power to deliver us from the spiritual death of our sins.

**Romans 3: 23,....**for all have sinned nd come short of the glory of God....

We have all sinned by disobeying the commandments and promises which God has given unto us through his word, and we have all paid the consequences of those sins, but by our repentance, God shows unto us his mercy, and his power to save those who repent, to cleanse us from the unrighteousness of sin, and to restore us into the righteousness of his Son, Christ.

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

Restoring the soul is only possible for those whose souls have been redeemed by faith believing in Christ. Therefore, it is very important that we are secure in our salvation, which is our relationship with God. Only those who are born again into the family of Christ can experience the power and joy that God has provided unto us through his word. Sadly, many Christians today are starving for the truth of God's word, because all that they hear are worldly stories that are meant to enhance their worldly emotions, which is intended to inspire just enough hope to carry them through, but not to overcome life's weekly struggles. We need teachings that will encourage us to confront our sinfulness, teachings that warn us of the consequences of the judgement and the wrath of God that comes because of sin. What we do not need is model teachings of our choice, teachings that are designed to make us feel better about our sinfulness. We need an example given, that will show unto us what sin will do to us in our life, an example that will point us in the direction of Christ and his word, a direction that will help us to overcome the sinfulness in our life and bring us back into the pathway of his righteousness.

**2 Timothy 4:L 1 – 4,....** I charge thee therefore before God....who shall judge the quick and the dead....preach the word....reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine....for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itchy ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables....

To know the truth and to have it set you free is not something that will go along with our worldly desires. When we pray, read, study, and understand, through learning the word of God, it is only then that we are allowing the truth of his word to confront the sinfulness in our life. The word of God is meant to be challenging, and these challenges are meant to bring about change, and this change often time is demanding and uncomfortable, but it is necessary, for without change we will just believe whatever we want to believe rather than the actual truth itself. Our worldly comfort level should never take priority over the truth of God's word, which is to transform us into the image of Christ.

**Romans 12: 2,....** be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind....that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God....

As believers, our lives are to be a reflection of Christ, and our bodies are to be a living sacrifice unto him. Our reasonable service is to live wholly and completely committed unto him daily. Gods' desires must become our desires, and his perfect will must be transformed into our will. We must choose daily to do that which is right and acceptable in the eyes of God. Remember, whatever captivates our heart inevitably reflects the attitudes and behaviors in our life. We are encouraged by Gods word, through its warnings and promises not to focus on the world, but to set our minds on Christ and make him the focus of our life. Turning to God means turning away from the world.

**1 Peter 1: 4,....** as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance....

**Psalms 1: 1 – 2,....** blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of the sinners, nor sitteth in the way of the scornful....but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night....

As believers, we should not allow ourselves to be pushed into following ungodly rules, regulations, customs, and principles that are promoted by worldly men. We might be in the world, but through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit we can certainly choose not to be of the world. Instead of allowing worldliness to influence our thinking, we must choose to allow Gods word to influence our life. Gods word is not to be for occasional reading, the promises of his word are meant to fill our hearts and our minds, to help us to confront our sinfulness, so that we might confess our sins before an almighty God.

Responding to Christ according to his word means seeing the ultimate reality of Gods divine plan for our life. We are to abide by his word and meditate upon it. The more time that we spend with the Lord, the closer our relationship with God will become.

**Psalm 119: 92,....**unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction....

Worldly challenges will only lead us into darkness and despair, for we cannot endure affliction without God. Seeing the value of Gods word in our life will not only help us to respond to Christ himself but will help us to respond to others by following Christ, for without responding to Christ, according to his word, we would have perished in our afflictions.

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://hollowowlfarm.com/>

