

# *Mt Lebanon Church*

Teaching Ministry

8.11.2024

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 unto you that which he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

What if

## **Daniel 3: 17 – 18**

How many times do we ask the question what if in our Christians life. What if God does not heal me, what if God does not deliver me, what if God does not supply my needs, what if God does not take this from me, what if I fail, what if, what if, what if. If we are not careful in our Christian life in Christ, we might allow what if to bring doubt and confusion into our life of faith and trust in God. The what ifs in our life could allow us to focus on all the negative possibilities to any given situation or circumstance and bring discouragement, worry, and worldly fear, which will cause us to live in a miserable, sad, depressed, and inadequate state of mind. But, what if, we would allow the truth from Gods word to set us free from worldly fear, and worry, and despair. What if does not need to be a negative action in our life, what if needs to become a turning point, a positive reaction in our life in Christ, as we learn to trust in God completely while facing that which is unknown in our life. There will always be unknowns in our life, but by and through our faith in God, will we have the ability to understand, and to realize that God is willing, and able to deliver us. But first we must realize that our faith in God is not just a means of accomplishing our purposes in this life, it is a means by which we fully become instruments of service in Gods purpose and plan for our life, first as individuals, and then as part of many in the body of Christ.

**Daniel 3: 16 – 18,....**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar we are not careful to answer thee in this matter....if it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us....and he will deliver us out of thine hand....but if not, be it known....that we will not serve thy gods....which thou hast set up....

Now, just as God did with the Hebrew children, he introduces challenges in our life, challenges which are the unknowns in our life. These are those things, that when we encounter them in our life as Christians, we should bring to God through prayer and meditation on his word, seeking leadership and guidance through his Holy Spirit, so that he might begin to reveal unto us this situation and circumstance that is unknown in our life. But Satan is right there as well, speaking unto us through our old nature, persuading us to ask what if, and since it is Satan that is deceiving us through the old nature then it is not a positive what if, it is negative. Therefore, we must choose to be positive in our faith in Christ. Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego chose to be faithful unto God, they did not know whether or not God would bring them through the unknowns in their life, or if he would allow them to die in the flames, but one thing that they did know for sure was that either way, God was able to deliver them, and that he would do just that. They were determined to be faithful to God no matter what. Are we determined to be faithful to God no matter what? Not always.

**Romans 14: 5, 7 – 8,....**one man esteemeth one day above another, another esteemeth every day alike....let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind....for none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself....for whether we live, we live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord, whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lords....

As believers, we no longer exist to serve our own agenda, for we were bought with a price, redeemed by the blood of Christ Jesus, therefore, we cannot claim the right to follow after our own self-righteous goals. To say that we live unto the Lord means that the choices which we make must be made for his honor and his glory, in his service, for his purpose and his plan, and that we will continue to do so throughout all eternity. Our choices must be guided according to our submission to God. Now, even though, we live under grace, and because of our what if attitude, everything is allowable and acceptable, but not everything is beneficial to our spiritual life in Christ. In reality, in all that we say, and in all that we do, and in all that we think, we do everything as unto the Lord, for we belong to God.

**Isaiah 43: 2,....**when thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle thee....

Everyday in our life we face a spiritual enemy, but rest assured that God is steadfast, and the truth of his word is unmovable, for it has been tried and tested, therefore, he has promised that he will never leave us nor forsake us. Often time, we will feel alone in this world when everything around us seems to be falling apart, and we see no end in sight, but God will always provide us with a way of escape, for he makes it his priority to help us to live in peace.

**Proverbs 16: 9,....**a mans heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps....

On our own, we may try to plan every aspect of our life, but God is the one who ultimately decides what will take place. Now, this does not mean that it is wrong to make plans, but preparation apart from the obedience of God's word, and the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit is preparation that is not worthy of the calling to which we have been called in God. There are many lessons that we as Gods children must learn, and it often takes a lifetime of many challenges so that we might use these challenges to strengthen our relationship with God. We live in a day when our time is at hand, and even though we have the freedom of choice to make our own plans, we are assured through the spirit of God, that he will direct us into the pathway that is best for us.

**Luke 12: 25 – 28,....**which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?...if ye then be not able to do that which is least, why take ye though for the rest?...consider the lilies how they grow, they toil not, they spin not....if then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, o ye of little faith?....

Anxiety and worry will not lengthen your life, but yet we spend most of our life wallowing in it, for it is not God's plan and purpose for our life, that determines our life span. Therefore, we should not treat life carelessly. What if, should not be a negative action in our life, but it should be a positive reaction, one that gives us understanding, so that we might see the opportunity that God has in store for us in every situation. Yes, what if, can distract us from what is truly important in our life, and tomorrow is not a given, it may never come, therefore, God, through His word, encourages us to live for Him in the present moment of time which He has provided for us. If we focus upon God, and trust in Him, then the highest priority in our life will be to live, waiting, watching, and seeking ever unto the coming of the kingdom of God. Remember, Christ taught His disciples this prayer:

**Matthew 6: 10,....**thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven....

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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