

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

9.8.2024

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.

Daniels Friends Refuse to Bow

Daniel 3: 1, 8 – 18

Christ came into the world with the mission or responsibility from the Father to set captive people free from the slavery of sin, and once free, leave mankind in a position where we will not have to become bound by spiritual chains. So, what is the one thing that Satan knows will cause us to fall prey to the deception of the world, it is the philosophy of man, and everyone seems to have a philosophy that they want to share. Now, these theories, or deep theological thoughts that man comes up with is nothing more than worldly deception that is being used as condemning and confusing principals that are based upon Gods word but go against the truth of Gods word. This will cause us to form basic assumptions in our minds, which, if we are not careful, will bring about conclusions that will go against the simplicity of the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Therefore, this trickery, if we allow it will put us at odds against the teachings of the promises and commandments of Christ.

Colossians 2: 8,....beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ....

As believers, it is our responsibility to focus on teaching the truth of Gods word rather than spending all of our time outlining the various philosophies of worldly tradition that are based upon wild imaginations and convincing arguments that come from a viewpoint of a fallen, sinful world. We must be far more concerned with establishing the church in the sound doctrine of the word of God so that the body of Christ might continue to grow in faith and spiritual maturity. The only defense against the enticing, convincing arguments of the world is to know God through the suffering of our relationship with Christ, which is laid out for our instruction in the word of God. To prevent ourselves from being deceived, we must come to the secure understanding that the undistorted truth is found only in the word of God. Every one of us is in danger of falling prey to false teachings, and being led astray by enticing philosophies, for these philosophies of the world are very dangerous and deceptive, and can easily take a person captive, for they mix the word of God with worldly wisdom and present it as an acceptable doctrine as a compromise to the situations and circumstance that they we are going through in our lives. This happens when we search for something outside of Christ. The good news is that if we maintain a strong relationship with God through the suffering of Christ and his word, we will never be enticed away from the truth that is contained in the word of God for our learning.

Daniel 3: 1, 8 - 11,....Nebuchadnezzar....the king made an image of Gold....at that time certain Chaldeans came and accused the Jews....Thou, O king, hast made a decree that every man that shall hear....shall fall down and worship the golden image....whoso falleth not down....he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace....

Worldliness, no matter in what shape or form, culture or religion, will always oppose Godliness, and with this opposition comes persecution and suffering. Mankind's claims that are invented are never true, and since they are never true, they are malicious and slanderous, and their intent is not honorable. Loyalty through submission sadly is something that most people believe is not within the realm of their religious convictions, for they are following after the manmade traditional rules, and regulations, and guidelines, that have been passed down from generation to generation. Those that are in Christ come to him by faith believing in that which he has done for us through sacrificing himself on the cross to pay our sin debt, so that through his resurrection we might be clothed with his righteousness, for freely he gave and freely we receive.

John 3: 16,....for God so loved the world he gave....

Matthew 10: 8,....freely ye have received, freely give....

Titus 2: 11 - 12,....for the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men....teaching us that, denying ungodliness, and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world....

God's grace is that which helps believers in Christ to reject our sinful desires and ungodly living, for his grace trains us and teaches us to avoid traditional behavioral characteristics that are sinful. This means living with self-control and morality in godliness, this specifically is living a disciplined life in obedience to the truth of God's word. This means avoiding the attitude of a lazy, self-righteous, self-focused lifestyle and following after, and pursuing the sound doctrine of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 3: 12 – 18,....there are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of....Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, these....have not regarded thee....Nebuchadnezzar in his rage....commanded....being....these men before the king....now if ye be ready....and worship the image....well....but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast....into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, and who is that God that shall deliver you....our God....is able to deliver us....but if not, be it known....that we will not serve thy Gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up....

As believers, we must choose to be positive in our faith in Christ. Therefore, we know that God is able to deliver us, and that he will do just that. 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, but because of our 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. Every day in our life we will 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 might 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 man's 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. There are many lessons that we as God's children must learn, and it often takes a lifetime of 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. 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.

Psalms 34: 7,....the righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of them all....

Hardships may test us, persecutions may come against us, and often time we will fail to be obedient to Gods word, but nothing will ever be able to separate those who are in Christ, those who are saved, through faith in Christ, separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Despite the many trials and tribulations that all who live Godly in Christ Jesus will inevitably have to face, there is nothing visible or invisible, that has the power and authority to break the union that we have to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28: 20,....teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world....

Obedience is expected of all those who claim to be disciples of Christ Jesus, therefore, obedience to Gods word must be the standard of practice of every Christian. As believers, we promise Christ our obedience to his word, and in return he promises to be with us always, which means not just the whole of every day, but it also extends to all eternity. For it is his Holy Spirit that guarantees our salvation, leads us into all righteousness, reminds us of what is true, and gives unto us Godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We now have the assurance that God is in control and this promise sustains us as we seek to make disciples and live as representatives of God no matter what difficulties may come our way.

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/>

