

Mt. Lebanon Church

Teaching Ministry

12.8.2024

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.

According To His Purpose

Romans 8: 28

All of mankind has been called according to the purpose of the one true God who has created us. So what is this purpose? What I can tell you is that this purpose is meant to shape who we are, and what we do. But how can this be? First, it must start with, and include Gods saving grace, which comes by faith believing in Christ work on the cross, and Gods confirmation all of his work through the glorious resurrection of his Son, Christ Jesus. But wait, there is much more, for once we have been saved by grace, our lives have now taken on the eternal purpose of God, which means that, now as being a part of the family of God, we are working together in the body of Christ to restore unto God, all things, in unity with Christ. This means that all things that happen unto us as believers in our life in Christ happens in such a way that it may serve to our good and to God's glory. Therefore, our hope as a believer is not that we might escape the distress and sufferings that come through various happenings in our lives, but that God will make each one of these happenings an instrument of his mercy and his grace, so that his love might abound more and more unto the day of Christ.

Philippians 1: 9 – 12,....this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement, that ye may approve all things that are excellent, that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Christ Jesus, unto the glory and praise of God....

God would have us as believers, to grow in our faith, to grow in our knowledge, to grow in the discernment of his word, and to grow in our spiritual maturity, so that by his love, we might outwardly display the inner workings of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us, so that we might be mindful of the needs of others. Only through our new life in Christ, which is enabled by the spirit of God, can we live a life of godly service that is sincere and blameless before Christ. Only as we abide in Christ, and he in us, can we live as God has intended for all of his children to live, and that is in total dependence upon him, which is a life that is good, and excellent, a life that is according to his purpose, a life that is holy before God.

Romans 8: 28,....and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose....

In the word of God, we look at a promise that is very popular among all of humanity, but sadly though, it is very often misapplied, for there are stipulations that come with the promise that allows all things to work together for good, and the first stipulation is, it is to them that love God. Now, many people might say that they love God, therefore, the promise should apply unto them, but these are those who profess God but have never accepted his saving grace by faith believing in his Son, Christ Jesus.

Titus 1: 16,....they profess that they know God, but in works they deny him, being abominable (obnoxious), and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate....(immoral)

No matter what we might be feeling on any given day of our life, to truly love God means that we are living in Christ, called to fulfill God purpose in our life. By not accepting the saving grace that God so freely gives unto us through his Son Christ, it means that the expression of our love for God is but a mere profession of a faith that has rejected the opportunity to take advantage of the promises of God. So, for the believer, all things will work together for good, but remember that all things will also include those circumstances when we are experiencing pain and suffering in our life. All things working together means that it is God working through all things in our life to a specific end, and in him that end will always be good. Now, good does not always mean painless and without suffering, for Gods ultimate reality of good speaks of those things which have eternal value, not those things of worldly success. Therefore, we find comfort in knowing that nothing in our life of waiting and suffering will be wasted, for every purpose of God is meaningful to our life in Christ, even if it does not take away the pain and suffering of our life now.

Ephesians 3: 20,....now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us....

Often time, as believers, we worry about what is happening unto us, and this is because we do not know what is best for us. But God knows the future, and his desires will be accomplished, for even when things seem chaotic and out of control, God is still in control. As believers, we are assured that nothing can ever separate us from Gods love, for his love is everlasting, and it is for this reason that we are to make the decision to make Gods will, our own will, so that we might continue to put our complete faith and trust in him. Gods means for accomplishing his will in our life comes by his strength, through the power of his Holy Spirit, and not by our own human strength.

Matthew 26: 41,....watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak....

Just as he did with his disciples, Christ, through his word, encourages us as believers to watch and pray, for temptation is always knocking at the door. Now, Christ acknowledges that our spirit is willing to do that which is right and pleasing unto God, for our spirit is the spirit of God which indwells within us. But sadly, the choices that we make in the flesh are the problem, because the flesh seeks after the lustful desires of the world. Now, to be tempted in the flesh is not a sin, but when we fall prey to that temptation of our own choice, it is then that we sin.

James 1: 14 – 15,....every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin....

Now, as believers, we have been freed from the slavery to sin, but because of our inherited nature, we have not lost the desire, or the taste for sin. Therefore, we are warned not to use our newfound freedom in Christ as an opportunity to selfishly serve the flesh by only doing what we feel is pleasurable in our life. Just because our eternal destination is a life with Christ, this does not give unto us the right to live in disobedience to the truth of Gods word.

Galatians 5: 13,....brethren, you have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh....

Ephesians 1: 11,....in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will....

Whether or not we live according to Gods purpose is all about where we place our focus. If we focus upon ourselves, we are really only seeking our own glory, but as a result of our salvation, by our faith in Christ, the focus of our life is all about what he did for us through his work on the cross, according to his purpose. To know Gods purpose means to know who we are and what we are doing in our life in Christ, with the determination to accomplish what he has purposed for us to do.

2 Timothy 1: 9,....who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to his purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began....

We are not saved because of our goodness or achievements, we are not redeemed because of anything that we have done, and we are not adopted into the family of God on our own merit, but it is all according to his purpose. We are called to be holy; we are called to be spiritually mature; we are called to be set apart unto God, and we are called to live a godly life, one that is pleasing unto him. This is Gods will and purpose for all of mankind, for this was his plan for us before the beginning of time.

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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