

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.3.2024

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.

Mans Desire for Eternal Life

John 17: 3

Living forever is something that mankind has desired and pursued after since the beginning of time, and the reasoning for which mankind seeks after this immortality has always remained the same, and that is because mankind seeks immortality in the world, which has nothing to do with quality of life, but it has everything to do with worldly wisdom and knowledge, for we feel that with this worldly wisdom and knowledge comes material wealth and great power.

Genesis 3: 4 – 5,....the serpent said unto the woman....for God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil....

Satan's goal has and always will be to convince mankind to disobey God, and he reveals this with the promise of knowing all things. Satan would have us to believe that God does not want us to experience true power, which comes from having the knowledge of fully understanding all things. For this reason, his deception brings about doubt and distrust, which comes through worldly inspired philosophies that distort the truth of God's word by promoting sinfulness and proclaiming it to be good. Instead of allowing ourselves to be drawn into a conversation of worldly deception and lies, as believers, we should stay focused on the true knowledge of God and his word.

James 4: 7,....submit yourselves therefore to God....resist the devil and he will flee from you....

Now, does this mean that eternal life is living forever, sure it does, but that is not what eternal life is all about. Everyone is going to live forever, either in heaven or in hell. But, for the believer, let us understand that everlasting life is an eternal blessing that we possess now in our life in Christ.

John 4: 14,....whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water spring up into everlasting life....

Many people, including those believers who have yet to begin a life of spiritual maturity, mistakenly think that the only goal of salvation is to provide forgiveness of sin so that we might avoid hell, but salvation is so much more than this, for if this is the way which we believe, then we are missing out on the blessings of our eternal life in Christ, for our eternal life is knowing God.

John 17: 3,....and this is eternal life, that they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent....

Yes, there are many who believe by faith that Christ died to pay their sin debt, and that he was resurrected to ensure that sin would no longer need to be a burden on our life, but even with this, often time, we still do not have a personal relationship with God. Our relationship with God is not something that is reserved, only to begin when we get to heaven, for we should not be waiting on heaven just so we can start living our eternal life with God, that would be missing the whole point of our salvation. True eternal life begins with our personal relationship with God, through his Son Christ Jesus.

1 John 5: 11 – 12,....this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son....he that hath the Son hath life....

Eternal life begins with our transformed life as a believer, for at the time of our conversation we received the permanent presence of Gods Holy Spirit within us.

Romans 8: 15,....ye have not received the bondage again to fear, but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father....

Eternal life, is a free gift from God to all who will believe on his Son Christ, it is not a reward, or a compensation for our work or merit. Eternal life is not just from God, it is in God.

Mankind will search in many places and by many ways for eternal life, but it can never be found in a worldly attempt to attain perfection, for it can only be found by Gods declared way, which is those who believe Gods witness of his Son Christ, and believe that his witness comes by grace, through faith, in his finished work on the cross, then these are those who have his resurrected eternal life within. Those who do not believe, and have rejected Christ have already condemned themselves.

John 3: 36,....he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth in him....

There are only two options for immortality and eternal life. Those who trust in Christ by faith will find eternal life with God, and those who do not put their faith and trust in him will face the judgement of God and find themselves eternally in hell. No one will be exempted, for all mankind will find immortality through the choices which we make. Now, let us never forget that just because some believe in the existence of God and Christ, this does not result in eternal life. Eternal life is only received by faith believing that Christ came into the world, that he faced a cruel death on the cross, but he received a glorious resurrection, so that when we were yet sinners, we might receive the glorious free gift of Gods plan of salvation. For this reason, God has given unto us the power and authority of his Son Christ, who bestows everlasting life upon all who put their faith and trust in him for their salvation.

John 5: 24,....he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life....

Those who put their faith and trust in Christ have eternal life with God, and this eternal life is not something that we have to wait to get to heaven to experience, for our relationship with God began the moment that we started our new life in Christ. Our faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the word of God.

Psalms 10: 17,....so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God....

The more that we study, meditate, and receive the gospel of the word of God, the more that it becomes a part of us, and the more that it becomes a part of us, the more that we will put our faith and trust in it, and it is then that we will begin to experience our eternal life with God, a life that includes the riches both of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God, which is a life that many people strive for in the world, but will never truly find it, for it can only come from God himself.

Romans 11: 33 – 36,....O the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God....how unsearchable are his judgements, and his ways past finding out....for who hath known the mind of the Lord....or who hath first given to him....for of him, and through him, and to him, are all things to whom be glory forever, amen....

Mankind's desire for eternal life will one day become a reality, but for many, the reality will not be a desirable one, but it will be one that is unchangeable. True immortality and eternal life can only come from God, which we can experience now in our life in Christ, if we will only desire to do so. For the believer, if we will humbly, and fervently seek after the riches of our relationship with God, we will find out that his wisdom is unsurpassed, his judgements are righteous, his knowledge is unsearchable, his strength is invincible, and his love is never ending. God willingly makes known his ways to those, who have by faith believed in him through his beloved Son Christ Jesus, for by his grace we have the mind of Christ.

Proverbs 2: 1 – 6,....my son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee....incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding....if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding....if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures....then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God....for God giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding....

Like Eve, we all desire for our eyes to be opened, so that we might have the wisdom and knowledge of God, but unlike Eve our desire must be that of spiritual value and not of worldly wealth and fame. Yes, our desire for eternal life must begin and end with wisdom and knowledge, but true knowledge only comes from God. We must learn to put God first in our life, so that we are not merely trying to gain knowledge for the sake of immortal living, but we are to acquire the wisdom and knowledge that glorifies God, and it is then that we will fully understand what it means to experience our desire for eternal life.

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

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