

Mt. Lebanon Church

Teaching Ministry

6.22.2025

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. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Guarding Against Worldly Covetous

Psalm 73: 1 – 3, 12 – 13, 16 – 18, 21 – 26

Let's start with:

Exodus 20:17,....thou shalt not covet thy neighbors house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife....nor anything that is thy neighbors....

Often time, as Christians, it is very difficult for us to understand why those who do not believe in the Lord can have such great prosperity, especially while those that do believe to be sincere in the Lord are fallen upon hard times. When this happens, seeing worldliness prosper while godliness suffers, if we allow it, will hinder our faith in God. As we put our trust in God, he will show unto us that unrepentant worldliness will receive Gods wrath and judgement while godliness will have eternal hope in the Lord. As believers, we must put our trust in God, for it is God who is our strength. We can rest assured that our prosperity lies within our faith in Christ and in our spiritual maturity. We must look past the present conditions of the prosperity of the world to a far greater inheritance that we have in Christ Jesus. Temptation, if we allow it to will deceive us into believing that the worldly things which we are in need of are things which we need to be happy. If we are not careful, we can easily become caught up in these worldly deceptions and begin to believe this ourselves. But, when we put our faith and trust in God, then will the things of this world begin to fade away, and we will then understand that it is God's love that will sustain us in our life in Christ.

James 1: 17,....every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning....

The characteristics of God will forever remain the same throughout time and into eternity. Through salvation, God will make us a new creation in his own righteousness, and he will give unto us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding through his written word. He also indwells us with his Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. He never fails us, nor forsakes us, and he bestows upon us his goodness and grace. It is because of his grace, that we receive what we do not deserve, and it is through his mercy that we do not receive what we do deserve. God is eternally unchanging, he never alters his characteristics, he never fails in his promises, and he never ceases in his goodness and love towards us.

For as he proclaimed of old:

Malachi 3: 6,....for I am the Lord, I change not....

So, if you will turn with me this morning to:

Let us see what the word of God teaches us about guarding against worldly covetous.

Psalms 73: 1 – 3,....truly God is good....even to such as are of a clean heart....but as for me....I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked....

Some of God's many attributes include love, joy, mercy, grace, and goodness. So, why is it, often time, that we question the goodness of God instead of affirming our faith in his goodness. God will send blessings to those who serve him and unto those who are completely committed unto him. To be completely committed to God means that when we experience crises of faith in our life, that we find the strength to admit it to God. These crises of faith take place as we begin to focus on the prosperity of the world. Focusing on worldly prosperity can cause us to falter into a state of mind where we begin to rely upon our own sense of direction that life is unfair and the world around us is unjust. This will cause us to question the goodness of God, and we began to ask ourselves why does the world prosper and our own faith is not being rewarded with the same kind of prosperity that others seem to have. In the world that we live in there will always be those who reject the commandments of God and still have material prosperity. But as believers, we must understand that God never promised material wealth to his children, but that he would supply our needs.

Psalms 24: 3 – 5,....who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath....a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul into vanity....he shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation....

The blessing of our salvation is greater than what we could ever expect, and it will come in ways that we never thought that it would come. Even though, at times, we do not feel that we deserve any kind of blessing from God, this does not mean that we should turn to feeling sorry for ourselves, thinking that others are receiving greater blessings, but we should strive to the best of our God-given ability to live according to his word.

Psalm 73: 12 – 13, 16 – 18,.... behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world, they increase in riches....I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence....when I thought to know this, it was too painful for me....until I went into....God, then understood I their end....thou castest them down into destruction....

Humanity and the desire for material wealth has been a hindrance from the very beginning. Do you remember what happened with Cain and Abel?

Genesis 4: 3,.... Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord....

To overcome such worldliness, we must begin to put things in their proper perspective according to the word of God. Through his word we will learn that serving God is not about worldly material prosperity. These are those things that are better left in the hands of God, because the more that we procrastinate over things, the more burdensome and troubled we become. Troubled people often choose to reject God instead of turning to him.

Luke 12: 15,.... take heed, and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth....

If we are not careful, through deception, it becomes very easy to take our eyes off that which is spiritual and focus upon the materialistic things of the world. Instead of pursuing after those things that are worldly, our eternal perspective, and our hope of eternal life with God, should be a far greater incentive for us to live a life that is well pleasing unto God. Those who guard against covetousness through living a spiritual life that is pleasing unto the Lord are laying up treasures for their life to come. How important is it to take care of our spiritual life, for our life does not consist in the abundance of our worldly possessions, but in our faith and spiritual maturity in God.

Matthew 6: 19 – 21,.... lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also....

Psalm 73: 21 – 26,....so foolish was I, and ignorant....nevertheless I am continually with thee....thou shalt guide me....and....receive me to glory....whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee....God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever....

Being envious of the wickedness of the world is a waste of our God given spiritual gifts and talents. Following our own instincts in the world will keep us from the ability to discern between those things that are and are not pleasing unto God. As we begin to understand that God has not forsaken us, then will we realize that he has been with us the whole time. Worldliness will lead us astray, but God will provide us direction. As we consider our needs for our life here, and our eternal life, we will see that it is God that is all that we need. Putting God first in our life assures us that we will lack no good thing. Gods purpose is not just to teach us to trust in him, but also to equip us with the ability to be an example to others.

Matthew 6: 33,....but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you....

There is no other way to provide for our own temporary needs and necessities but to rely upon the Lord. God, through his grace and mercy, invites us to live a worry-free life, without anxieties, but only when we trust in him for our salvation. As we trust in God to fulfill his promises, we will remember that he is able to do far more beyond all that we ask, and we know this as we come to seek him first and make him the main focus of our everyday life, and in doing so we will know how to guard our life against worldly covetous.

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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