

# *Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church*

Sunday School Lesson

3.1.2026

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.

The Dross of Unrighteousness

## **Ezekiel 22: 17 - 31**

Sin in our life as a believer is unrighteous, and for this reason God cannot look upon our evil ways, for he will not tolerate our wrongdoing. Therefore, because of his holy nature, it is impossible for him to approve of us, which makes us unprofitable in our service unto him. We cannot achieve righteousness on our own, nor can we glorify God through our own works. Righteousness is not earned, but it is received by grace, through faith in Christ, who is the justifier of those who believe upon him. Unrighteousness makes us incapable of earning Gods favor, but he demonstrates his love toward us, in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, if we are willing to confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from our unrighteousness, ( 1 John 1: 9 ) restoring us from a state of spiritual worthlessness back into a much more meaningful relationship with him, ( Hebrews 11: 6 ) for without faith it is impossible to please him.

**Isaiah 59: 2,....**your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear....

As believers, persistent and willing sinfulness will break our spiritual fellowship with God. This separation, which hinders our time of communication and meditation with God, is caused by our disobedience, and acts as a wall of separation between us and God. This is not due to a lack of faithfulness on his part, but it is due to a lack of righteousness on our part. ( 2 Corinthians 13: 5 ) Therefore, we must examine ourselves, repent, and turn back to God, so that the separation between us and God, which is caused by sin, might be repaired.

**2 Corinthians 7: 1,....**having therefore these promises....let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God....

As believers, let us actively pursue righteousness by allowing ourselves to be motivated by the promises and commandments of Gods word. This motivation comes from our love for him, desiring to glorify him with our life. Therefore, let us strive to remove everything in our life that is corrupt and displeasing unto God, both outwardly and inwardly, living a life that is set apart for his glory.

**Ezekiel 22: 17 – 22,....**the word of the Lord came, saying....Son of man....Israel is to me become dross....therefore....because ye are all become dross....therefore, I will gather you....to blow the fire upon it, to melt it....I will gather you....I will leave you there, and melt you....I will gather you, and blow upon you....the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst....and ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you....

As believers, obedience is the key to our relationship with God, but in order to become obedient, we must first learn to listen unto him through the commandments and the promises of his word. Listening, and actively pursuing after his instruction will keep us from the transgressions that bring about spiritual unrest in our life, for we know that God will not tolerate our continued unrighteous behavior, and such practices will lead to the wrath and condemnation of God. Now, because God does not tolerate sin, there comes a necessity for divine purification, a refining process, a time of gathering together, a time to separate, and a time to restore, a process that is necessary to produce a refined, consecrated people, whose lives reflect Gods holiness. This is a spiritually painful process, but one that is necessary, for it separates the ( silver ) righteous from the ( dross ) wicked, which forces mankind to make a choice between godly repentance and worldly destruction.

**1 Corinthians 3: 11 – 13**,....other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ....if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble....every man's work shall be made manifest....it shall be revealed by fire....the fire shall try every mans work of what sort it is....

The quality of a man's life, and the work of the ministry will be tested to determine its eternal value. As believers, we are either using high quality, spiritually valuable, enduring materials from Gods word, or we are living according to the temporary, shallow, superficial efforts of the world, those things which lack lasting spiritual value, for these efforts are worthless. Yes, salvation comes by the grace of God, through our faith in Christ Jesus, ( James 2: 17 ) but once we are saved it is our works that prove our faith.

**Ezekiel 22: 23 – 24**,....the word of the Lord came....saying....thou art....not cleansed....

As believers, we are warned of immoral and spiritual corruption, which symbolizes a lack of inner cleansing, and has removed the anticipation of God divine favor in our lives. ( Matthew 7: 15 ) Therefore, predators have risen up within the body of Christ, wolves in sheep's clothing, violating the word of God, by telling lies of deception, rather than giving warnings of eternal damnation. So, God looks for those who will stand firm, ( Matthew 22: 14 ) but finds few that are willing to lead the way to repentance. Therefore, God gathers his people into judgement, to burn away the impurities of sinful behavior, to bring a time of accountability, where sin is met with his wrath and destruction, which is upheld by the word of truth, revealing the sovereignty and holiness of God.

**Ezekiel 22: 25 – 31**,....conspiracy of....prophets....ravens the prey....devoured souls....violated....law....profaned....holy things....put no difference between....holy and profane....like wolves ravens the prey....vanity, and divining lies....saying, thus saith the lord....when the Lord hath not spoken....used oppression....wrongfully....I sought for a man among them....that I should not destroy....but I found none....I poured out mine indignation....I have consumed them....their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord....

Now, these verses within Gods word, portray five different worldly characteristics that hold in contempt those who claim to speak the truth, but violate the promise and commandments that are given unto the believer to love God and one another. For this reason, God will bring judgement against those who teach and preach these lies of deception.

The first deceptive worldly characteristic we want to look at is one that promotes the virtue of divine righteousness, but only to use it for self-centered, self-seeking, prideful, worldly desires.

**Titus 1: 16,....**the profess to know God, but in works deny him, being....disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate....

Secondly, those who claim to represent the body of Christ, but violating the instruction of his word, not living as an example that distinguishes between that which is pleasing unto God and that which is of the world, failing to instruct others in the fear of the Lord.

**Revelation 3: 15 – 16,....**I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot....so then because they are lukewarm....I will spue thee out of my mouth....

Third, those who are as wolves in sheep's clothing seeking to destroy the unity within the body of Christ for personal gain.

**2 Peter 3: 3 – 4,....**knowing this first....there shall come....scoffers, walking after their own lusts....saying, where is the promise of his coming, for....all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation....

Fourth, those who are false prophets set on deceiving the church with a message of peace without the truth of a solid foundation, speaking the name of God, but proclaiming a message that does not come from God.

**Jeremiah 23: 16,....**thus saith the Lord....hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophecy unto you: they make you vain, they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord....

And the fifth worldly characteristic mentioned that will bring Gods judgement comes to those who will take advantage of the believer whose spiritual growth and maturity have yet to develop, influencing and leading by an unfavorable example, those who have a willing desire to learn, but are still helpless, not yet having a greater wisdom, knowledge, or understanding of God's word.

**Matthew 18: 6,....**whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea....

The dross of unrighteousness describes Gods plan of purifying his faithful people through trials and tribulations, which transforms us into a deeper relationship with him. So, remember, our suffering during this time is not abandonment, but it is a refining process that is designed to remove the spiritual impurities in our life, preparing us as believers for his righteousness, so that we might glorify him.

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://hollowolfarm.com/>