

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

RESURRECTION HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

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What Must I Do?

Mark 10:17-31

In this natural world wealth is a passport to access. What about in the spiritual realm? Wealth is often viewed as an indicator of the blessings of God, but is this always the case? This man's wealth in Mark 10, appears to be a barrier for Him. He looks to be an ideal candidate, yet he goes away sad because he refuses to give up his possessions to follow Jesus.

Nothing, says Jesus, can come between a follower of Jesus and His requirement of Lordship and Kingship in our lives. We cannot know Him as Lord without obeying Him. This is Jesus' message. Repent and believe the Gospel, the message of the Kingdom. The way into the Kingdom is to come out of this fallen world system and its priorities.

To save our lives, we are to lose them for the sake of the Gospel. To lose is to find. The way into greatness is through humility and service. We must come in humility, mustn't we?

We can be surrounded by religious practices, yet be untouched by the Gospel message. This appears to somewhat be the case for this young man. For him, it was not about, "I am so lost, there is no hope for me." But for him, as well as for many today, it's about, "Well, I'm a good person, surely, I don't need to take such extreme measures. I have only to do a little something to tweak my relationship with God."

Salvation is not about our ability to just "do" something. It is about God's ability to save. This man says: "I've been keeping the commandments." The Apostle Paul said that He too, according to the Law, was perfect. This

young man in Mark 10, was lost in his self-righteousness.

To enter eternal life, we must know who God is, who Christ is, who we are, and we must know the power of God's Spirit, as we yield to God through the words of Jesus.

In many of today's churches, this young man would likely qualify as a deacon. But we see him go away sad. Usually, people would go away joyful or mad at Jesus. He appears to be the only one who departs in sadness following an encounter with Jesus. To be saved, we must first recognize our lostness and our inability to procure our own salvation.

As with the woman at the well in John 4, Jesus now puts His finger on the problem, the spot. Why? So that freedom may come, because God and His Son love you. Jesus looks at him lovingly.

Why doesn't he do what Jesus said? He made a choice. Are we willing to make the necessary sacrifices to follow Jesus? Well, this man wasn't. Did the Lord have His finger on a particular spot or spots in our lives when we first came to Him? Does He now have His finger on something in our life that we need to bring to Him? We must do business with God through the words of His Son, if we would enter eternal life.

In verse 24, the disciples are amazed. Then in verse 26, they are exceedingly astonished as they ask: "Who can be saved?" Jesus tells them that salvation is an act of God on our behalf. Nothing is impossible with God!

Sin has permeated our world and our lives. Romans 8:7-9 tells us: "The sinful mind is at enmity with God." This young man's moral rectitude had blinded him to the fact that he was guilty of having a god before God, and that he was guilty of idolatry and covetousness. Covetousness is at the root of all sin.

It's not about external righteousness but inward transformation. Fallen humanity needs the new heart that was prophesied by the Prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah. We all need hearts that beat after God, out of love for God and His Son.

We must come to God through His Son in humility, in repentance, believing, relinquishing our sin and wills, so that we may receive His gift of life! Once we do, our horizons expand into the vastness of God's loving will.

Pastor Michael

T.R.U.S.T.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

Trust is a very important part of our lives. Trust is what makes our marriages and our families strong. Trust is a vital part of our relationship with God and His Son. Proverbs 3:5 reminds us to trust God and not to trust in our *“own understanding”*.

Since we are not to trust in our own understanding, then what are we to trust? Our faith and trust should be in God alone. Let’s look at an acrostic for the word trust and see how and where we are to place our trust.

Truth-The truth of God’s Word: We can confidently place our trust in the truthfulness of God’s Word. We know that God’s Word is trustworthy because of who God is. The Scriptures tell us that God cannot lie. (Numbers 23:18, Hebrews 6:18)

Throughout the Scriptures, we read of the truthfulness of God’s Word. Psalm 119:160 tells us *“The entirety of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”* In John 17:17, Jesus prays for His disciples and for us to be sanctified in truth because God’s *“Word is truth.”* 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *“All Scripture is inspired by God.”*

We can trust that what God says in His Word about Himself, about His Son, and about us is the truth. Psalms 9:10 reminds us that God will not *“forsake”* or abandon those who *“seek”* Him and because we know God, we can trust Him.

Rest-Rest in God’s Promises: Since we know that God’s Word is true, we can rest in His promises. We can trust that we can have the hope of eternal life, which God promises, because we have excepted the precious gift of salvation through Jesus, His only begotten Son (Titus 1:2). Proverbs 3:6 tells us that as we *“acknowledge”* God in all of our ways, *“He will make (our) paths straight.”*

We are also told, in Jeremiah 29:11, that God has *“plans”* for our lives that are good, and these plans will give us *“hope and a future”*. Philippians 4:19 reminds us that *“God will meet all (our) needs according to the*

riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” In Isaiah 12:2, we see that because God is our salvation, our strength

and our defense, we can trust Him, and we don’t have to walk in fear.

Unload-Unload Your Burdens: We were never meant to carry burdens. If we choose to carry them, in essence, we are saying that we do not trust God enough to give them to Him. God wants to help us with our burdens. He will take them upon Himself, so that we can be free. Psalm 55:23, says *“Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you, He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.”* As we cast our burdens upon God, He will sustain us and strengthen us so that with Him, we can face anything that comes at us in this life.

Seek-Seek God’s Will: As we place our trust in God, we can see His Will for our lives. His Will for us is for good and not harm and He will work all things for the good, for those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose (Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28).

God’s Will is for us to set ourselves apart from this world and it’s fallen priorities, as this proves that God’s Will *“is good, acceptable, and perfect”* (Romans 12:2). We can trust that this is for our best. As we separate ourselves, we will be less tempted to follow the world and will be more focused on the things of God.

Thankful-Thankful for God’s Faithfulness: We can trust that God is always faithful, even when we are not. He is ever present, waiting for us to return to Him. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, *“God is a faithful God who does no wrong; upright and just is He.”* We can daily thank God for His faithfulness to us and to His Word.

Psalms 28:7 tells us that God is our strength, shield and help. The psalmist says, *“My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him”*. As we come before God thanking Him for His loving faithfulness to us, our hearts will leap for joy. We can sing songs of thanksgiving and praise to Him.

Let us place our trust in God, the truthfulness of God’s Word, and the promises that He gave us as we seek His Will, giving Him our burdens and thanking Him for His faithfulness to us. As we walk daily trusting God, our hearts will overflow with His peace and joy.

Blessings,

Charity