**Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Bible Study**

**Practically Living The Christian Life**

Series Text: Proverbs 3:1-12

“My son, forget not my law; ***but let thine heart*** keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; ***write them upon the table of thine heart***: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. ***Trust in the Lord with all thine heart****;* and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

**Lesson 2: Trusting In The Lord With All Your Heart**

**Lesson Text: Proverbs 3:3c**

Introduction:

Our series scripture places a great deal of emphasis on the heart. We are told in **Proverbs 24:3** “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Our actions follow our hearts. As we explore how to practically live the Christian Life, we must do so considering what it really means to be a Christian “from the heart”.

There are two actions reflected in the text for practicing Christianity from the heart. They are “Allowing and Applying”.

* “**Allowing**” refers to accepting God’s directives as the directives for your existence. It is the shrouding of yourself in the will and the ways that are pleasing to God. It is total acceptance of God’s Principles and practices.
* “**Applying** refers to “actions based on what you allow”. It is doing in accordance with what you believe.

That’s what the words “Write them on the tablet of your heart”means.

**Being a Christian vs. Professing Christianity.**

 Consider this illustration:

*A  crowd  of  spectators  was  watching  a  famous  tightrope  walker  perform  at  Niagara  Falls.  First  the  performer  successfully  walked  across  the  raging  falls  on  his  tightrope.  Then  he  walked  across  the  falls  pushing  a  wheelbarrow  before  him.  Next  he  pushed  his  wheelbarrow  with  a  150  lb.  in  it.  Just  then  a  fire  broke  out  in  the  woods  behind  the  spectators.  The  flames  forced  them  forward  to  the  edge  of  the  falls.  The  tightrope  walker  urged  them,  “Save  yourselves  by  trusting  me.  Each  one  of  you,  one  by  one,  get  into  my  wheelbarrow  and  I’ll  carry  you  across  the  falls  to  safety.*

* A  professing  spectator  would  be  one  who  merely  affirms  his  belief  that  the  tight rope  walker  is  able  to  perform  the  feat  of  successfully  carrying  a  man  across  the  falls.
* A  practicing  believer  is  one  who  actually  climbs  into  the  wheelbarrow  and  trusts  the  tightrope  walker  to  carry  him  to  safety.

The  same  is  true  with  regard  to  the  Lord  Jesus  Christ, we  must  be  practicing  believers, entrusting  our  life  and  soul  to  the  Savior,  and  doing  so  daily  in  the  everyday  affairs  of  life.

**Being a  practicing  believer   really means committing  yourself  to  Christ  and**  **His  Word.**

* We Must Accept  His  Word:  **Let’s Read John  6:68‐69**.
* We Must Act  upon  His  Word:  **Let’s Read John 2:5**
* We Must Interact  with  His  Word: **Lets Read 1  Thessalonians  2:13**.
  + Note:  the  present  active  participle  of  the  Greek  verb  ***pisteuw***,  “to  believe,”  indicates  an  active,  ongoing  faith  or  commitment.

**What are the effects of passive, halfhearted, and lethargic faith.**

**Let’s Read Mark 6:5-6 :**

1. **Limit the Mighty Work of the Divine, to minimal results.**
2. **Limited to Physical Results, through Personal Interaction with the Lord.**
3. **Subject to continuing education, on the Lord’s Power.**

**Being a  practicing  Christian,  is more than being a  practical  unbeliever.**

There  is  the  great  tendency  for  Us  to  depend  upon  our  own  understanding,  instead  of  depending  upon  the  Word  of  God.

* We tend  to  put our  complete  confidence in ourselves—our  own  reasoning,  feelings,  schemes,  plans,  impulses—rather  than  in  the  LORD  and  His  Word.  But  Scripture  warns us:
  + **Let’s Read Proverbs 14:12.**
  + **Let’s Read Isaiah 7:9**
  + **Now Lets’s Read 2 Chronicles 20:20b.**
* We also tend as professing  Christians  to  be  selective  in our trust  of  the  LORD.
  + We may  trust the Lord with  regard  to  the  great  issues  of  eternity,  but  not  with  the  issues  of  everyday  life.
  + We  may  trust the Lord with  regard  to  spiritual  things,  but  not  with  the  decisions  that  relate  to  the  temporal  things  of  this  present  world.
  + We  may  trust the Lord with  regard  to  religious  issues  of  life, but  not  with  regard  to “the  really  important  and  practical” issues.

**Being a  practicing  Christian means you have  discover  the  LORD  to  be  completely  trustworthy.**

* Let’s **Read Proverbs 3:6**
  + He (The Lord)will  direct  your  paths.
  + He  (The Lord) will  lead  you  in  the  way  that  is  good.
  + He (The Lord) will lead you into deeper fellowship with Him.
  + He (The Lord) will lead you into His everlasting kingdom.
* **Let’s** **Read and Consider Psalm 23:1-4**
  + No lack, peaceful rest, tranquil conditions, restored soul, righteous guidance, faith for threatening times. The Lords presence, guidance, and correction, are all results of trusting in the Lord.
* Consider  the  Apostle  Paul’s  testimony. **Let’s Read 2 Timothy 1:12.**
  + After  the  initial  act  of  faith,  the  act  of  entrusting  himself  body  and  soul  into  the  hands  of  the  Lord  Jesus  the  Savior,  Paul  has  come  to  know  by  experience  that  the  Lord  Jesus  is  completely  faithful  and  reliable.