God Will Equip You…

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 5th, 2018

Text: Hebrews 13:20-21

# Intro

1. Millions (if not more) dollars are spent each year on “self-help guides” by people seeking for meaning and completeness in life.
2. Human philosophy seeks to answer three questions apart from God’s word:
	1. Man’s origin: “Where did I come from?”
	2. Man’s purpose: “Why am I here?”
	3. Man’s destiny: “Where am I going?”
3. Ages ago Solomon sought to find a real purpose for life (the meaning of life)
	1. He experimented with those things that men pursue today in their efforts to find the meaning of life:
		1. Solomon tried to find life in the pursuits of pleasure.
		2. He sought a purpose for life in material pursuits.
		3. *Eccl 12:12:* He attempted to find life in acquisitions of knowledge about the world in which he lived.
	2. Solomon’s conclusion: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all” (NKJ: Eccl. 12:13-14).
4. God, Who created mankind in His image *(Gen. 1:26-27),* knows us and our desires more than we even know, and has provided the means to “equip” us to make us “complete” – Heb. 13:20-21
	1. “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”
	2. “Equip”: *G2675 katartizō [kat-ar-tid'-zo]: From G2596 and a derivative of G739;* to complete thoroughly, that is, repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust: - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore.
		1. Repair – *Mt. 4:21:* James & John were “mending” their nets.
		2. Complete – *Lk. 6:40:* A student, when “fully trained” will be like their teacher! (KJV: “perfect”/NKJ: “perfectly trained”)
		3. Prepare – *Heb. 11:3:* The worlds were “prepared” by the word of God.
	3. Quote from Donna Krech (Motivational Speaker), “God doesn’t call the equipped. He equips the called.” *Fits what Heb. 13:20-21 & Eph. 4:12 teach!* (<https://www.facebook.com/DonnaKrech/photos/a.10150332658179859.396255.98316914858/10152016459789859/?type=3&theater>)
5. God will equip you…

# …Through His Word

1. II Tim. 3:14-17
	1. The word of God provides wisdom that can lead to salvation through faith in Jesus, and they are “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (NKJ).
2. II Pet. 1:2-4
	1. The word of God provides mankind with the knowledge of “God and of Jesus our Lord” and “has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness” and through His word God has “granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”
		1. While human wisdom and self-help books may have a place in our lives either for career guidance, confidence, or entertainment, God’s word contains “everything” for “life and godliness!”
		2. *Titus 2:11-14:* Saints are to live above reproach in a wicked and perverse world and be lights, living sensibly, righteously, and godly. We don’t need human books to tell us how to do that! God’s word provides all the answers!
3. II Pet. 1:5-11
	1. God’s word helps us prepare for the Judgment Day and the reward of Heaven by providing us with the “Christian virtues” as they are called that we are to add to our character!
		1. Virtue (NKJ)/Moral excellence (NAS): The determination to do right.
		2. Knowledge: Knowledge of the word of God – only source of right and wrong.
		3. Self-control: The application of the above knowledge in one’s life.
		4. Perseverance: Remaining steadfast to the Lord and His cause.
		5. Godliness: Being like God, as He would have you to be.
		6. Brotherly Kindness: Tender affection toward brethren in Christ.
		7. Love: Devotion to God, Christ, and your fellow man expressed in obedience.
	2. Peter says if we practice these things we “will never stumble” and “the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied” to us!
4. God equips us through His word!

# …Through Brethren

1. Mark 10:28-30
	1. Jesus promised His followers that no matter what their physical families do, for the one who loses everything for Christ, His disciples will gain spiritual family and eternal life!
2. I Cor. 1:10; II Cor. 13:11; Phil. 2:1-2
	1. Through our brethren (our spiritual family) and the church (the called out) we can attain true unity by being “made complete *(G2675)* in the same mind and in the same judgment” and being “like-minded.”
	2. Jesus prayed for unity of the brotherhood in *John 17:20-21* and it can be attained when we are “complete” by being of the “same mind,” “same judgment,” “rejoice,” are “comforted,” “live in peace,” and have the “same love,” united in spirit,” and “intent on one purpose.”
3. Gal. 6:1
	1. When a brother or sister sins, we are to “restore *(G2675 – Mt. 4:21: “mend”)* such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”
	2. Remember: “Love covers a multitude of sins” *(Prov. 10:12; Col. 3:12-14; I Pet. 4:8)*
4. God equips us through our brethren!

# …Through Trials & Persecutions

1. I Pet. 5:10
	1. “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect *(G2675),* confirm, strengthen and establish you.”
	2. Trials and suffering can “equip” or “perfect” us by “preparing” us for the hardships of this life and for the reward of Heaven in the life to come!
2. James 1:2-3, 12
	1. Trials produce endurance and endurance makes one “complete” (perfect).
	2. *Heb. 10:32-39:* Saints need endurance so they “are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”
	3. The one who endures and overcomes (perseveres through the suffering) will receive the crown of life *(James 1:12; II Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10; 21:7)*
3. Heb. 12:1-3
	1. When we feel the race is tough and full of obstacles we need to “fix our eyes on Jesus” Who “endured” the cross so that we don’t “grow weary and lose heart!”
4. God equips us through trials and sufferings!

# Conclusion

1. There is no other source we can turn to that can equip us for life so thoroughly! *(Jn. 17:17: God’s word is truth!)*
2. God can (through His word, our brethren and trials) equip us: to make us complete, to restore us, and prepare us for the world and for our future reward!
3. If you are not a Christian, you need to be to have the promises of Jesus! Repent and be baptized!
4. If a Christian with unrepented sin in your life, now is the time to repent and be renewed!
5. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!