

Living Waters Chapel
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

Pastor D. Dean Cover
September 28 & October 5, 2008

SERMON SERIES: *“Running on Empty: There’s Gotta be More to Life Than This!”*

SERMON TITLE: *“Everything Bad You Learned About God You May Have Learned in Church!” ~ Part 2*

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-19

THEME: Christianity is not based on rules and rituals but instead it’s based on an intimate relationship with God as your Loving Heavenly Father!

INTRODUCTION: The Bible is very clear God is love. And when that love touches you, you will discover there is nothing more powerful in the world. God’s love is more powerful than your failures, your sins, your disappointments, your dreams and even your fears. God knows that when you experience His great love, your life will be changed forever. That’s the power of His love for all who will receive His love.

I. YOU CAN’T LOVE GOD WHEN YOUR MOTIVATION IS FEAR (17-18)

- A. Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
- B. II Timothy 1:7
- C. “The fear of God is best understood as an awesome respect or reverence growing out of our understanding of the greatness and power of God. When we respect or revere God we will obey Him.”

D. To understand the fear of God is to connect two words: “reverence and obedience.”

E. Job 37:22-24

II. YOU CAN’T TRUST GOD UNTIL YOU KNOW HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU (16a)

- A. John 14:20 & John 15:15
- B. The relationship God wants is to be built on love and trust.

III. YOU CAN’T LIVE FOR GOD UNTIL YOU HAVE LEARNED TO TRUST HIM (16b)

- A. Suffering is often a sign that God is setting you free from something so you can follow and embrace Him more deeply.
- B. Peace is not the absence of problems but the presence of Jesus in our lives.
- C. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- D. This transformation process is not easy.

CONCLUSION:

We have a lot of questions along this journey. But what we really need is the confidence that our Heavenly Father knows all the things that will happen in our life and that He loves us enough to sort them all out for us. Each of us has all that we need today. But what we don’t like is the fact that we don’t yet have all that we need for the future. But today is all we’re promised. But when we can trust God’s love in each moment, then and only then will we know how to live free and to enjoy the life God has promised through His Son Jesus Christ. Learning to live by trusting God as our Father is the most difficult part of this journey. So never let mere appearances become your reality.