

What Really Matters?

- *Matthew 6:33*

- **What a tremendous Revival we had this week, and if you missed the Revival, you missed a blessing. Bro. Buddy addressed some tremendous topics that not only challenged our hearts, but I pray, allowed God to make some changes in our lives.**
 - When The Party's Over
 - What Was Jesus Thankful For?
 - The Blood Made The Difference
 - When Paul Began To Call Names
 - Shooting Our Arrows
 - A Nevertheless Christian
- **The theme of the Revival spoke to my heart on What Really Matters? I believe there are times in our life where we have to stop & prioritize what really matters in life. Priorities is a subject that is universal in its reach & often times difficult to maintain. Yet, some people instinctively know what their priorities are.**
 - The classified section of a newspaper contained this ad: "Farmer with 160 irrigated acres wants marriage-minded woman with tractor. When replying, please show picture of tractor."
- **It has been said that one of the most common sins among even those who claim to be children of God is the sin of misplaced priorities.**
- **What are your priorities in life? Have you ever spent much time thinking about what you should spend your time on? Most people really don't. They just go from day to day doing whatever they want and whatever they feel like doing, without ever really asking themselves what they should be doing and what matters most.**
 - The tragedy in that type of approach is this ... What if you go through your whole life and at the end of it, look back, and realize that you spent all your time, money and energy on things that were pointless and had no value or worth. How depressing would that be to realize that you had wasted your entire life on vain pursuits?
 - Here is the estimate of how a typical life span of 70 years is spent:

▪ Sleep.....	23 years.....	32.9%
▪ Work.....	16 years.....	22.8%
▪ TV.....	8 years.....	11.4%
▪ Eating.....	6 years.....	8.6%
▪ Travel.....	6 years.....	8.6%
▪ Leisure.....	4.5 years.....	6.5%
▪ Illness.....	4 years.....	5.7%
▪ Dressing.....	2 years.....	2.8%
▪ Things of God....	0.5 years.....	0.7%
▪ Total.....	70 years.....	100%
- **So what should you spend your life on? Well as is always the case, the Bible gives us many clear statements on what priorities to set for your life.**
 - David said in Psalm 27:4 – "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,"
 - Paul said in Philippians 3:13-14 – "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

- Solomon, the wisest man to have ever lived, said this in Ecclesiastes 12:13 – “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
- **There are a lot of statements in the Bible, but they all boil down to one thing. Here it is in black and white. Here is the bottom line on how to set priorities and how to live with purpose: Make eternal things priority.**
 - That does not mean that everything else is NOT important, what it does mean is that they should never take precedence over things of greater priority.
 - The television shows we watch. They won't last. The knowledge we have about cars and sports, it won't last. The wealth we accumulate in our 401(k) won't last.
- **The only things that matter are those that have eternal significance. Getting your name in the history books doesn't matter if you fail to get your name in the book of life in heaven. Getting wealth on this earth doesn't matter if you lose all reward in heaven.**
 - Jesus said this in Mark 8:36 – “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”
 - In our passage this morning, Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
 - What does He say your priority should be? To seek first the kingdom of God. To live with eternity in mind.
 - Paul said essentially the same thing in Colossians 3:2 – “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
- **What should our priorities be? At the end of our life, what are some things of prime importance & eternal significance?**

1. Kingdom of God - Salvation Is Our Highest Priority

- a. You say, “But Pastor, why is salvation such an important priority? Why should we be concerned about salvation?”
- b. The answer to that question is very simple this morning. When we take our last breath here on this earth (whenever that might be), that does not mean that we cease to exist nor is it just the end.
 - i. We will all live for eternity, and the scriptures are clear that there are 2 destinations that we will live for eternity, one is Heaven, the other Hell.
 - ii. Psalm 9:17 – “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”
 - iii. Luke 16:22-23 – “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”
- c. Folks, I want us to understand this morning that hell is a real place. We don't like to talk of hell, we don't even like to mention hell, but ignoring hell will never do away with its existence.
- d. But although hell is a real place, it's a place that was not created for us. God did not create you & me to go to a place called hell. That's why He sent His Son. God loved you so much that He sent His Only Son, the Sinless One, to give of His life for you & me.
 - i. Matthew 26:28 – “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
 - ii. I Peter 1:18-19 – “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

iii. Folks will often ask, “Why did God send my loved one to hell?” Church, listen to me this morning. According to the Word of God, God did everything He could to keep them from hell, He provided the ONLY sacrifice for their taking. And if they left this earth not knowing Christ, we certainly cannot blame God.

e. If you are here this morning & you have never asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart & forgive you of your sins, you MUST make salvation a priority in your life. When you stand before God after this life is over, that is the ONLY priority that will matter.

➤ **What should our priorities be? At the end of our life, what are some things of prime importance & eternal significance? What really matters? First of all, it’s the Kingdom of God, making sure we have accepted His free gift of salvation. But secondly ...**

2. His Righteousness

a. Placing God First

i. Matthew 6:24 – “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

ii. You see, I believe that its not just the unsaved that make little room for God, often times it is the very ones who have tasted of His amazing salvation.

iii. Part of seeking His righteousness is putting God above all others.

1. Matthew 19:20-22 – “The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”

2. Why do even Christians struggle in their relationship with God & serving God is a constant battle? Answer – because many times they have never put God first in their life.

b. Love God & Others

i. Love Embraces All Other Commandments

1. Romans 13:9-10 – “For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

2. I John 5:3 – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:”

3. That includes ...

a. “Thou shalt not steal /Thou shalt not kill”

4. But it also includes ...

a. “Thou shalt have no other Gods before me ...”

b. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image ...”

c. “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy ...”

ii. Share God’s Love

1. Matthew 22:37-40 – “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

- a. Everything else in the Old Testament that God required of believers hung on those two commands. Likewise, every New Testament requirement of believers is based on them. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God," John declares; "and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
 - b. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love" ([1 John 4:7-8](#)). "He who loves his neighbor," Paul says, "has fulfilled the law.
- 2. I John 4:16-17 – "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."
- 3. I Peter 1:22 – "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"
- 4. Matthew 5:44 – "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"
- 5. I John 4:20-21 – "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

➤ **At the end of the day, when this life is over, What Really Matters? Quite simply this morning, it boils down to 2 things:**

- Seek First The Kingdom of God, that we are certain about our salvation and we have made our preparation for eternity.
- Seek His Righteousness, that we honor God with our lives by placing Him first.