

Upcoming Events

Revelation class: Today at 2:30
Sealed 144,000

Tuesday Meet Up Class
August 24 at 7:00 p.m.
77682 Country Club Drive A-2
Palm Desert

Bible Quote about Priorities

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.” Matthew 6:33

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 12 Debbie Hoffman 12 Noemi Critchfield
16 Nick Hoffman 25 Pat Limburg 31 Andrea Chandler

August Anniversaries

24 Jack and Noemi Critchfield

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

Church of Christ
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Priorities

The Kingdom of God Comes First

(Matthew 6:33)

By Rob Albright

We all get busy with our daily routine. We have places to go and things to do and people to see every day. But one of the things we must keep in mind is our passage today. Jesus wants his disciples to be under the rule of God. God’s way for our life must be priority #1. He knows what is best for us. Kingdom means “rule” and in God’s Book, the Bible, we have right ways for our life. We are to seek “his righteousness.” God’s right ways and character must be displayed in all we do. He has taught us things like loving our enemies, and being merciful to others in difficult circumstances, and do what we can in seeking the lost.

Seeking the rule of God for our life means making spiritual matters supreme. It is important to be sure our children know the priority of spiritual matters (Ecclesiastes 12:1). We learn early in life important truths and habits that we continue in all the days of our life. Parents and Bible class teachers work together influencing our children toward making the kingdom of God a priority.

Notice the end of our verse above. This is a promise from the Lord. “*All these things*” will be added to our life if we place the kingdom (rule) of God first in our life. The material things we need in this life will be supplied for us. God will take care of us.

What we do with our time determines its value. If we use our time wisely for God and His kingdom, it carries great value. So, maybe we just need to stop and ask ourselves, “What is our priority in life?”

The Right Thing

By Greg Tidwell

“As American Express Loses Its President, His Kids Gain a Dad,” noted a November 22 (1996) headline in Wall Street Journal.

At 49, Jeffery E. Stiefler had everything the corporate fast-track could offer; power, a salary of more than \$4 million and commensurate benefits. Stiefler, however, stunned the business world by walking away from corporate success to spend time with his family.

Stiefler explained his new focus as “growing up.” Gaining maturity, he found life was more than money or power. This change of perspective highlights real value in life, not short-term priorities of corporate success.

“I tended to approach life as a series of two-minute drills,” Stiefler explained, “but I came to realize that approach doesn’t work if we plan to play for the whole game.”

From this dramatic transformation, three points challenge our own assessment of life.

Values Set Agendas. *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Matthew 6:21). What makes life worth living; who and what do we truly love? The answers to these questions set the slate for any understanding of life’s direction and meaning.

Priorities Control Time. *“Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5:15-16). How we use our time speaks volumes about our basic priorities. Scheduling problems are often problems of the heart.

Action is Essential. While the business world was not surprised that Stiefler felt conflict between his work and his family, many were shocked that he did something about the situation. *“Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I tell you?”* (Luke 6:46).

Each of us could benefit by candidly looking at our time, commitments, understanding our priorities and embracing concrete action to bring our lives more fully into alignment with the will of God.

That’s Not What It Says

By Steve Higginbotham

Have you ever tried to convince anyone that Jesus is the only way to Heaven? If you have, did you use John 14:6 as your proof? In this passage Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

But I challenge you to re-read that passage. Where does it say Jesus is the only way to Heaven? Heaven isn't even mentioned in the passage. The passage says Jesus is the only way to the Father.

But one might say, “Yeah, but the Father is in Heaven, right? So this is just semantics. What difference does it make how you say it?”

Well, as I understand it, it makes a significant difference. Consider:

If you are a grandparent, and your grandchildren were coming for a visit; would it matter to you if your grandchildren were excited about coming because they love to play in your yard or because they were excited to see you?

If due to work, you've been separated from your spouse for over a month, would it matter to you if your spouse was excited to get home because he loves his house or because he loves you?

Of course, it would matter. One may ask, what's the difference if Jesus is the only way to "heaven" or the "father?" The answer is relationship. One is a place, the other is a person. One is a gift, the other is the giver. Should we not be more interested in going to see our Heavenly Father than seeing the neat things that belong to our Heavenly Father?

When being with our Heavenly Father becomes our goal, and Heaven is just a perk that comes from being with him, we'll have our priorities right. Give it some thought.