

ATTENTION!!

**Business Meeting
Cancelled for March**

MeetUp Class

Monday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

Address

**Randy Cashion
15 Marina Ridge Ct.
Vallejo, CA 94591**

March Birthdays

18 Buddy Cashion (would have been 97!)
28 Sandra Jones 30 Barrett Hoffman

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Priorities

Putting First Things First

By R. W. McAlister

Matthew 6:33, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*” This may come as a shock, but most of us fail to do this! Why? Because instead of seeking God’s kingdom first, we’re spending our time wrapped up in the cares of this world! Have you ever considered that if this one passage were followed to its proper conclusion, it would revolutionize the church in all its phases of activity? If we sought first the kingdom of God in attendance, we’d be here every time the doors opened if physically possible! If we sought first the kingdom of God in evangelism, every baptized believer would be speaking the truth in love to every lost soul he or she encountered! If we sought first the kingdom of God in our giving, the church treasury would be overflowing! If we sought first the kingdom of God in edification and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ, there’d be a lot more folks in the mold of Barnabas to build up and encourage our brethren!

Perhaps the most common sin today is that of reversing the divine order of things; of making secondary things primary and making primary things secondary. How many people do we or have we known who disregard the importance of attending evening services? Instead, they’re at work because they’d rather make a dollar, or they’re at home because they think their rest is more important and so on. They’ve made what should be a primary concern a secondary one. What about someone who holds back on

Regular Meeting Times

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

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putting money in the collection plate because he's worried about finances? Well, he turned a primary concern, indeed an act of worship, into a secondary concern when he put personal finances ahead of worshipping God. It seems incredible that God, who made me, and gave His Son to die for me, should give me the option of saying what place HE shall occupy in my life.

If we're going to be pleasing to God, we each have some "first things" to do. We have to seek the kingdom first, then all of the things we need will be added to us. Seeking the kingdom first means becoming part of it and putting it first in our lives (I Peter 3:21, Matt. 6:33).

The second thing we have to do on our list of "firsts" is to keep our lives right with God so we can teach others. Matthew 7 verse 5 tells us: "*Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*"

We have a responsibility to make sure our brothers and sisters are walking in the way they should (II Thess. 3:15), but no one will ever listen to us until they can see that we're concerned about the sin in our life and that we're trying to get rid of it. No one likes a hypocrite.

The final thing we must do is to follow Christ before all others. In John 14:15, Jesus says, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*" Our Savior also tells us in Revelation 2:10, "*...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*" Our dedication to the Lord must come first, before all else. We have no right to tell or expect someone to follow a leader we're not faithfully following ourselves, and friends, people are very critical and they'll know if we're a follower of Jesus Christ.

If we need to reorganize our priorities, why wait any longer?

The Leftovers

By Jack Critchfield

At the risk of appearing ungrateful, I've got a confession to make. I am not all that fond of leftovers, i.e., cold food in need of being reheated. I always have the best of intentions to pull yesterday's leftovers out of the refrigerator, throw them in the microwave, nuke it, and consume it, but more often than not I fail to do so time and time again. Now, don't get me wrong. I've eaten my fair share of leftovers, but I can't honestly say that I enjoy eating most leftovers. The food never seems to taste or look the same. It lacks something.

With respect to our Christian walk, do we realize that God is not interested in our leftovers? In fact, Jesus says that we are to "*seek first His kingdom and His righteousness*" (Matt. 6:33). Among other things, this means that God should come first in every aspect of our lives. Indeed, we should NOT give God our leftover love (Matt. 22:37-38), time (Eph. 5:18), thoughts (Phil. 4:8), service (Gal. 5:13-14), or money (Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8-9). In the mind of God, such leftovers lack something (See the book of Malachi).

Being content with giving God the leftovers reveals something about the person who has this attitude. John said, "*We love, because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:19). God loved us all so much amid our sin that He took the initiative by sending His Son into the world to die in our place (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). God gave us His very best; in return, He expects the same. Indeed, contentment in giving God the leftovers exposes an ungrateful, selfish attitude.

Leftovers are fine when it comes to nourishing our physical bodies. At times, leftovers are unavoidable, even necessary. However, with respect to God and our spirituality, a life of leftovers is unacceptable, especially when we consider the example of His Son (cf. Phil. 2:5-11).
