

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Constantly I have the feeling that there are too few hours in a day and the week a few days too short. It seems that I am continually struggling to fit everything into my schedule that I need to accomplish, and sometimes I do not know whether I am coming or going!

I am sure that everyone is busy, scrimping on time, trying to get the day's activities done. The danger, however, is that when sacrifices are made in trimming our schedules, people have a tendency to set aside the most important facet of their life, namely the spiritual. Jesus summed up the need to place the spiritual issues of life in a premium position when He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," (Matt. 6:33). Perhaps because no one likes a bill collector, employer, or family member who comes to us when we neglect our spiritual duties as when we neglect other areas, we have a tendency to let those responsibilities slide (though our spiritual family should). But that makes the spiritual no less important.

There is a principle of life that always rings true: "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). I have personally seen families grow up with the parents, knowing better, giving only token allegiance to religious matters and needs. As the years pass, they are then surprised by the terrible choices that their children make, wondering what went wrong. If parents have no real concern for their life as Christians, chances are good that their children will not either. For us to have the best possible life, and teach our families and friends the same wholesome ways, we need to give God the best, not the leftovers. Jesus said of mankind, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," (John 10:10). Many people endure life, but Jesus intended that we have a more abundant life in all ways. For this to be true, we need to listen to His word and heed His advice. All this begins with seeking the kingdom of God first, not last in our daily walk.

How will we be guided into the more abundant life? Paul said the Word of God plays a tremendous part. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works," (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Notice what these thoughts promise. If we use this divine advice to shape our lives, we will be the people of God, we will be complete (mature), and be furnished for good works in all parts of life.

1. If you wish to be a worker for God and for good, He certainly wants your faithful service and will guide you through His word.

2. If you desire to be an outstanding father or mother, God's word will coach you to that goal.

3. If you desire to be an outstanding husband or wife, you cannot ask for better marital advice than what God has provided in the Scriptures.

4. If you seek to be the best possible employee or student, know that Jehovah desires this for you also.

5. If you seek to be a spectacular friend, neighbor or coworker, Heaven desires the same for you.

Whatever the aspect of your life, Jesus desires that you be thoroughly furnished to succeed. Notice that this begins, however, by approaching God and learning His ways. Seek ye first the kingdom of God. If we would only learn to grow spiritually, we would see that every portion of our lives could be lived more abundantly. If we sow spiritual faithfulness, we will reap blessedness.

We need to have a balanced life in which our relation to God is central and all else flows out of that. Paul wrote, "If any man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee...But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ," (Phil. 3:4-5,7). These credentials, with his Roman citizenship, assured Paul a prominent place in his world. But these were not what made Paul's life a success; it was the bond to Christ Jesus his Lord. We can certainly follow Paul's example of focusing on Christ as we put our life in perspective.

There is no question that God wants us to have an abundant and successful life, but He also wants us to know that it begins with Him. Take time today, this week, this lifetime to give the first-fruits of your life to God, and He will bless you in

all your ways. He alone deserves first, not last, place of importance. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

Rick Brumback from *Eastside Edifier*

THE JUDGMENT SCENE

The judgment scene is presented to us in Matthew 25:31-46. At this judgment will be all nations (v.32). No accountable person will escape standing before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as He will be the One sitting on His throne of glory (v.31). He shall separate the sheep from the goats (v.32). Each of us will be in one of these two classes and will either receive eternal punishment or eternal life (v.46).

Jesus deals with benevolence in this particular case. He talks of the needs of our fellowman, not just our Christian brothers and sisters. I believe it is crystal clear that no one can be pleasing to God who is not concerned for the welfare of his fellowman here on earth. When we have the means and fail to help those in need, Jesus said it is the same as refusing to help Him (v.45). We have the account of the good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37, which serves as a good example of helping anyone in need. Then we have the widows being neglected in Acts 6, and their need was swiftly handled.

We must be alert to the needs of others, whether it be spiritual or physical. One soul is worth more than all the world (Matt. 16:26) and we can lose our souls and the souls of those in need if we fail to help. Jesus fed the multitudes because there was a need, they were hungry. Some followed Jesus for what they could get and they will be held accountable for that. Jesus never used give-away programs to draw a crowd and neither can we, but let us be alert as to helping those in need. A soul may be saved as a result of being engaged in the benevolent work that our Lord has commanded us to do. Remember we must obey all of the commands of God to be saved. Be on the lookout for opportunities to help others.

Tommy Stacks from *Eastside Edifier*

ANNIVERSARY

Ralph and Helen Franklin, 08-10. 61st Congratulations!

BIRTHDAY

Sarah Marcum, 08-08.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards; Jill Marcum; Millie Robertson. Allen Scott was admitted to Olathe Medical Center in Room 302-1 on Wednesday, August 1. Louise Dodson is battling an infection from her surgery. Kathleen Camp has been recovering from her foot surgery at home.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Gary Cole was in Liberal, Kansas visiting with his brother last week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, August 12 following our AM worship. To place an item on the agenda, contact Joel Nelson.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 45; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 38.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..."
Matthew 6:33a

Those To Serve

August 5, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Carter
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... David Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 8th

SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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