

Lesson #7 – The Priorities Regarding the Goals of Life.

Introduction

- A. We are considering, in this series, the importance of priorities.
 - 1. Priorities prove to us what we believe.
 - 2. Priorities largely determine the kind of a person we are and will be in the future as well as the life we will live.
- B. In these lessons we have noticed the importance God places on the "heart" or the inner attitude of the person.

Keep the heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.
Proverbs 4:23

- C. In this lesson we wish to consider the priorities that have to do with the goals of life.
 - 1. It is obvious that priorities and goals are practically synonymous.
 - 2. It may be well to consider whether or not we have accepted certain priorities without realizing what we have done. It is not unusual for us to introduce something into our daily practice as a form of entertainment which eventually becomes so important to us that it must be classified as a priority or even a goal in life. The same is true for certain foods, drink, medication, etc.

I. Orientation: Man is Basically A Spiritual Person.

- A. We were created to achieve one all-encompassing goal in life - to glorify God,

Even every one that is called by My name, for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him, yea, I have made him. . . This people have I formed for Myself, they shall shew forth My praise. Isaiah 43:7,21

- B. The Fall of Man made it impossible for man, as a sinner, to live for the glory of God.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

- C. Salvation enables the believer to once again achieve the most important goal in life - to live for God's glory.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. I Cor. 6:19,20

II. Exposition: The Right Goals are Primarily Spiritual.

A. Biblical instruction regarding goals.

1. Warning regarding covetousness, Luke 12:13-15.

And one of the company said unto Him, Master, speak to my brother that he divide the inheritance with me. And He said unto him, Man, who made Me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

a. Covetousness is an evidence that we do not believe.

- 1) . That God is good and that what He does is goodness.
- 2) . That God is providentially in control.
- 3) . That God has a plan for my life.
- 4) . That Romans 8:28 works.
- 5) . That God is faithful to His promises.

b. Covetousness indicates -

- 1) . A basic dissatisfaction with life.
- 2) . The erroneous viewpoint that the key to life is the gaining of some possession, relationship or advantage.

2. Warning regarding missing the goal of life, Luke 12:16-21.

And He spake a parable unto them . . . Thou Fool

- a. This man made the mistake of living for the goal of possessions.
- b. He was called "a fool" as he stood before God, because he had missed the whole purpose of life and now it was too late to recover himself.

3. The exhortation regarding goals, Luke 12:31

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.

B. The Biblical provision for living for God's glory.

1. The provision of salvation, Ephesians 1:5,6; - I Peter 2:9

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

2. The provision of divine providence, Ephesians 1:11,12.

In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, that we should be to the praise of His glory

3. The provision of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Eph. 1:13,14.

In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

III. Explanation: What Does It Mean to Have Correct Goals?

- A. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of sin, Matt. 4:17.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Observation: One cannot practice known sin and seek the kingdom of God at the same time. Repentance is the correct response to sin. Failure to repent for sin breaks fellowship with God.

- B. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of self, Matt. 5:3.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Observation: Those who are "poor in spirit" are those who recognize they have a spiritual need of God's grace. It is the opposite of pride and sinful self-confidence. The Christian walking with God knows that he needs God.

- C. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of human relations, Matt. 5:10.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

Observation: The word "righteousness" defines the relationship that should exist between people. We must be related by "doing the right" with and by one another. Failure here will seriously limit one's daily success.

- D. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of authority, Matt. 23:13

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven, but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Observation: Success in any field depends upon some basis of authority. For the Christian the authority is the Word of God.

E. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of religion, Matt. 5:20.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Observation: The righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees was a self-righteousness. It was based on their works. It was inadequate (Is. 64:). The Christian has the gift of righteousness and it does exceed in every way (Romans 5:1; 8:1-4).

F. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of priority, Matthew 6:33.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Observation: To be a success with God - He and His kingdom must be first. This must be a practical priority, it must "mean something" in how we live our daily lives.

G. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of daily practice, Matthew 7:21.

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My father which is in heaven.

Observation: The evidence that one is a Christian is seen in his daily life. The true believer will seek to know and practice the will of God. This is not to earn but is a manifestation of the grace of God.

H. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of faith, Matthew 8:10.

When Jesus heard it (the story of the Centurian) He marvelled and said to them that followed. Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Observation: The Centurian recognized the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and simply took Him at His Word. This simple act had profound implications.

I. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of salvation, Matthew 18:3.

Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

Observation: The Lord Jesus is here pointing to the honesty, face-value attitude and trust of children. He wants us to trust Him simply because of Who He is and on the basis of what He has said to us.

J. To seek the kingdom of God is to have a correct view of human destiny, Matthew 26:29

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Observation: Our entire future. Biblically described, is related to being with God and enjoying the pleasures of fellowship and service. When we live without this great goal in mind we are missing something of the real meaning of life.

IV. Application: What Will Glorify God?

A. God is glorified through thanksgiving, Luke 17:14-16.

And when He saw them (the lepers), He said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks, and he was a Samaritan.

B. God is glorified through stating the truth, Luke 23:46,47.

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father into Thy hands I commend My spirit, and having said thus. He gave up the ghost. Now when the Centurian saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

C. God is glorified through the believer's prayer life, John 14:13.

And whatsoever ye shall act in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

D. God is glorified through the believer bearing fruit, John 15:8.

Herein is My father glorified, that ye bear much fruit

E. God is glorified" through the testimony of salvation, Gal. 1:23,24.

But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me.

F. God is glorified through the believer dispensing God's grace, I Peter 4:10,11.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God . . . that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ

Conclusion

A. We must apply this material to ourselves, in our attitudes and in our actions - today.

B. For all of us this involves: repentance, confession and decisions of faith.