

## God's Priorities and Ours

### Introduction

A. You can tell a good deal about a man if you know what is important to him. Our priorities reflect our character.

B. It would be helpful to know what God counts important and worthy of a high listing in His priorities. We are told to live our daily lives "imitating" God, Ephesians 5:1.

I. The Person of Jesus Christ is Important to God, I Peter 2:6. (is. 28:16)

*Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious, and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.*

Observation: This verse, referred to many times in the Bible, is a prophecy related to the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Son of God is likened to a corner stone in God's building plan of the ages. He is "precious" to God. The Father has determined that in all things Jesus Christ is to have the preeminence, Col. 1:18. Since this is true, it is important that we recognize the exalted position of Jesus Christ and choose to give Him His rightful place in our daily life. The promise to all who will do this is that they will not be "confounded"•

II. The Death or Blood of Jesus Christ is Important to God, 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.*

Observation: The only way man can be redeemed is through believing in Jesus Christ and receiving the benefit of His death. This is what the Bible means when it refers to being "washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and that which has been purchased by His death is important to God.

III. The Christian is Important to God, Isaiah 43:4.

*Since thou wast precious in Jty sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men for thee and people for thy life.*

Observation: The Christian often makes the mistake of judging his worth and value by his feelings and circumstances. We must reject this approach to life and refuse this temptation. God calls all believers "precious" in His sight. We have no\* right treating ourselves and others as unimportant.

IV. The Obedience of the Christian is Important to God, I Samuel 15:22,23.

*And Samuel said, (to Saul) Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king.*

Observation: We often underestimate the seriousness of our disobedience. These verses indicate the great value God puts upon our simple obedience to His Word. Saul lost the kingdom through disobedience

V. The Prayers of the Christian are Important to God, Proverbs 15:8.

*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is His delight.*

Observation: God has made the provision for us to talk with Him. When the Christian avails himself of this great privilege – God is pleased. This verse is a reminder of an activity which must be high on the list of our priorities. Without prayer our lives will be filled with weakness instead of strength.

VI. The Promises of the Bible are Important to God, II Peter 1:4.

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Observation: When we consider the great truth that God has gone on written record of what He will do for the believer who will trust Him and implement His Word – then we can understand why God's own promises are important to Him. We also recognize that they are valuable because of what happens when the promises are kept.

VII. The Faith of the Christian is Important to God, II Peter 1:1.

*Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Observation: Here the word "faith" is used in the sense of relationship. This, however, is never a static or dead relationship. It is one of constant fellowship, trust and obedience. The relationship God has with His children is important to Him.

VIII. The Trials of Faith are Important to God, I Peter 1:7.

*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.*

Observation: Our trials are important to God because they increase our trust and enable Him to bless us now and reward us in eternity.

Conclusion: Now we must ask about our priorities. Is it possible that we are out of harmony with God's priorities? Are we going to choose to work against God? Adopt what is precious to God – do so every day.

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