

1 Priority or Priorities

- Can we reduce all priorities into one big priority?
Or should we to balance priorities based upon circumstances?

2 Power of Priorities

- The greatest secret to living effectively on the earth is understanding the principle and power of priorities.
- Our life is the sum total of all the decisions we make every day, and those decisions are determined by our priorities.
- Priorities determine the quality of our life and dictate all our actions and behavior.
- However, the greatest mistake in life is having the wrong priorities as some priorities are better than others.

3 Correct Priorities

- Preserve and protect our life and insure success.
- Correct priorities protect our:
 - Time and Energy
 - Talents and Gifts
 - Help us to be focused and disciplined
 - Simplifies our life
- Wrong priorities cause us to waste our:
 - Time & Energy
 - Busy with the unnecessary
 - Preoccupied with the unimportant
 - Invest in the less valuable
 - Abuse our gifts and talents

4 False Religions

- The priority of most religions is built around the promise to meet people's needs.
- Priority in religious prayers and petitions is often merely for personal needs.
- Faith them becomes nothing more than striving to get from God those things we think will bring security and meaning to our lives.

5 Hierarchy of Needs

- Abraham Maslow:
 - Water
 - Food
 - Clothing

- Housing
- Protection
- Security
- Preservation
- Self-actualization
- Significance

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8 God's Assignment

- Seek first . . .
 - Means to pursue, study, explore, understand, learn, and consider.
 - To give diligent dedication and to preoccupy one's self with that which one is seeking.

- In other words, the Kingdom must be our top priority and primary focus. If it is one of many priorities it won't work.

9 His Kingdom?

- A kingdom can be defined as “the sovereign rule of a king over a territory (domain), impacting it with his will, purpose, and intent.”
- So, God's kingdom is the place or spiritual sphere where God rules and executes his influence, power and will that will even effect our physical world as well . . . if we will also seek “His righteousness.”

10 Not by Works

- Is often misinterpreted because we view it through the lens of Martin Luther and not the lens of the Bible.
- According to the Apostle Paul, the context of works was always in connection with God's choice in election. See Romans 9:12
- Salvation is a matter of God making the choice (once he knows the heart of a person) and not a work or act that man does to obligate God to accept him.

11 His Righteousness?

- Righteousness in this context means to:
 - Be in alignment and right standing with authority—the King's authority.
 - Be in legal alignment with the laws and customs of the kingdom.
- Once we do, . . .
 - We will qualify for the right to receive governmental privileges.

12 All these things . . .

- As citizens of the kingdom who adopt to its standards we will receive the riches of God's glory.
 - Physical needs will be met.
 - Social needs will be met.
 - Emotional needs will be met.
 - Psychological needs will be met.
 - Financial needs will be met.
 - Security needs will be met.
 - All our self-significance, sense of self-worth, and purpose will be met.

Life without Meaning

13 Life Unfulfilled

- My work is a drudgery, I hate it. I want to have significance and meaning in my life. Where can I sign up to be a martyr or have a world famous ministry?
- If I had a good husband/wife, life would be so much better. I'll get a divorce and find someone who really appreciates me.
- Church has become laborious and so predictable. Nothing inspires me anymore. I think I'll move on.
- If I don't study and get a good grade, I won't get that scholarship I need to go to Harvard. Without a degree from Harvard, I'm a no body.
- UK lost again! Nothing in my life is going good anymore. Tubby ought to be fired!

14 Must not Forget

- "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt 6:33 NIV)
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [be a good citizen of the kingdom], for they will be filled." (Matt 5:6 NIV)

15 Tragedy of Life

- The greatest mistake in life, which is also a great tragedy is to seek to find purpose, happiness, and meaning in life without seeking to become a good citizen of the kingdom as our number one priority.
- "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15 NIV)

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