

You Prioritize What You Treasure

We all have priorities, but some priorities are more important than others and our priorities can vary. My priorities on vacation with my family are in a different ranking than my priorities in the middle of a busy workday away from home. One thing remains though, Christ should be first - regardless of where I am or who I am with. He should be first by a LONG shot with no “close second”.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:21 and 24 NIV

You prioritize what you treasure. You hold sacred what you find valuable. What do you value? Whatever you value more than God will be able to pull you away from a commitment to the Lord when the time comes. I can sit down to pull the Bible app open on my phone, but get distracted by another open screen and find myself wasting 40 minutes and I still haven't done what I set out to do!

The reality is, God truly is my heart's *long-term* desire. So what stops me from having Him as my short-term desire and my continual, immediate need? Something “urgent”? What is so urgent today that Christ keeps getting the back seat? What needs to be done “right now” that is truly something that also mattered 2000 years ago when the Lord walked the earth? Because if it mattered urgently 2000 years ago, it will also matter 2000 years from now.

Christ didn't need to send emails, watch TV, get caught up on Social Media platforms, keep His yard looking “good”, binge watch the latest shows, or update His home decor to be in keeping with the times. He didn't have 5,436 photos to back up to the iCloud, lose weight fast, or Facebook-stalk what happened to his 8th grade crush. He didn't worry about getting ahead at work; He didn't worry, He didn't hurry, He didn't race or rush, He didn't do things to be seen and He didn't allow people to give Him credit because He gave glory to God. He was a SERVANT to the Lord Almighty.

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” Philippians 2:5-7 NIV

What you love most becomes what you serve. What you love most is typically something you created - or took God’s credit for something He created for you. Your reputation, your family, your career - every GOOD and PERFECT gift is from Him, not from you, your mom, your sister, or your friend, but from Him.

“But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.” Psalms 115:4-8 NIV

So we should stop valuing ourselves MORE THAN we value Him, and yield, allowing Him to remove what does not truly value Him. Serving God, not serving our own selves. But be careful that we don’t rely on ourselves to serve Him more - that will only create a new idol where we become proud of ourselves for “doing better”. We must rely on God alone to help us love Him more and more.

In the letters written in the New Testament, the author usually starts by identifying themselves and their authority to write such a letter. See below:

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...” James 1:1 ASV

“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle...” Romans 1:1a ASV

“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus...” Philippians 1:1 ASV

“Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus...” Philemon 1:1 ASV

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ...” 2 Peter 1:1 ASV

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ...” Jude 1:1 ASV

What would your greeting be?

Are you a servant of the Most High God?

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show unto his servants, even the things which must shortly come to pass...” Revelation 1:1 ASV

Prayer:

Thank you Lord that you reveal your plans to us. Make us look more like you. Remove what can be shaken so that our lives stand only on what cannot be shaken: which is YOU and Your Kingdom. God I trust you to have Your way in me. Help me not get in your way, because a servant would never block their Master’s progress.

Worship:

“Be Thou My Vision” by Audrey Assad <https://youtu.be/dXDhCEnM-bQ> [youtu.be]

“Simple Kingdom” by Bryan and Katie Torwalt <https://youtu.be/xAAGNDfLnP0> [youtu.be]

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