

Putting God First – Oct. 20, 2021

Intro: Band – “**first chair.**” Leader of that group, best at that instrument, plays solo
Orchestra - 1st chair violin —**concertmaster**— vital role: tunes orchestra;
wide range responsibilities; all follow 1st chair's lead, even if don't agree.

Who is first chair in your life? Whose lead do you follow?

Who/what is most important in your life? What is worth everything?

Matt. 13:44 - “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

Matt. 13:45 - “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

Q: is Heaven so valuable/ important – we’re willing to give up everything for it?

Q – Are we living for heaven ... or living for Jesus?

You may ask me why I serve the Lord - Is it just for heaven's gain?
.. to walk those mighty streets of gold - Or to hear the angels sing?

Is it just to drink from that fountain - That never shall run dry
Or is it to live forever, ever, and ever - In that sweet old by and by.

But if heaven never was promised to me ... Neither God's promise to live eternally
It's been worth just having the Lord in my life.

I was livin' in a world of darkness - But he brought me the light

Hard to separate... living for Jesus or heaven. But -

When you love someone – “move heaven & earth” for them.

When you love someone – pleasing them is a priority. We honor them.

Ex: Bic - “I’ve done too much for you to be treated this way.”

Knowing what Jesus has done... how He loves us ... what He gave up for us –that should motivate us to give our all to Him.

What would Jesus say to us? Like Bic? Thank you for honoring me... time, etc.

Matt. 22:37 - Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

Is there room for more of Jesus? Does He have it **all**? Is He priority #1?

Do I give Him my best, my all, or what’s left over?

Love is not just a feeling; decision. Decide to love that dog, child, person ... God.

We all have limited time. We schedule what is important.

24 hrs day / 168 hrs week. How much of that time does God get?

Matt. 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.”

God controls time. (Joshua 10) Sun stand still... God can increase for us.

Contemporary Engl. Ver. Matt. 6:33 – “But **more than anything else**, put God's work first & do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.”

More than anything else . . . are we aiming to put on the armor of God?

. . . are we striving to serve God? . . . are we prioritizing pleasing God?

5 Ways to put God 1st – Priority - in your life:

1 – Put God first in the morning.

Mark 1:35 – “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

Focus your day by focusing first on God

More than anything else . . . this time is valuable. Set heart right, day right. You can't please God unless you know His way of doing things, living right.

2 – Make worship the first thing you schedule in your week.

Make it a priority that doesn't get moved.

Heb. 10:25 – “Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

We worship once or twice a week. Not the way it was:

Acts 2:46 - “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts”

More than anything else . . . you need worship time: time to be fed – be reminded of how much you are loved – you have value & worth,
time to grow in knowledge – Bible is our sword & shield,
time to refocus on what's important; your destiny.

3 – Give God the 1st day of the week – Sunday.

On the 7th day, God rested.

“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he rested from all the work of creating that He had done.” - **Gen. 2:3**

More than anything else... Honor God by following His footsteps.

Take time to rest, your body & mind needs it. Say “it is good.”

4 – Give God the “right of first refusal”

Legal term for a contractual right to enter into a business transaction with a person or company before anyone else.

2 Samuel 5:19 – “Then David inquired of the Lord: ‘Should I go to war against the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?’”

More than trusting yourself, inquire of God about the decisions of your life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” [NLT]

5 – Give God your Heart

The most notable athletes play with heart. They have passion.

Is your heart in your faith? Passionate? Are you happy living for God?

Willing to talk about Him? Live to please Him? Make Him a priority?

Too many people give first place to a job, a person, a cause, a pleasure, a sport, a dream.

When you are willing to lose your life, you find it. Purpose. Contentment.

Matt. 10:39 – NLT – “If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.”

Can you say now: **more than anything** God – you’re the purpose of my life?

You’re my #1.... You’re my “first chair.” Everything else will move to 2d chair.

Matt. 22:37 - “Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart ... soul ... mind.”

Song of Week – “God Don’t Play Second Fiddle” – by GVB.

2 weeks – Sun. Nov. 7th – time change.

Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.