

The Five Most Important Things In Your Life: Part 4

You may be seated. Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! I thank God and the Congregation for this opportunity to stand behind this anointed desk we call a pulpit. I'm grateful for this opportunity to bring to you the word of God, as the Lord has laid it upon my heart.

What I would like to talk to you about today, are the five most important things in your life: Part 4. I want everyone here to think about what the five most important things in your life are. Most of you have been here as I presented my list during the first three parts, so you'll know where I'm heading. For those of you who've heard the first three parts, I would hope that you have fervently prayed over that list, and I would hope that you've made it your own.

As we have done in the previous lessons, we will be discussing the prioritization of our lives. We all need to prioritize whether we know it or not. We prioritize things in our minds, and we prioritize things in the physical; on paper, or in a PDA, or a planner. Those who prioritize things in their mind only; are more apt to forget things, or the order in which those things need to be done. As an example:

If you were to do your Christmas shopping all in one day; as men are apt to do. You would have your list of items you need to purchase and which stores those items are located in. You would also plan your shopping according to the location of the stores in order to prevent the necessity of back-tracking, thus wasting time and gas. Gas costing more these days than some gifts you may purchase.

Today, we will discuss what I believe the prioritizations should be for each of us as a Christian. You have hopefully made your own personal list of the most important things in your life. I will now give you the list that I live by. The five most important things in your life; in my personal opinion, are as follows: and I ask that you repeat them with me. The very first is:

1. Your personal, intimate, eternal, relationship with God.
2. Your personal, intimate, till death do us part, relationship with your spouse.
3. Your personal, intimate, until they leave home, relationship with your children.
4. Your personal, intimate, till the rapture, relationship with your local church.

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5. Your personal, intimate, until you retire, relationship with your job.

Since this message is titled: Part 4. You have probably figured out that we are going to be talking about “Your personal, intimate, till the rapture, relationship with your local church.” If you will stand and turn with me to our text today:

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) **24:** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25:** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

You may be seated

In **Genesis 1:1** we read that “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” This was the first day of God’s creation. And on the sixth day, God created man for fellowship and to be loved and worshipped by man. Thus, the most important thing in our life, loving and worshipping God.

In **Genesis 2:21-24** we read “**21:** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; **22:** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. **23:** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. **24:** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Thus, the second most important thing in our life, loving and caring for our spouse.

In **Genesis 4:1** we read: “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.” Thus we have the third most important thing in our life, loving and caring for our children.

In **Exodus 20:8** we read: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Thus we have the fourth most important thing in our life, loving and serving God in His church.

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Now some of you may be saying that man had to work long before the church was started. Man had to work even before his first children were born. You would be correct in that assumption.

Because of man's failure toward God; his lack of true love in protecting his relationship with God and his failure to protect his wife from the dangers presented by the serpent, he was forced out of the Garden of Eden and into the world.

In retrospect, Adam had a job from his creation forward. His job was to "dress the garden". Gardening has a very profound and highly regarded beginning. It was the very first profession of man, and it was created by God himself. One wonders if Adam wasn't so carried away with his job, that he forgot where his priorities truly lay.

That said; loving and worshipping God has always been a priority since the beginning. Therefore I have placed it above our relationship with our job. Many a family has been destroyed due to a man or woman putting their career above their relationship with God and family.

Serving God in the local church has always been a part of God's plan for His people. From the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness forward, God has always used people to fulfill positions in the church. Aaron and his sons were the priests; the Levites were to perform all the manual functions of the tabernacle such as the baking of the shew bread and the transportation of the tabernacle on its many trips.

Even in the New Testament church, God has called people to work in his church.

In **Ephesians 4:11-12** it says "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12:** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

There is, and always will be work in the church. There will always be an opportunity to be used in the church. The only real question is, are you usable? There will always be a need for musicians, teachers, preachers, evangelists, and missionaries. There will always be a need for greeters, ushers, sweepers, moppers, trash can dumpers. There will always be a need for people in the church, but the people in the church are not always usable.

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There are requirements for people that want to be used in the church. The first is found in **1 Corinthians 4:2** where it says that “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

- If you’re not faithful to the house of God, how can you expect to be used?
- If you can’t find the time to be in church. How are you going to find the time to prepare a lesson for a Sunday School class?
- If you’re not faithful to the house of God, how can you lead a choir?
- If you’re not faithful to the house of God, how can you find the time to practice a special song?
- If you’re not faithful to the house of God, how can you be used as an usher or a greeter?
- If you’re not faithful to the house of God, how can you find the time to prepare a sermon?
- The first requirement of being used is to be found faithful!

Remember the last scripture of our text today:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

This scripture not only tells us to be faithful to be in church, it tells us to exhort one another! This word we translate “exhort” comes from the Greek word par-ak-al-eh'-o. Which means “to call near, that is, invite, invoke (by imploration, consolation): - beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort (-ation), intreat, pray.

You are not only required to be faithful to church for your own good, you are also required to encourage others to come as well. We need to love people into the kingdom of God.

- How can you do that when you’re always angry?
- How can you do that when you’re always grumpy?
- How can you do that when you’re always complaining?
- How can you do that when you’re never here?

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Hebrews 10:25 also says “and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

This is in reference to the second coming of Christ. Anyone in their right mind and with a heart toward God knows that we’re not only in the end times, but we’re in the last days. It’s necessary to be faithful to church so that we can learn where we are; as a corporate body of believers, in these last days.

1 Chronicles 12:32 says “And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;”

I believe that God has put men in the pulpits of his true church these days that have an understanding of the times. They’re trying to get those lambs in their flock to draw nearer to God because the days are evil.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to understand that we are in the last days. You can read it in your local newspaper on a daily basis. You hear it on the radio. You can see it on the news if you own a television or a computer.

Romans 10:14-17 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? **15:** And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! **16:** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **17:** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

God has prepared a plan for his children. That plan is for them to be faithful to the house of God.

- They have to hear the word in order to believe.
- They have to hear the word in order to have faith.
- They have to have faith in order to be saved.
- They will not have faith if they don’t believe!
- Therefore it is imperative that they hear the word so they can be saved!
- It is imperative that they be in the true church in order to hear the word “rightly divided”.

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Many churches use the word, but they pick and choose what they want to believe. They take things out of context or refuse to put any emphasis whatsoever on things they disagree with. They put their own desires above the teaching of God.

- That's why it's so important that people get established in a church that teaches the whole word of God!
- That's why it's so important for the saints to read the word daily.
- That's why it's so important to pray and ask God for guidance.
- That's why it's so important to be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Do you want to be used in the church? Make yourself usable!

- Study the word!
- Pray without ceasing!
- Fast!
- Be faithful to be in church!

Revelation 2:1-5 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; **2:** I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: **3:** And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. **4:** Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. **5:** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

If you don't consider attending church faithfully to be one of the most important things in your life, you won't make time to be there. There are so many things in this world that a person could want to do, that you have to not just *take* the time, but you have to *make* the time to go to church.

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I don't know about you, but I don't want to take a chance on not making it into heaven. Attending church is a part of your worship of God. We need to make sure that we don't lose our first love and therefore our place in the kingdom of God.

Attending church alone won't get you to heaven. There are things the bible says that you have to do in order to be saved. If you don't know what they are, just ask me after service and I'll be happy to tell you. Here's a clue, it's a lot more than just believe.

If the musicians will come at this time:

Matthew 7:21-27 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. **22:** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23:** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **24:** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: **25:** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. **26:** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: **27:** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

I need to ask you some questions at this time. So with every head bowed, and every eye closed.

1. Do you want to be known as the foolish man or the wise man?
2. What answer do you want to hear from the Lord when you say Lord, Lord to Jesus?
3. Have you been as faithful to the house of God as you could be?
4. Do you want to be used in this church?
5. Have you done what needs to be done to make yourself "usable" in this church?

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I would like at this time for everyone as a corporate body; to come down to the altar at this time. You either need to pray that your true response to these questions is the right one, or you need to pray that all who attend here will always give the correct response to those questions.

I'll let you know right now that I am not worried about those who come down to this altar; they're humbling themselves before God. If they need help from God they'll get it. If they're down here to help others, they'll receive a blessing from God for so doing.

I do worry about those who don't come to an altar when requested to do so; unless they have a legitimate reason that prevents them from doing so. Because without that; whether they will admit it or not, they have issues with God that need to be resolved. Whether it be pride, sin, or just laziness, all three of those issues are things which God dislikes....