

How Do We Know What Our Priorities Are?

ROMANS 6:1-16

Introduction

- The young man in *Matthew 19:16-22*
- When asked what is most important, we tend to answer in terms of what we know should be most important. But the Lord does not judge what our priorities are by our ideals and intentions, He looks at our practice.
- *Romans 6:16* – “Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

What Would Others Say Our Priorities Are?

- Others may not know us as well as we know ourselves, but they are often more objective about what they do know.
- What would our neighbors, co-workers, or others say we are really about?
- More than anybody, our children are able to tell what matters most to us in the rough and tumble of daily living.

What Do We Think About?

- “What the heart likes best, the mind studies most.”
- The person who finds that he meditates on God only when he forces himself to do so is kidding himself if he says that spiritual life is his or her overriding concern.
- *Psalms 1:2*, “But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night.”

What Do We Talk About?

- Our conversations arise out of the things that are on our minds.
- And if we have to admit we rarely talk about the Lord (except in connection with church services) that ought to tell us something.
- *Matthew 12:33-37*

How Do We Spend Our “Discretionary” Time?

- There are families, for example, who “vacation” by traveling to gospel meetings in distant states.
- On the other hand, there are folks who complain all their working lives.
- *1 John 3:18*, “My Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed, and truth.”

How Do We Spend Our “Discretionary” Money?

- As with discretionary time, so it is with money. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- But we said we couldn’t afford it.
- Spent at least that much on sporting events and recreational activities.
- Could anyone take seriously our claim that the Lord is our uppermost concern?

What “Gives” When We Face a Conflict of Priorities?

- Perhaps no conflicts annoy us more than scheduling conflicts.
- In sports, for example, when a conflict arises with the services of the church, we make a statement about our priorities.
- When priorities collide, we learn the most about ourselves, our values, and whether the Lord reigns within us or not.
- 2 Timothy 4:10

Conclusion

- How then do I know in all honesty what my priorities are?
- By looking at what I am, in fact, doing with my life – Romans 6:16.
- At least one thing is clear: *I can’t give the first and the best of myself to the pursuit of the “American Dream” and still turn around and say the Lord is my first love.*

Conclusion

- 1 John 2:15, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*
- I can’t go “all out” for one thing and then truthfully claim another is more important.
- Matthew 6:24, *“No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Conclusion

- Where my priorities are, there will my energy and enthusiasm be also.
- A blessing is pronounced on the “pure in heart” Matthew 5:8, *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”*
- God is asking from us wholehearted commitment and the willingness to put Him first in everything.
- Do you know where your priorities are?