

BIBLE STUDY #11

Priorities

The last few lessons have considered issues of quiet times, prayer, commitment, etc. All these matters require time. In our society, time is limited. So many opportunities come our way that a person can easily fill all available time with a continuous stream of activity. Within all the demands comes a point where you have to sit down and decide on some priorities. You will not be able to do everything or take advantage of all opportunities. You will have to choose what you do in life.

List your top five priorities in life. Be honest.

List your top five "time consumers" in life (those items that take up most of your time).

Are the lists the same or different? Why?

This study is very practical in nature. Your priorities and, consequently, your time management abilities will certainly be a matter of concern.

PUTTING CHRIST FIRST

Read **Matthew 6:33**. What does this passage say about your first priority?

What does this verse say will be the result?

Assuming you believe **Matthew 6:33**, how is it evident in your life?

Read **2 Corinthians 8:5**. To what activity did the people give of themselves first?

Read **Luke 12:34**. What does this verse say will take first place in our hearts?

Whatever we truly love in life will become a priority. We focus on the things we love the most. Christ wants us to love Him above all else and put Him first in life.

"A man's heart has only enough life in it to pursue one object fully." C.H. Spurgeon

What are some possible benefits of putting God first in your life?

ORGANIZING YOUR TIME

Read **Ephesians 5:15-16**. What do you think God is saying to Christians in this passage as it relates to time management?

To make the most of every opportunity, it will be important that you know where you are spending your time. In the following exercise, you will chart your weekly activities FOR THIS WEEK on an hourly schedule. Spend significant time on this project. You will be amazed at the discovery of how much time you may have available and how much time you spend doing things with no real purpose. Since the weekends are usually different from the weekdays there are two charts.

Much of what you write down will be school related. If sleep comes across some of these hours, record that as well. The goal is to review your current weekly schedule.

You are to record your schedule for THIS WEEK. It may be that this week is abnormal for you (you may be sick, taking a trip, have unusual activities, etc.). Even so, record the activities for this week. However, you may want to make some special notes regarding things that might be outside your regular routine. Again, the point of the exercise is to evaluate your routine and how you can better utilize your time.

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7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
Noon				
1				
2				
3				
4				
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6				
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SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6	
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8	
9	
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Noon	
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Comment on your findings:

How much time did you spend on the things that represent a top priority to you?

How many hours did you spend doing things with no real purpose this past week and weekend?

Spend a few minutes and work at "efficiency." What could you do to make your week more efficient and meaningful?

Review your top five priorities listed in the first question of this lesson. Rank those items in a list from 1-5.

Do you believe this list and the order you placed them are in line with God's will for your life at this time? Explain.

Christ wants you to have time for Him and ministry. This not only involves your daily quiet time but other aspects of ministry. Often we commit to activities without ever praying about God's choice in the matter. How many of your current major activities did you pray about prior to starting?

Are you currently doing too many things?

If so, what might you need to give up? Remember to pray before answering this question.

What activities do you feel God leading you to do at this time?

Discuss any major changes you feel you need to make with your parents. It will be important for you to have as much of their support as possible in helping you set Biblical priorities.

Overall, what do you think/feel God is saying to you through this lesson?

ASSIGNMENTS

- _____1. **Scripture Memory: Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV),**
"Be very careful then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity ..."
- _____2. **Bible Study: #11**
- _____3. **Quiet Time:** Have at least five quiet
0times this week.
- _____4. **Sermon Notes:** Take sermon notes.