

8/8/2021

Is He First?: Finding Your First Love Again

Summary

Is seeking to please God the single greatest pursuit of your heart? An honest evaluation of our priorities and passions will determine His place in our lives.

Key Verse

Matthew 6:33 New Living Translation

33 Seek the Kingdom of God[a] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- The danger of chasing after something other than God, is finding it and losing Him.

L-i-f-e Application

A Love Above the Law

Romans 5:8 The Passion Translation

8 But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly (sinners)!

- Love must be proven
- Love must contain obedience & sacrifice

Obedience: The Command of Devotion

Matthew 22:35-40

New Living Translation

35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 37 Jesus replied, ““You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[b] 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Sacrifice: The Silent Sacrifice of Christ

Isaiah 53:7-9 The Passion Translation

7 He was oppressed and harshly mistreated;

still he humbly submitted, refusing to defend himself.

He was brought like a gentle lamb[a] to be slaughtered.

Like a silent sheep before his shearers,

he didn’t even open his mouth.[b]

8 By coercion and with a perversion of justice

he was taken away.

And who could have imagined his future?[c]

He was cut down in the prime of life;[d]

for the rebellion of his[e] own people,



he was struck down in their place.

9 They gave him a grave among criminals,[f]

but he ended up instead in a rich man's tomb,[g]

although he had done no violence nor spoken deceitfully.

Inspired Instruction

Surrendering All

Romans 12:1 The Passion Translation

12 Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.

- Worship is not just singing, but when the way you live is melody unto the Lord.

Doctrine

Sacrificing Your Best Offering

Luke 9:23-24 The Passion Translation

23 Jesus said to all of his followers, "If you truly desire to be my disciple, you must disown your life completely, embrace my 'cross'[a] as your own, and surrender to my ways. 24 For if you choose self-sacrifice, giving up your lives for my glory, you will discover true life. But if you choose to keep your lives for yourselves, you will lose what you try to keep.

- True agape love is to duplicate the sacrificial love we were given by Christ.



Reproof

Love's Wrong Turn

Revelation 2:1-4 New King James Version

2 “To the [a]angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 “I know your works, your labor, your [b]patience, and that you cannot [c]bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Correction

Remember. Repent, Seek, Do

Revelation 2:5 Amplified Bible

5 So remember the heights from which you have fallen, and repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God’s will] and do the works you did at first [when you first knew Me]; otherwise, I will visit you and remove your lampstand (the church, its impact) from its place—unless you repent.

Instruction in Righteousness

Don't Worry, Be Holy

Matthew 6:31-34 Amplified Bible

31 Therefore do not worry or be anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted), saying, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going

to wear?’ 32 For the [pagan] Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; [but do not worry,] for your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also. 34 “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.


Charge

Christ is Your Life

Colossians 3:1-15 New Living Translation

3 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your[a] life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.[b] 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,[c] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,[d] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters,



and he lives in all of us. 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Closing

Keep the First Things First

Colossians 3:16-17 The Passion Translation

16 Let the word of Christ live[a] in you richly, flooding you with all wisdom. Apply the Scriptures as you teach and instruct one another with the Psalms, and with festive praises,[b] and with prophetic songs given to you spontaneously by the Spirit, so sing to God with all your hearts! 17 Let every activity[c] of your lives and every word[d] that comes from your lips be drenched with the beauty of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. And bring your constant praise to God the Father because of what Christ has done for you!