
Words of Truth

Evaluating Our Priorities

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The following Scriptures should not be new to any of us: *“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living... For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again... If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”* (Romans 14:7-9, II Corinthians 5:14-15, and Colossians 3:1-4).

We should all know that where we put things valuable to us, is where our hearts will be (Matthew 6:19-21). We should all realize that investing our efforts and time in things of this world is an unwise investment (Psalms 49:6-12, Proverbs 27:24, Ecclesiastes 5:9-20, Luke 12:13-21, I Timothy 6:6-10, and II Peter 3:10-14). Therefore, that leaves a necessity that we take time on occasion to evaluate where we are investing our time and efforts. Are you investing your time, effort, affection, money, etc. in things eternal or on things that are of this world?

What Investments Are You Making?

The Lord does not expect us to spend sun up to sun down studying His word. The fact is, He says: *“And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and **much study** is a weariness of the flesh”* (Ecclesiastes 12:12). Intense mental effort on God’s word will wear you out. God doesn’t want us to be worn out (Galatians 6:9). Having said that, we still have to spend enough time studying His word to not only know what He expects of us, but to learn how to live a godly life in true wisdom (Proverbs 2:1-20, James 3:13-18, and II Peter 1:3-11). We need to study properly (II Timothy 2:14-18) to spiritually grow properly (II Peter 3:15-18).

As we should know, the Lord uses the word “search” in regard to studying His word (John 5:39 and Acts 17:10-11). That word shows us that proper study is a time investment. Now, weigh how you spend your time thinking and learning to consider if you’re investing

properly in your own spiritual growth. Do you spend more time learning about what's going on in the world today than what God said in His word? Are you learning more about things that educate you for things in this life or in learning about the things to prepare you for the life to come? Do you spend more time reading the words of men than the word of God? Do you spend more time learning about the newest things coming out than you do the older things that will save your soul (Acts 13:26)?

Now learning is one thing, but investing our time properly also includes the application of the things that we learn (James 1:21-25). Therefore, we must consider more than just studying the Scriptures when evaluating our priorities.

The Time We Spend Doing Things

Aside from worshiping God (John 4:23-24), the Scriptures reveal unto us how to live and be saved through living properly (Luke 4:4, John 6:63, Acts 5:20, and II Timothy 3:14-17). You learn how to be a husband or a wife (Ephesians 5:22-33 and Colossians 3:18-19). You learn how to be a parent or a child (Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:20-21, and Titus 2:3-5). You learn how to be godly (Ephesians 4:17-5:11 and Colossians 3:5-17). You learn how to be wise amongst people in this world (Proverbs 6:20-35, Proverbs 14:15, and Colossians 4:5-6).

What do you do with that knowledge? Are you loving your spouse the way God intended? Are you parenting the way God instructs? Are you living as a light in this dark world (Matthew 5:14-16), because of how you've learned to behave in a godly manner? Are you walking wisely amongst a perverse and crooked generation (Matthew 10:16 and Philippians 2:14-16)?

For more specific thinking, consider a little more detailed questioning. As you examine yourself (II Corinthians 13:5), you have to be more specific than this article. I am writing to many people, you must apply this to yourself. As an example, consider how a man might be evaluating his responsibilities as a husband and a father. He might be thinking about how he spends his time providing for his family and that is good (I Timothy 5:8). He might evaluate how he has authority to enjoy the fruit of his labor in his time away from work. That is good too (Ecclesiastes 2:24 and I Timothy 6:17). That man must also question if his wife experiences his love beyond the paycheck he brings home. That man must question if his children benefit from him being their father beyond the clothes on their backs and food on the table. That man must question if he is growing spiritually.

Conclusion

This article is intended not to be a complete study of anything, but rather to be a springboard of thought. Think on your life. What does your daily life tell YOU about your priorities? What does your daily life tell God and others about your priorities?
