

Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God And His Righteousness

I. Introduction:

A. The Scriptures teach that God wants to be our first love (**Mark 12:29-30**; cf. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**).

1. That includes, from the teaching of Jesus, be willing to put all others behind Him (**Luke 14:25-33**).

2. This is love... **II John 1:6**

B. Love for God is not just about the Father (**I John 4:20-5:2**).

1. How some feel about Jesus is inseparable from the Father (**John 8:40-42** and **John 15:23**).

2. The love of God is displayed through brotherly love (**I John 4:7-12**; cf. **Hebrews 6:10-11**).

II. Body: **Matthew 6:33** and **Luke 12:31**

A. Immediate contexts (**Matthew 6:19-34** and **Luke 12:22-34**).

1. Where your treasure is, that is where your heart is also (**Luke 12:13-21**).

2. Jesus told His disciples, those He sent to teach; not to worry about the carnal (**Luke 22:35**; cf. **Matthew 10:9-10** and **I Corinthians 9:1-14**).

a. Contentment has a part to play in this (**I Timothy 6:6-10**).

b. Understanding the temporal vs. the eternal is the greater focal point (**II Corinthians 4:17-18**).

3. Tomorrow, if it comes, is beyond our control (**James 4:13-16**).

B. Seeking first the kingdom (**Matthew 13:45-46** and **II Peter 1:10-11**).

1. Seek: "1) to seek in order to find; 1a) to seek a thing; 1b) to seek [in order to find out] by thinking, meditating, reasoning, to enquire into; 1c) to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after; 2) to seek, i.e. require, demand; 2a) to crave, demand something from someone" (Thayer; Strong's # 2212). See: **I Chronicles 22:19**, **Isaiah 55:6**, and **Jeremiah 29:13**

2. First: "firstly (in time, place, order, or importance): - before, at the beginning, chiefly, (at, at the) first (of all)" (Strong's # 4412).

3. The kingdom includes the church, God, the spirits of just men made perfect... (**Colossians 1:12-14** and **Hebrews 12:22-23**).

a. Since Christ [the King; **I Timothy 6:14-15**] is in the kingdom, He is to be sought first (**Luke 9:57-62** and **I Corinthians 16:22**).

b. Since our brethren, the body/church, is in the kingdom; each other are to be placed first (**I John 3:14**; cf. **I Corinthians 12:14-27**).

c. The point being, not seeking one to the exclusion of all within what is the kingdom.

4. The kingdom is not external, nor worldly, nor satisfying to the flesh (**Luke 17:20-21**, **John 18:36**, and **Romans 14:17**).
 5. The kingdom is NOW (**Hebrews 12:28**) and is also to come in relation to eternity (**I Corinthians 15:24; 15:50**).
 - a. Seeking the now is about being in the kingdom as citizens (**Philippians 3:20; 4:3** and **Revelation 1:9**).
 - b. Seeking that which is to come is forward looking (**II Timothy 4:1; 4:18**).
- C. Seeking first His righteousness (**Zephaniah 2:3** and **Romans 6:13**).
1. God's righteousness is revealed to us through His word (**Romans 1:16-17**).
 2. Seeking His, not our own righteousness (**Romans 10:1-3** and **Philippians 3:4-9**).
 3. Found in becoming the "new man" through Christ (**II Corinthians 5:17-21** and **Ephesians 4:24**).
 4. Continued through righteous living after the standard of God (**Romans 6:13**, **II Timothy 2:22**, and **I John 3:7-10**).
 5. The unrighteousness will not inherit the kingdom (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**).
- III. Conclusion: Don't labor for the temporary (**John 6:26-27**). Walk worthy of being kingdom citizens now and forever (**I Thessalonians 2:11-12**).