

WHAT IF ... ?

- God couldn't take time to bless us because we couldn't take time to thank Him yesterday?
- God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we did not follow Him today?
- We never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?
- God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?
- God took away the Bible tomorrow because we did not read it today?
- God took away the message because we failed to listen to the messenger?
- The door of the church was closed because we didn't open the door to our heart?
- God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?
- God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?
- God answered our prayers the way we answer His call for service?
- God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?

"The Lord is merciful and gracious ... abounding in mercy. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:8, 10)

Worry doesn't improve the future, it only ruins the present.

News & Notes

CONGRATULATIONS: To Bill Stillwell on his recent retirement. Best wishes, Bill!

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Help the ladies in this worthwhile project.

PANTRY: Spaghetti & sauce.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical Center: Jean Larrimore. AT HOME: Wade Sprout, Bobby Hadley (son of Bob & Pat Hadley), Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's mother). NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker. Calcutta Health Care: Virginia Clutter. Nentwick: Ruby Kenny. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

Put First Things First

Jesus said, "Seek ye first his kingdom and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). Solomon said, "Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole of man." (Eccl. 12:13). Jesus taught that some things are more important than others (Matt. 23:23). While we live on this earth, we have many things we must do. However, we become foolish if we do not put first things first. Yes, we must work, wash clothes, pay bills, clean house, etc. But if we neglect the most important things, we have missed the main reason for our existence. What are the most important things?

1. Love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:30).
2. Love our neighbor as our self (Matt. 22:37-40).
3. Attend services regularly and faithfully (Heb. 10:25).
4. Partake of the Lord's supper every Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 16:1-2).
5. Pray constantly (1 Thess. 5:17).
6. Study the Bible (Acts 17:11; Psalm 1:1-2), 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
7. Live a goodly life (Matt. 5:13-16; Rom. 12:1-2).
8. Teach others (Prov. 11:30; Acts 5:42).

When we die and face the Lord on the day of judgment, we will be held accountable for being obedient to these most important things. Wisdom is demonstrated by being obedient to the Lord's teaching (Matt. 7:24-27). Let us all be wise and not foolish. Let us obey the Lord! May God bless us as we seek to do His will.

John Hobbs, via *The Biblical Messenger*, San Angelo, TX

Meetings & Lectures

Pennsboro (Lectures) -----	Sept. 9-12 -----	Various Speakers
East Liverpool -----	Sept. 9-13 -----	Steve Stevens
CHESTER -----	Sept. 16-20 -----	Roger Rush
McKinleyville -----	Sept. 23-27 -----	Various Speakers
WVSOP Lectures -----	Oct. 21-25 -----	Various Speakers