

## First Things First!

Mark N. Posey

Christ revealed the need for setting proper priorities in Matthew 6:33. Putting first things last and last things first is far too easy and frequent. Therefore, consider four particulars from the words of Christ that will aid in putting first things first.

**Obligation:** "seek." We must understand that Jesus issued a command—not an option. If we desire a heavenly home, we must follow this absolute imperative. Seeking requires a diligent effort on our part. Notice Hebrews 11:6, which reads, "but without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

**Objects:** "the kingdom of God and his righteousness." The top priorities in a Christian's life are the "kingdom" or the church (Matthew 16:18-19) and "his righteousness." These are revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16-17).

**Order:** "first." The emphasis is that the church which belongs to Christ must never take a back seat. In all we do, we must seek to put these things first in our hearts, minds, souls and strength! **The concept of "seeking first" for the things of God is a predominant biblical concept** that touches one's motivation and priorities including how one spends his or her leisure time, the goals one sets in life and whether a person experiences spiritual growth.

**Outcome:** "all these things shall be added unto you." This statement shows the blessings that will result if one's priorities are right. The result for obediently seeking the kingdom and God's righteousness will lead to every need being supplied in accordance with God Himself. What an awesome promise. This does not mean that all one's wants will be granted. Without fail, God will surely take care of a Christian's daily requirements. It is also a clear reminder that "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:33).

One old recipe for preparing rabbit started out with this injunction, "First catch the rabbit." The writer knew how to put first things first. That's what we do when we establish priorities. We put the things that should be in first place in their proper order.

- Gospel Gazette online -

*The true measure of our wealth is the treasure we have in heaven.*

## News & Notes

**SYMPATHY:** To Bro. Rico at the recent passing of his cousin in Florida. God bless the family.

**COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY about noon** at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon worship at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

**FLOWERS:** Have you noticed the beautiful flowers at the front of our building? Chris Wiersbicki has voluntarily assumed the task of planting, and caring for the lovely display on our corner of Virginia Avenue and Second Street. Mention your appreciation to Chris.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** All ladies are invited to come and help make stuffed bears for kids in the hospital or elsewhere.

**CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m.** Everyone welcome.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, August 10th, 8:30 a.m.** at Columbian Church of Christ. Chester brothers will host.

**PANTRY:** Cake mix.

**REMEMBER THESE SICK & SHUT-IN: UPMC, Pittsburgh:** Rich Robinson (kidney failure). **At Home:** Sue Haught, Lois Hissom, Harry Huff, Zachary Guiddy (Tim Martin's grandson), Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Stocks (Karen Strum's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Audrey Geer (Linda Hall's mother), Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere: Brenda Harris, 102 Cardinal Dr., Rockwell, NC 28138. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.**

## DOUBTERS

The famous engineer and inventor, Robert Fulton, returned to America from Paris in 1805 to test his invention of the steamship. In 1807, he was ready to take the steamship Claremont on a trial run up the Hudson River between New York City and Albany.

The story is told that, in the excited crowd which watched the proceedings, there was a negative, pessimistic, doubtful old man. While preparations were being made to start the test run, the old man kept repeating, "They won't ever get her started." The steamship, however, was started, and began its trip up the river to the cheers of the crowd.

The doubter was then heard to say, "They won't ever get her stopped."

Does he remind you of anyone? There are two kinds of doubters: the active, investigative doubters who are willing to study the evidences before reaching a conclusion; and the lazy, prejudicial doubters who are unwilling to consider any possible evidences. Be a good doubter. Consider the evidence why you should believe the Bible and be a member of the church you read about therein.

- Author Unknown ( via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -