

SEEK YE FIRST

Matthew 6:33 is one of the most needed concepts in the church today. The Lord's body would be greatly different if every member would put God first. Deuteronomy 6:5 teaches that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and might. Jesus taught this lesson in Matthew 22:37. God must be first and He will not accept second place.

The word *first* is not hard to understand. We know that it means number one in priorities. Plainly stated it means that we cannot put one single thing before our dedication to God. Never let anything get in the way of our service to God and our work in the church. Far too often things get in the way. Very often it is not our intention to let this be the case, but in the end we let our work, recreation, family, or other things take first place in our hearts.

Do we seek the kingdom first and put all else in their proper place? The church desperately needs those who are busy in the Lord's work. The church will grow and be strong when every member puts it first.

- Author Unknown, *Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

DO YOU LOVE LIFE?

We like short easy prescriptions on how to live life. If someone will tell us how to be rich or be in good health in three easy lessons that person will get our attention and money. There are hundreds of diets that will let you lose hundreds of pounds without cutting down on your eating. Those are the diets I like.

The Bible does give us a short simple plan for enjoying life and seeing good days. It is found in 1 Peter 3:10-11. *"For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it,"*

There it is folks! Very simple:

1. *"Let him refrain his tongue from evil."*
2. *"His lips that they speak no guile."*
3. *"Let him eschew evil."* (Turn away from)
4. *"Let him seek peace and ensue it."*

The Bible isn't complicated. All we have to do is read it and obey it.

- Larry Acuff, *Bulletin Digest* -

If you get on fire for God, you will be too hot for Satan to handle.

News & Notes

BABY SHOWER: TODAY, 1:30 p.m. for **Casandra Holava** at the Fellowship Building.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

GRADUATION PARTY: Saturday May 28th, 4:00 p.m. for **Jordan Morris** at Stratton's Senior Citizen Hall, Stratton, OH. RSVP: John & Kim 330-383-9399.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Saturday, June 4th, 1:00 p.m. for **Keith & Elaine McClung** at the Fellowship Building. Lunch provided. Please, NO GIFTS, cards only. Sign-up by **next Sunday, May 29th** on the sheet in the foyer. The McClung's actual anniversary is June 10th.

MONTHLY COVERED DISH DINNERS TO RESUME: Beginning Sunday, June 5th, and the first Sunday of each month thereafter at the Fellowship Building. An early afternoon (2:00 p.m.) worship service will follow at the church building.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 13-17. Classes for all ages. Adult class teacher: **Jeremy Main.**

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: David & Becky McKitrick, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Mark Vermillion (neighbor with cancer), Cheryl Renfro Walker, Nicole Stoffer (aunt of Tamara Sprout), Lori Rowand (niece of John Sprout). **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

The Greatest Gift of All

A long time ago in Persia, a benevolent ruler named Shah Abbis reigned. To get to know his people better, he wore disguises to mingle among them. One day, he went as a poor man to the public baths, and sat by the fireman tending the furnace. At mealtime, he shared his food, and talked to the poor man as to a friend. Again and again, he visited the fireman until the man grew to love him. Finally, the emperor revealed his identity to the fireman. The emperor expected the fireman to request a gift of him. However, the fireman requested nothing. With love and wonder, the fireman declared, "You left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this dark place, to partake of my coarse fare, and to care whether

my heart was glad or sad. On others you may bestow rich presents, but to me you have given yourself." Of course, we know a ruler far more benevolent than this Persian monarch. We know a ruler who left the ivory palace of heaven to come and to live among us (Psalm 45:8). We know a ruler who was clothed with flesh and took upon himself the form of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8). We know a ruler who became poor that we might be made rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). We know a ruler who was such a friend to us that He gave His life for us (John 15:12-13). Of course, the King is Jesus.

- Author Unknown -
House to House Heart to Heart