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Putting Christ First

Memorization Verse: *Matthew 6:33*

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Along with the many privileges that God has given us, is the responsibility to obey His commands. The Bible states in Luke 11:28, **“Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”** Additionally, John 8:31 says, **“If you continue in My word, then are you are my disciples indeed.”** The Greek wording for “disciples indeed” is ‘alethos mathetes’, meaning ‘disciples for real’, or disciples that are genuine’. *Continuing* in God's word is synonymous with words like *abiding, keeping* and *obeying*. A more accurate rendering of John 8:31 might be: **“If you obey my word, then you are my disciples for real.”** Thus obedience to God's Word is the most obvious evidence that we belong to Christ. On this there can be no compromise.

“Putting Christ First” is the most basic issue in building a proper foundation for a healthy Christian life. Again, this is clear from Matthew 6:24, **“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”**[NIV] This may mean struggles, trials, persecution, ridicule, and even being ostracized by others. However, we have the promise that we can rest in Christ, **“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.”** [Matthew 11:28-30](NAS)

As you memorize, meditate and apply Matthew 6:33 to your daily life, seek to know Christ more intimately as you trust Him to provide all your daily needs. And remember – retaining verses you memorize is essential! [Prov. 4:4]

EXPLORING MATTHEW 6:33

What are “these things”? (Read Matthew 6:25-32)

Are these necessities or luxuries? Explain your answer.

What has God promised to do as you place His interests first in your life?

SEEKING FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. What does God want us to do according to the following verses?

Psalm 37:3

Psalm 37:4

Psalm 37:5

2. How does I Samuel 12:24 help us to understand why we should serve the Lord with all our heart?

3. What does God desire more than sacrifice according to I Samuel 15:22?

4. How should we obey God's commands according to these verses?

Psalm 119:34

Psalm 119:60

5. What is God's means for training us in righteousness according to 2 Timothy 3:16?

6. According to Hebrews 3:10 and Isaiah 53:6, what is the warning to those who follow their "own way"?

“ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL”

7. Read Ephesians 3:20-21. How much can God do for you?

8. In Isaiah 40:11, how does God promise to take care of His people?

9. How about Psalm 37:25?

10. According to Proverbs 3:5-6, what does it mean to “trust in the Lord”?

11. Read Philippians 4:4 and 4:6. List what we are instructed to practice as believers.

12. How does Philippians 4:7 describe the result of applying Philippians 4:4 and 4:6?

13. What was Paul's attitude towards his circumstances in Philippians 4:11-13?

How was he able to do this?

14. Regardless of our circumstances, what are we to be content with? (See I Timothy 6:8)

15. How well does God know our needs according to Matthew 6:8?



Closing Scripture Reading:

1 Timothy 6:6-11 (NAS)

6 But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.
7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.
8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.
11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.



Personal Notes:

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