

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

FIRST THINGS

27

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the importance of putting God first in your life.

Copyright © 2025, Paul J. Baumeister, Ph.D.

The author reserves all rights to this text. No part shall be downloaded or stored in a retrieval system other than as required for browsing. It may not be reproduced, printed or copied without written permission from the author.

Published by Paul Baumeister, P.O. Box 2366, Elk Grove, California 95759.

Printed in the United States of America.



City of the Living God



“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:31-33).

Oftentimes when we are beginning to live for God, we miss the revelation of first things. God has some laws of blessings and provisions that he gives to his children that understand these teachings and put them into action within their life. It is easy to miss these priorities that God requires of us as we begin our walk with him. Once they are understood, you can expect the blessings of God to follow you all the days of your life. It does not mean we will never be in need or that we will never face challenging times in our lives, but it does mean that blessings will be pronounced upon your life as you pursue your walk with God. This scriptural passage shows the believers worrying about the common necessary provisions of life such as food, drink, and clothes. You can add anything else to that list that is a need in your life. God promises that these provisions will come as you put God first in your life. After you have this priority correct in your life the rest will come as a result of your action.

JESUS IS MY LORD

Sometimes we use words as titles of God without actually thinking of the meaning. In the Bible, Jesus was called by his disciples as “Lord.” They were using the word, “kurios” in the Greek which means “master.” Of course, that means we are his servants, and a servant serves his/her master in all areas. We understand that we are part of his kingdom, and he is King over our lives.

Philippians 2:9-11

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

John 13:16-17

“Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

Romans 10:12-13

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This last scripture is not saying that all we have to do is say the name of the Lord and we will be saved. It’s referring to his Lordship. It’s saying that regardless of what race you are, Jesus is the Lord in your life if you have made him your Master. So, whoever has made him Lord in their life will be saved. So, that begs the question, “How do you make Jesus Lord in your life”?

Jesus becomes your Lord in your life when you initially repent and obey the gospel. Repentance includes remorse for your past sins and a relinquishing of your will to him. Once you give him your will, he fills

you with the Holy Spirit and you in turn are baptized in the name of Jesus. You cannot make Jesus your Lord without the Holy Spirit living in you.

1 Corinthians 12:3

“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”

GOD IS OUR PRIORITY

As we live for the Lord, we begin to learn that as we place him at the center in our lives and put him first, that the blessings of God come our way. He gave the perfect example to us as he also gave his all to us. So as he gave his all to us, he expects the same from us.

Philippians 2:7-8

“but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Our response to what he did for us dictates whether we are blessed or cursed. Putting God as our top priority is part of what it means to call him Lord over our life. That means he wants us to make him first before our family, friends, and our own desires.

Matthew 10:37-38

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

That means that there are some very practical things that we begin to do that show God is our priority.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

As followers of Jesus, we are faithful to the House of God on a weekly basis. There is one day per week that God called the sabbath which was in the Old Testament the day of rest where the people served and worshipped the LORD God. For the New Testament Christians, it is Sunday. Nothing should replace that day. That is the day, that we serve the Lord. Work should never replace that day. To not place God first in your life is a sure way to lose the blessings of God and live a cursed life.

Exodus 20:8-10

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work...”

For the New Testament, they made their sabbath as the first day of the week which is Sunday in honor of the day the Lord was resurrected. It is important to see that this was their priority.

Acts 20:7

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”

Hebrews 10:25

“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (ESV).

What are your excuses for missing services? Is it work? Is it you're too tired? Is it sports? Too busy? Have other priorities? A good way of cursing your business is to make it a “habit” of working on Sundays. We often try to make everything logical but fail to see that “his ways are higher than our ways” and this has been the recipe for blessings since the beginning of creation.

OTHER AREAS OF LORDSHIP

When we place God as our priority and seek after his Kingdom, we do not only show our faithfulness in our church attendance, but in other areas of our life. As we stated above that just as he gave us his all on the cross, he expects us to give our all as a “living sacrifice.”

Romans 11:1

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

It is his desire that we live a holy life that is represented in our life by the way we live, talk, act, and dress. God is interested in all of our being. As you learn to live for God, you will make changes in all of these areas until you become a mature Christian. These are some of the areas of life that God expects us to change:

1. That we abstain from alcohol, drugs, etc.
2. That we avoid areas where alcohol and drugs are used such as parties, bars, or any other place that offers them.
3. That we avoid hanging around bad influences whoever they are that can lead us astray.
4. That we dress modestly so as not to attract people to our bodies.

God gives us promises of blessings when we obey him in all this. He declares this promise to affect us in all ways.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

For more Information
Paul Baumeister
P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759

**[Click here to access the
complete series](#)**