

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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May 26, 2024

“Important, But Not Everything”

By Sean T. Sullivan

There are things in this world that are truly impressive, and they should be: The natural world-the wonders of God's creation, for us (Psalm 19:1-6). The Bible-the inspired word of God, for us (Psalm 19:7-11; James 1:17-25). The life transformations wrought by the gospel of Jesus Christ-like Paul's transformation (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

There are things that the world is typically impressed with, and in fact, most who achieve those things are highly esteemed and glorified, by men. In the eyes of the world, Intelligence, wealth, and strength are certainly among those impressive things. Sometimes, there is so much focus on trying to be impressive to those around us that we fall into thinking that everyone, including God, is impressed by such. Let's open the Bible and consider these further thoughts.

Intelligence is Important, but it is not Everything.

Intelligence is certainly a benchmark of success and we cannot doubt the need for intelligence in this world. However, some have lifted intelligence above its proper place: Some use their intelligence to pursue a secular "higher understanding". Similar to the men of Athens (Acts 17:21), and perhaps even more in our modern-day. Seeking after their own philosophies and theories-which, according to Colossians 2:8, "cheat" men of their salvation. Creating their own doctrines, which are vain (Matthew 15:8-9).

Intelligence will not help us unless we use our intelligence to realize God. Willing to see that we are not random, we are created by a greater power than we possess, and desire to find our Source (Genesis 1, 2).

Willing to see the evidence that God has supplied to show Himself to us-the world (Psalm 19:1-6) and the word (Psalm 19:7-11). Unless we use our intelligence to learn God's will and to obey it properly. We must be willing to submit to God, as our Creator and Father (Acts 17:24-27), searching His word, to know Him and His expectations (Ephesians 5:8-10; 2 Timothy 2:15). Unless we use our intelligence to further His kingdom. Willing to speak to others clearly and confidently about our hope (1 Peter 3:15)-the true gospel (Romans 1:16). Standing up against the "wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:10-18) and the "winds of doctrines" (Ephesians 4:14).

Intelligence is important, but our eternal salvation is everything.

Wealth is Important, but it is not Everything.

Wealth is certainly a benchmark of "success" and we cannot doubt the need for money in this world. However, some have lifted the pursuit of wealth above its proper place: Because of money, many have been corrupted to do evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Because of money, some have been consumed in its pursuit, and will never be satisfied (Ecclesiastes 5:10). Because of money, and its perceived power: Many believe they have all that they will ever need, "In money, I trust" (1 Timothy 6:17). They believe that they can "buy" their way into, or out of, any situation (Acts 8:18-20).

Wealth will not help us unless we use our wealth as the blessing that it was intended to be. Using money to provide for our own needs, not coveting it and withholding it-even from ourselves (Luke 12:15). Also, helping others, since we have the ability (James 1:26-27)-do so, with wisdom to ensure that it is a blessing; not a curse. Unless we keep wealth in proper perspective. Money is not durable enough, or dependable enough, to be worthy of

our distraction from serving God and pursuing eternal life (Matthew 6:19-21). Money is essential, but not as essential as spiritual wealth, and our soul's salvation (Matthew 16:26).

Unless we use it for the furtherance of the kingdom. We are to cheerfully contribute to the continuation of the Lord's work, on the Lord's Day (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11). When the brethren in Philippi sent money to Paul for his support in preaching the gospel, he said something interesting that we need to note. In Philippians 4:15-19, Paul speaks of giving as "*fruit that abounds to your account*" and that it is "*well-pleasing to God.*" (God knows what you do, or do not do, with your money).

Wealth is important, but our eternal salvation is everything.

Strength is Important, but it is not Everything.

Strength is certainly a benchmark of success; we cannot doubt its need in this world. However, some have lifted the pursuit of human strengths above its proper place: Some think that physicality, and training for such, is the answer to all their problems, but Paul declares that "*bodily exercise profits a little*" (1 Timothy 4:8). Some think that the will-power of self-denial to an extreme level is the answer to enlightenment, but again, we are told that it has "*no value against the indulgence of the flesh*"-against sinning (Colossians 2:20-23).

Strength will not help us unless we realize our weakness without God and lean on the Lord for strength. Putting on the Armor of God and leaning on His strength (Ephesians 6:10-18). Unless we use our strength to focus on God.

There are an uncountable number of distractions in our world, we must be strong in our focus on Him (Hebrews 12:1-2), not weak and taken in by this world's flood of dissipation (1 Peter 4:1-5). Unless we use our strength for the furtherance of His kingdom. Living properly, as a "light" in this world (Matthew 5:16). Demonstrating consistently, the "good, acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

Strength is important, but our eternal salvation is everything.

Conclusion:

Sometimes, there is so much focus on trying to be impressive to the world around us that we fall into thinking that everyone, including God, is impressed by such. The truth is that we are nothing without God and "it is not in man who walks, to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Human achievement is not the answer, yes we need intelligence, wealth, and strength; but we must apply them to the pursuit of one far greater goal-Having our name written in "Lamb's Book of Life" (Revelation 21:27).

You cannot think of a better way to get your name there; you cannot pay to have your name written, and you cannot force it to appear. To have this hope you must do God's will-willingly repent and turn to Him in obedience, for salvation. The opportunity to seek God is yours, right now.

7 THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

1 LORD. "There is one Lord." (Ephesians 4:5).

2 THIEVES. "*There were also 2 others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.*" (Luke 23:32).

3 CROSSES. (Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 1:7).

4 PARTS of HIS GARMENTS. "*Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic.*" (John 19:23).

5 WOUNDS. His head was crowned with thorns. His back was scourged. His side was cut open. His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. (John 19-20).

6 HOURS of AGONY. Christ was crucified at the 3rd hour and died at the 9th hour. (Mark 15:25-37)

7 SAYINGS of The CROSS. (Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43-46; John 19:26-30).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Fred Johnson, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, and Isaiah Switcher (Tim Harris Jr's 1 cousin) has brain cancer, Anita Harris, and Karen Kennemur.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Jim Allen
Sermon #1: *To Be Announced...*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Starting Page & Question: Herschel Patton
Page 77, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: *Colossians 3:1-4*
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Jim Allen
Sermon #2: *To Be Announced...*
Closing Prayer: Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 29, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: The Book Of Daniel
Author: By Daniel H. King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #90, Question #1*
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

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