

Title: THE CHRISTIAN'S TOP PRIORITIES

Text: Mark 12:30-31

Intro: Priorities – things more important than others that consume most of our time and energy. Priorities give meaning, happiness and fulfillment to life. (Exs: family, friends, work, health, hobbies, etc.). What are your priorities as a Christian?

I. EXALTING THE SAVIOUR (Psa. 115:1)

- A.** Devoted for life to the glory of God;
- B.** Live to please and magnify—make great;
- C.** Reason: God's faithfulness, love, mercy, grace, salvation;
- D.** Do it in word and in deed (**Col. 3:17**);
- E.** Follow the example of Christ (**John 6:38**);
- F.** Do all to the glory of God (**1 Cor. 10:31**);
- G.** When life is over, can we say – **2 Tim. 4:7; John 17:4.**

II. EDIFYING THE SAINTS (Eph. 4:11-12)

- A.** Edify: to build up and strengthen in the faith;
- B.** Object: God's people, fellow believers in Christ & Bible;
- C.** Reason: Need for mature Christians to work for Christ;
- D.** Compare different Depts. of a school (Nursery-College);
- E.** Love is the main motivation and drive (**Gal. 5:13**);
- F.** Do it in word and deed (**1 John 3:18**);
- G.** You have a spiritual gift for official use of the church!

III. EVANGELIZING THE SINNERS (Rom. 1:16)

- A.** Unsaved are without **Christ, hope, God** (**Eph. 2:12**);
- B.** Unbelievers condemned already (**John 3:18**);
- C.** We are debtors to the lost (**Rom. 1:14**);
- D.** Why "Rescue the Perishing?" (**Ezek. 3:18**);
- E.** Mission Possible! If only every Christian does his job;
- F.** When was the last time you witnessed and passed tracts?

CONCLUSION: What are your priorities in life? How do your earthly compare with heavenly priorities? Do you love God and His word enough to give them your top priority? Do you love fellowman enough to go and share the Gospel of salvation to him before it's too late? God saved us, not just to bring us to heaven, but to – (1) Magnify the Lord; (2) Become God's blessing to fellow believers; (3) Be God's chosen instrument of salvation to the lost and perishing.

Psa. 115:1> Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Col. 3:17> And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

John 6:38> For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

1 Cor. 10:31> Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

2 Tim. 4:7> I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

John 17:4> I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Eph. 4:11-12> ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Gal. 5:13> For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

1 John 3:18> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Rom. 1:16> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Eph. 2:12> That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

John 3:18> He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Rom. 1:14> I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Ezek. 3:18> When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.