

Lesson 9: Christian Priorities and the Abundant Life

John 10:10

Jesus did not for the single purpose of opening the door of eternal life in heaven to us. He also makes a new abundant life possible for His people during their journey here in this world.

What is the abundant life that Jesus promises? _____

When does God want the abundant life to begin in our lives? _____

Why is it that so few Christians are experiencing the full and abundant life that God wants to give them? _____

In order to experience the abundant life that God has for us, it is absolutely necessary that we have our **PRIORITIES** aligned biblically. What does it mean to have biblically aligned priorities?

There are many reasons why people's lives are "messed up." When examined closely the reason is often preceded by mixed up priorities. This, likewise, is the main reason so many good Christians are not experiencing the abundant life that God has already prepared for them. The things that are not really important have become priorities for them. Thanks be to God that the Word of the Lord sets us free from the rat-race of life, from conformation to the world system by showing us the priorities that lead us into the abundant life God has for us.

Matthew 6:33

What must our top priority in life be if we want to experience the abundant life God has for us?

Jesus continually spoke to His disciples concerning what the priorities of our life must be. We are going to study His words in John chapter 15. As you read these verses, think about life's priorities as Jesus teaches them.

John 15: 5, 8, 11, 12, 18, 19 & 26

What are our top priorities to be according to Jesus in John 15?

v. 5 _____

v. 8 _____

v. 12 _____

Look again at verse 5. What can we do if we do not remain united to Christ? _____

How do we remain closely united to Christ? _____

The closer we remain united to Christ, the more we will experience:

What is the result of adopting these priorities for our lives (v. 11)? _____

What is the natural result of remaining united with Christ and growing closer to Him as the most important thing?

v. 18, 19 _____

As God's people, we remember at all times we are not the _____, we

are the _____. The world is drowning in the darkness of messed up priorities and miserable and empty lives.

What does God give to His people to help them see the true priorities of life and thus be guided into the abundant life (v. 26)?

What does the Holy Spirit do? _____

What does the Holy Spirit help us to do for those still in the darkness of this world.(v.26) _____

Discuss Priorities: God, Family, Neighbors, Church, Yourself. Where does each of these fit into

the list. What should be added. How should they be rearranged?

Every Christian must sit down and think through his own life priorities. Of course for God's people, the top priorities are remaining united to Christ, bearing fruits in the Kingdom of God, and loving one another as Christ has loved us. All other things in life come after this, including career, education, and our personal recreation. While these are important and while each has a important place in life, they are not the number one issues.

According to The Day America Told the Truth, (Prentice Hall Press, 1991) the top two concerns of Americans are getting rich and being thin. The God who is the real God doesn't care whether we are rich or thin, poor or fat. He just wants us to follow Him, wherever He leads us.

If the Lord has given us a spouse and a family to love, their interests must come before our own interests. What is the chief reason for so many families breaking down in these days?

If God has given us children, what does the Bible say is the most important thing we can do for them? _____

Just as the Bible tells us what the important things of life are, which we need to seek, the Bible also tells us what things in life are not that important.

1 Timothy 6:8-10

If God takes care of our needs but does not advance us in many material things, how should we feel? V. 8 _____

What happens to people who are not content with what God gives them, but keep wanting more and more material things? v. 9 _____

Living for money and the things money can buy is called materialism (the belief that happiness and contentment can be found in material things). Can someone who is into materialism ever experience the abundant life that God has for them? _____

Can a person who is into materialism still walk in the life of faith? (verse 10)

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

What should have low priority in the lives of God's people (v.15)? _____

What has top priority? (v.17) _____

Homework:

Think through your own priorities. Are there things that are more important than what God says your priorities should be? (Is God crowded to a lower place in your life because of these?) Is there something in your life of low importance according to God's Word that is hurting your family? Take this week to think and act upon your priorities. Pray about it this week and below write a short prayer asking God to help you see the right priorities for your life.