

Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.

Acts 10:27

Store In My Heart Psalms 8:1

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!

The book of Psalms is filled with praise and devotion to God. David is not the only writer of Psalms. Some of these Psalms are hymns sung by the Jews as they travelled to Jerusalem to the annual feasts. Others, like Psalm 119, are odes to God or His Word. Some seem to be prayers offered at various times of trouble or joy. There are even a number of Psalms that call for God to defeat enemies and the wicked.

Many Psalms have been 'put to music' so that we can sing them in our worship to God. These help keep our focus on God and His Word in our lives.

All of these can be helpful to us as we journey here on Earth. Take advantage of the Psalms to help your prayer and praise and to lift you up when sorrow weighs you down.



Leadership Requires Right Priorities

Max Dawson

In the past couple of weeks, I have shared some thoughts with you about how kingdom leaders must have the right attitudes in life. I took those thoughts from what Jesus said in **Matthew 5:1-12**, what are commonly called the "beatitudes." I also presented some thoughts on doing the right things for the right reasons, taken from our Master's discourse in **Matthew 6:1-18**, where Jesus warned about doing things just to be seen of men. Kingdom leaders must do the right things for the right reasons.

This morning, I want us to think about having the right priorities. In **Matthew 6:33**, Jesus said, "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*" In this section, Jesus was not talking about leadership, yet His words surely apply to leaders. The immediate context was about worry--worry about "*what shall we eat, what shall we drink, what shall we wear?*" (**Matthew 6:25-32**). The Lord's answer to these common worries was to seek God's kingdom, and these things would be provided.

Jesus was teaching that we must have the right priorities in life. Our first priority should be spiritual, not physical. While physical things are needed (Jesus said so in **verse 32**), they can't be our top priority. Spiritual things must come "first." The word used here means first "in time, place, order, or importance" (Strong's). All these meanings apply in this case.

But what does it mean to "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*"? When I first became a Christian, I remember hearing a preacher say, "When you see the word 'kingdom,' you should think 'church.'" Indeed, our relationship with God in the church is of high priority, but I don't think that preacher had it right.

The most common use of the word "*kingdom*" in the New Testament has to do with God's authority, reign, and rule over men. That is what I should seek. I must seek to be under the authority and rule of God for my life. I must be submissive to Him because He is God and has the right to rule. That should be my first priority--to have His kingly rule over my life.

But what about the second phrase in our text? What does Jesus mean when He says we are to seek *"His righteousness"*? Some have said that this means to learn all you can about how God is righteous in all He does. That might be a worthy exercise, but that is not the thought here. This second phrase is an expansion of the first. It is about seeking God's plan for making me righteous! How do I do that? I do it by putting myself under His rule and reign!

Romans 1:17 says something about this principle. As Paul writes about the gospel, the power of God to save (v. 16), he says, *"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed..."*

While it is true that God's personal righteousness is revealed in the gospel, this verse is talking about how God makes men righteous. It is a righteousness that comes from God that saves us. It is a righteousness that comes as a result of our sins being forgiven.

In any case, a kingdom leader must seek God's will for His life. He must have his priorities right. This is one of the core values of leadership. While he must necessarily be involved in other things also, God's rule for his life is always his first priority.

(This article is from Max Dawson's weekly email focused on leadership in God's Kingdom. He has spent time looking at leaders through the Old Testament and just started looking at lessons on leadership from Jesus a few weeks ago. This installment touches on something we all need to consider.

I have quoted this verse numerous times in reminding Christians to put God first in our lives. Remembering that God is the ultimate authority is essential to keeping our focus on serving Him. And as pointed out above, it is seeking the righteousness that comes from following God that will keep us on the strait and narrow way to Heaven.

Walking that path is always going to be difficult, but if we are constantly keeping our focus on God who rules over all and filling our minds and hearts with the Word that guides us in right actions, we can more easily navigate those difficulties. Study and practice of the Word every day of life will go a long way in helping us keep that focus. Worship and study with our fellow brethren is also of great assistance in learning and finding support in our time of need. Keep seeking God each day. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Vickie McNees is using an inhaler for breathing issues.

Sue Soliday is doing physical therapy for her lymphedema.

Jim Soliday is having heart rhythm problems still.

Jon Ross Simpson is doing PT for his leg injury and should see a surgeon soon.

Shannon Soliday is working this weekend.

Paula Laubach's great-nephew, **Tanner Trombly** (15), will soon start intensive chemotherapy for Burkett Lymphoma.

Next Sunday Evening – **The Prophets** Wednesday - **John 9:13**

Gospel Meeting with Jared Hagan – This Week

Announcements are available in the Foyer