

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Six Symptoms of Misplaced Priorities

1. _____ - The Activity Trap.
2. _____ Stress and Pressure.
3. Low Grade _____.
4. _____ Debt.
5. _____ - "Leakage in Your Devotional Life."
6. _____ Behavior.

An Overview of Biblical Priorities

“The Twin Epistles”

TOPIC	COLOSSIANS	EPHESIANS
God	3:1-7	5:1-20
Mate	3:18-19	5:21-33
Family	3:20-21	6:1-4
Work	3:22-4:1	6:5-9
Ministry	4:2-6	6:10-20

Two Words Hold the Keys to Enjoying the Peace and Power Of a Prioritized Life

A. Your _____

¹⁰The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. ¹¹Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. ¹²Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NASB)

Application:

1. Give your first and _____ to God.
2. 2PROAPT = 20 minutes a day
P- Pray A- Apply
P- Preview P- Pray
R- Read T- Tell
O- Observe
3. New Christian = Mark (less than a chapter a day)
Older Christian = James (2-3 paragraph max. a day)

B. Your _____

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

Application: Four Commitments

1. _____ the first portion of each paycheck to God.
2. _____ your bills next.
3. _____ on the rest.
4. _____ of debt.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the word “priority” mean? Why is it so important that we live a prioritized life?
2. What are some of the negative consequences of failing to live by God’s priorities? Which of the six symptoms could you identify with most closely?
3. Whose “best interest” does God have in mind when He teaches us to live according to Biblical priorities?
4. Why does our use of time and money most accurately reflect our real priorities?
5. Lasting change demands deep, prolonged thinking. When this week will you set aside some significant time to think through and discuss your priorities with a close friend?