

A PRIME ISSUE TO CONSIDER

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Matthew 6:25 *Take no thought for your life, what*
Matt. 6:33 *seek 1st the kingdom & righteousness*
Matthew 7:21 *Not every one that says, Lord, Lord*
Luke 11:2 *Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in*
Luke 11:13 *being evil, know how to give good gifts*
Philippians 4:6 *Do not be over-anxious about*
Philippians 4:7 *The peace of God, which passeth*
1 John 2:6 *He who says he abides in Him should*

1 With many *prime* issues today—prime time; prime shipping; or prime rate—which means of main concern then, eternal life is the prime issue to consider since this life is as fleeting as a morning mist.

2 There are only two places to spend eternity—the Lake of Fire where the residents are tormented forever; and the Paradise of God where the redeemed enjoy the presence of God forever. Our destiny should command our utmost attention.

3 God realizes the importance of this issue, so He works with us to *safeguard* our eternal interests.

4 Satan also realizes the importance of this issue, so all of his efforts are to *hinder* our preparation for eternal life.

5 The *conditions* for entering Paradise have mostly been ignored, neglected, or misunderstood by the majority—even those who *claim* to be Christians. If there is no repentance nor real trust on God, they will not be ready to *Stand Before the Master*.

6 The Bible tells us what is required to be ready for Heaven—the Word of God is the final authority in all such issues—especially in being righteous before God.

7 Because of His love, mercy, and concern for His creation, God has provided a way to *be* prepared—and this way has guaranteed results.

8 If we are stubborn, rebellious, and refuse to take advantage of what God has provided concerning this issue, the responsibility of our fate will be on us.

9 In His marvelous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives the requirements of receiving eternal life.

10 AV **Matthew 7:21** *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

11 Doing the will of God is the prime issue in this life—resulting in our enjoying eternity in Heaven with Him and all the redeemed.

12 The *first* thing is *knowing* the will of God, and the *second* is *doing* the will of God.

13 The Bible contains the plan God has written and touching every detail of life—explaining just *what* to do and *how* to do with every situation—and His plans are opposite to the world.

14 We are not able to obey His Word by our own ability—which *had* been His plan under the old Law when people were required to obey God’s Word in their own strength. It simply proved that the sin nature cannot *obey* God or do the *will* of God.

15 The New Testament presents a much different plan—which is to obey God’s Word by the power *He* gives us.

16 The Holy Spirit was sent into the world to guide us, to enlighten us, to empower us, and to give us the ability to *know* and *do* the will of God.

17 Many people, unfortunately, who profess to be Christians, are convinced they will go to Heaven by just knowing of the Atonement of Christ—but *without* having to obey God or do His will.

18 However, continuing on the path of *disobedience* results in *destruction* forever.

19 The *standard* for receiving eternal life of the average Christian, is to live a *moral* life; be *sincere* in your beliefs; be *honest* in dealing with others; and be a *member* of a church.

20 But if anyone bases their hope of Heaven on just *those* things, they would not go to Heaven but to Hell instead.

21 In His *Sermon on the Mount*—**Matthew 5, 6, and 7**—Jesus teaches the Father’s will concerning Prime Issues—like having a right attitude toward everyone; that we should not resist an evil person; that we turn the other cheek; He taught us to go the second mile in helping someone; we are to love everyone, and to pray for our enemies.

22 We are to trust God for daily finances with no back-up supplies; He said to give to charity and not accumulate personal wealth.

23 He told us to put valuable treasures or collections in Heaven—not on earth—so our *trust* remains on God.

24 Jesus told us to lend to those wanting to borrow something and that we are not to expect it back.

25 We are to give money to those asking for a donation, and if anyone steals from us, we are not to try to get it back.

26 This teaching is strange and unfamiliar to the average Christian church member. Very few

of them *know* what the Sermon on the Mount teaches, and fewer still *believe* it or are willing to *obey* it.

27 But it was God in Person teaching His Truth and preparing us for Heaven.

28 He taught us to put our trust in God for daily needs. AV **Matthew 6:25** *“Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink.”* **33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

29 Jesus stated that our hope of Heaven depended on our *obeying* this teaching. He said that the one who *hears* and *obeys* what He taught would be like a man who built his house on a rock—when the flood came it would stand.

30 Then He said that the one who *hears* and does *not* obey is like a house built on sand. When the flood came it fell and great was the fall of it.

31 This was referring to our preparation for eternal life, but includes being contented and happy in this life.

32 The financial teaching He gave is *not* to take our money from us, because He said that anything we lose for the kingdom’s sake—which means obeying His Word—we would receive a hundredfold back of money and of everything *else* in this life.

33 Jesus taught that our heart must be *changed* or we would *not* enter the kingdom of Heaven.

34 We are to have the same attitude as a child has toward a parent—going to them with all their troubles—major and minor.

35 That means we are to go to God with *all* our troubles—big and small; important and unimportant; we are to pray to God about every need and desire. We are to *trust* Him to do those things for us as a child trusts a parent.

36 WEY **Philippians 4:6** *“Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest*

pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God.”

37 If we would follow that teaching, the results are that AV **Philippians 4:7** *“The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

38 Following God’s plan includes His granting the things that we have asked for, and eternal life is included.

39 We are to trust in God alone for our spiritual light; for the health and protection of our body; for the salvation of loved ones—as well as having a right attitude toward everyone and everything.

40 We are to trust God in faith for our financial support and needs; trust Him in faith to fight all legal matters; and trust Him to deliver us from the troubles of this life.

41 The majority of people have shut God *out* of their life which effectively blocks all that Jesus provided for them on the Cross, and it will eventually rob them of eternal life if they do not repent and turn back to God.

42 Adam started out to be a god unto himself, and to control his life by his own wisdom, planning, and ability—shutting God out of his everyday decisions. There is really no worse sin as it is the root of all *other* sins.

43 Satan wants people to profess Christianity but still have that root of sin hidden under a coat of religion.

44 It is why so many are neglecting these vital truths of the Word—like trusting God for healing, for financial supplies, and for His righteousness by *obeying* the Word.

45 The sin nature will not trust God for anything in life where there is a risk. This wrong attitude blocks answers to prayer that a Christian *should* receive.

46 And they should receive spiritual light on life issues; they should have good health and physical protection; and they should enjoy peace as God has promised to give it.

47 Jesus taught us the Lord’s Prayer **Luke 11:2-4**—that included AV **Luke 11:13** *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”*

48 God would give that much more of His Spirit to anyone who trusts Him in faith for guidance.

49 The Christian life is to confess and forsake our sins and be born again; to surrender our life for God’s will to be done in all things.

50 We are to be guided and taught by the Holy Spirit, so we will *know* what God’s Word says; then believe and obey it until we have a right attitude toward all things and people.

51 A disciple of Christ trusts in God for everything that pertains to this life, and trusts Him to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus—which means to *live* and *walk* as He lived and walked.

52 NKJV **1 John 2:6** *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”*

53 That is our preparation for eternal life—and it is a *prime issue* worth considering!



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