

## **“The Cure for Care – First Things First”**

### **Matthew 6: 25 – 34**

There are innumerable things to do; places to go, things to see and many of them are good and worthwhile, but there is neither time nor money to do it all, so how do we choose properly? An important guideline is the use of the word “first” or “first of all” as seen in the New Testament. With this in mind, we want to consider a few priority items as recorded in the scriptures.

1. Priority of Awareness. (2 Peter 3: 3 – 4)

The primary intellectual heresy of these later times is the anti-God philosophy of naturalistic evolution and humanism and this is plainly outlined in this passage. It is vital for all true Christians to know how to refute and correct these false ideas. We can be aware by living out the words of (verse 18), “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2. Priority of Behavior. (Matthew 23: 26)

The thoughts of our heart will inevitably control the words of our lips and the works of our hands. Much is said about the heart and the head. Heart – in religion it is often a symbol of the emotional, deep subconscious commitments of man. In the Bible the heart often represents the total personality and referred to as God’s home within man. Head – In religious terminology it is a symbol of the rational and intellectual factors in the make-up and sometimes opposed to the heart. We need to understand the reality of Jesus’ words in this chapter in verses 25, 27, and 28.

3. Priority of Giving. (2 Corinthians 8: 5)

A person’s possessions, talents, time and any and all other resources belong to God for he is the giver of every good and perfect gift. Our giving to God and others is acceptable only when offered by one whose heart has first been given fully and completely to him. (Romans 12:1-2) speaks of our attitudes toward giving and the reasons for giving.

4. Priority in Witness. (1 Corinthians 15: 3 – 4)

The truths we have received concerning Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection we need to be ready to share with others. We can also share simply what he has done for us in our day to day living and how he desires to do the same for them.

5. Priority in Concern. (1 Timothy 2: 1)

Our concern for the needs of others should be evident. We are told in (Galatians 6:2) “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” We are also told in (2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 4) that because God has comforted us we should do all we can to comfort others with the comfort we have received from God. We can present other’s needs to God in prayer and make ourselves available to listen to others simply because we are concerned.

So then according to the words of Jesus our first priority is to seek his kingdom and his righteousness and he will take care of everything else.