GETTING OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

INTRODUCTION: (Matthew 6:28-34)…Man often finds that primary matters have become secondary in his life. But those who succeed in life are those who have their priorities straight. In the sermon on the mount, (Matthew 6:33), Jesus tells us to put first things first. He says “But”… “seek”… “first”.

#1, We are to seek first the kingdom of God. Nothing is more important than allowing the Creator God of heaven to rule and reign in our hearts. The kingdom of God is the church, (Matthew 16:18-19; John 18:36; Romans 14:17; Luke 17:20-21; Acts 20:28; Revelation 5:9-10).

- The kingdom should be sought because of its worth, (Matthew 13:44-46).
- The kingdom should be sought because of its indestructibility, (Matthew 16:18-19; Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28-29).
- The kingdom should be sought because it is a realm of spiritual safety, (I Corinthians 15:24).

#2, We’re commanded to continually seek righteousness, (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 10:1-3; Psalm 119:172; John 14:15; 15:14; Luke 6:46). Seeking God’s righteousness means that we’ll keep His commandments and do His will.

#3, In the spiritual realm, other things are often first in people’s lives, (Ephesians 4:28; II Thessalonians 3:10). But, work is never to be first in our lives, (Luke 12:15-21). Wealth is never to be first in our lives, (Ecclesiastes 5:13; Matthew 16:26). Pleasure is never to be first in our lives, (Hebrews 11:25; I Timothy 5:6). A life of ease and convenience is never to be first in our lives.

Blessings become a curse if they pull us away from the kingdom of God, (Amos 6:1f; I John 2:15; III John 9; II Timothy 3:2; John 3:19).

#4, What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God?

a) Being willing to undergo a radical transformation such as being born again to enter the kingdom, (John 3:3-5; II Thessalonians 1:8; Acts 11:26; II Corinthians 5:17).
b) Staying in it, (Luke 9:62; Revelation 2:10; Matthew 24:13).
c) Living for the kingdom…and this includes 5 basic things:
   1) Consistency, (Revelation 3:5).
   2) Authenticity, (I Peter 2:1).
   5) Preaching the kingdom, (Acts 8:5,12).

CONCLUSION: Have we put His kingdom His righteousness first in our lives? If not, let’s begin this new year by putting first things first… (John 8:24), Believe; (Luke 13:3), repent; (Matthew 10:32-33), confess; and (Mark 16:15-16), be baptized, (Acts 2:36-38).

This is where we begin to get our priorities straight in 2015…May your new year be the best yet!