**BIBLE - PRIORITIES**

***JEREMIAH 10:23***

**INTRODUCTION – Jer 10:23 - *O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself;***

***It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*** The prophet is letting us know that man has a problem with getting his priorities straight.

The study we want to engage in today is in regard to our priorities when making our decisions. If we maintain the proper attitude toward the word of God then our priorities will be guided by what God deems as important thru his word.

Often times in life people do what I call majoring in the minors. They do this by taking the things of ultimate importance in this life and not giving them the proper priority. As they do this they take the things of far less importance and priority and elevate them to positions of great importance in their lives.

We must admit that we live our lives by the way we prioritize things. Do we have the proper priorities? Are we putting first things first? The purpose of this lesson is to teach what the word of God has to say about our priorities.

***BIBLE - PRIORITIES:***

1. **LOVE OF GOD BEFORE LOVE OF THE WORLD** –
2. **MATT. 22:34-39** – What is the greatest commandment? We are to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What are your priorities?
3. **1 JN. 2:15-17** – Why are we warned to not love the world? Because the things of the world will pass away but the one who loves God and does the will of God abides forever. What has priority in the eyes of the world love of God or money?
4. **1 TIM. 6:6-10** – The love of God teaches us to be content with the things we have but the love of this world and its money along with this increasing desire to be rich leads to destruction.
5. **GEN. 13:8-13** – Notice how the desire for wealth influenced the decision of Lot to pitch his tents toward Sodom. If we love God we will not put our family in spiritual jeopardy.
6. **MATT. 7:1-5** – The love of the world only allows us to see the problems of others while the love of God states we need to correct our lives first before pointing out the insufficiencies in others. If we love others we will only bring forth righteous judgment.
7. **ROM. 2:1-3** – The love of God does not allow hypocrisy in my life.
8. **SPIRITUAL BEFORE CARNAL** –
   1. **MATT. 6:24** – We must make a choice in this life. Remember our choice will be based on what has priority for you and me. Is it the spiritual or carnal things of this life? What has priority?
   2. **MATT. 6:25-34** – In context Jesus is telling them to not worry or be anxious about the daily things of this life just be willing to seek first the reign and rule of Christ in their lives and all these things will be provided.
   3. **MATT. 19:20-22** – What was important to the rich young ruler? Spiritual or the carnal temporal things of this life.
   4. **1 PET. 1:18-19, 22-23** – Our salvation is not the result of carnal or perishable things, but our salvation is a result of spiritual blessings available to us thru the blood of Christ (forgiveness of sins). We purified our souls by obeying the truth when we chose for spiritual things to have priority over the carnal things in obedience to the gospel.
   5. **ROM. 12:1-2** – When we become Christians do all the problems we face in regard to maintaining the proper priorities disappear? NO, we must choose each day to strive to not be conformed to this world. We must choose to be transformed by the powerful word of God. This is the only way we can present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.
   6. **LUKE 12:15-21** – The display of a lack of wisdom of placing top priority on possessions.
9. **FOLLOW CHRIST AND AVOID INDIFFERENCE** –
   1. **JOHN 10:27** – Jesus said his sheep would hear him and follow him. Does following the chief shepherd have a place of priority in our lives? Do we hear and follow or do we hear and avoid his instructions.
   2. **LUKE 9:57-62** – Following Christ is the best choice we can possibly make. If we do not make the best choice of following Christ our top priority each day we will eventually become indifferent. Many people each day choose to place good things and give them priority over the best thing.
   3. **1 PET. 2:21** – The best thing we can choose to do is to follow in his steps – follow the example of Christ.
   4. **COL. 3:1-3** - We can only do that if we have the proper priorities and attitudes. Where are your affections?
   5. **REV. 3:14-16** – The church at Laodicea was filled with indifferent Christians. Would they have said they followed Christ? Absolutely **verse 17**. Notice the instructions of John in regard to their indifference – **verses18-19**.

**CONCLUSION**

What are your priorities?

Do you love God or the world?

Do you pursue things that are spiritual or carnal?

Do you follow Christ and avoid indifference?

Our priorities are our choices?