**Keeping Him Your #1**

By Barbara Caldwell

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God…” Matthew

Busy, Busy, Busy! Today people are staying busier than ever. We rarely feel like we have time to get everything we want to get done, so things get pushed off to the side; including Christ. Think of all the activities you do. Work, family, school, church, jobs, hobbies, friends, etc. all want a chunk of your time. Unfortunately, the day is only 24 hours long, and the week still has only 7 days. Sometimes we get lost in the sea of opportunities. It is easy for us to lose focus on what is important. When we don’t prioritize properly, we take time away from the most important aspect of our lives: our faith in Christ and serving Christ.

God calls us to worship and honor Him. It is easy for us to say, "I'm too busy to go to church," "I’m tired," or "My child has a game or competition today.” The church is very sparse when the Kansas City Chiefs have a game. Those distractions separate us from God and keep us from Him.

We are busy people. God has given us different talents and gifts and abilities. We need to make God our number one and not get distracted by other stuff. Matthew 10:37-39 says “*Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.”*

Putting God first means we give Him top priority over everything else. He is the mainline in our lives and the focal point of all we do and think. When we choose to put God first, we are saying that He is more important than any other person, place, object, or activity. When we put God first, others will see the Christ in us.

Putting God first means that we keep the greatest commandment, “Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul and with ALL your mind” (Matthew 22:37). In other words, nothing should be more important or placed over Christ. This commandment seems to be impossible to obey. There is no greater evidence of the inability of mankind to obey God’s Law than this one commandment. Everything we have and everything we are is because of Him. We hold nothing back. He deserves 100% of our attention. He is so worthy of All of our praise and worship. God has been so good to us. He continues to pour out his blessings over and over and over. Yet we are quick to put Him on the “backburner.” We serve and study Christ until something worldly comes along that pulls us away; and we gladly go. Parents will quickly allow their children to deny their Christian responsibilities to fulfill a school activity. Too often, I have heard parents say, “They are just children. They can go to church and have fun, too.” Parents, you have just told your child that serving God and going to church is not fun.

Putting God first means we keep our lives free from idolatry in all its forms: “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21). An idol is anything that replaces the one, true God, in our hearts. When we fail to keep God first and place our focus on other things, that thing just became an idol.

Keeping God first in your life should trump anything else you have going on. Keeping God first will change your life in ways you didn't think were possible. Let God plan your day. Let God fix your schedule.

The secret to a successful life is to cast all your burdens unto the Lord and make Him first in every area of your life. When you decide to serve God with your whole heart and make Him first in your life, your soul will prosper and your joy and peace will increase.