

Title: The Priorities of a Godly Life

Text: Ps.128 and as included in Sermon

Thesis: The Godly life is one that is properly prioritized, in which God comes first, family second, and vocation third.

Intro: John-Paul Sigmerson and the priorities of the world's strongest man. If you would live a godly life you must properly prioritize your life. Misplaced priorities are one of the greatest barriers to true godliness. What then ought to be the priorities of a Godly Life?

- I. The first priority of a godly life is your relationship to God.
  - A. Ex.20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, [2] I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. [3] Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
  - B. Matt.10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. [35] For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. [36] And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. [37] He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. [39] He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.
  - C. Explanation: In the Godly Life God must come first.
  - D. Reason: God's claims over you by reason of creation and redemption.
  - E. The Satanic alternative: Idolatry.
  - F. Making God a priority.
    1. Give the Lord the first part of your week.
    2. Give the Lord the first part of your money.
    3. Give the Lord the first part of your day.
  - G. In order to live a godly life, your relationship to God must be your first priority.
  
- II. The second priority in a godly life is your responsibilities to your family.
  - A. Eph.5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. [24] Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. [25] Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; [26] That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, [27] That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. [28] So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. [29] For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: [30] For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. [31] For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. [32] This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. [33] Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. [6:1] Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. [2] Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; [3] That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. [4] And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- B. 1 Tim.5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
  - C. Explanation: To live a godly life you must see fulfilling your family responsibilities as of the utmost importance.
    - 1. Men: love and sanctify
    - 2. Women: submit and help
    - 3. Children: honor and obey
  - D. Reason: The Christian family reflects the relationship between God and His people.
  - E. The Satanic alternatives: idolatry and neglect.
  - F. Making your family a priority.
    - 1. Family devotions.
    - 2. Quantity as well as quality time. (Turn off the TV)
    - 3. Shared/deligated labor.
  - G. In order to live a godly life your family responsibilities must be you second priority.
- III. The third priority in a godly life is your vocation.
- A. 2 Thess.3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. [11] For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. [12] Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.
  - B. Gen.1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
  - C. Explanation
    - 1. Men: lawful calling in the work of dominion.
    - 2. Women: homemaking if married; other lawful calling if not.
    - 3. Children: School or vocational training.
  - D. Reason: God created us to labor for His glory.
  - E. The Satanic alternatives: idolatry and neglect.
  - F. Making your vocation a priority.
    - 1. You must have a lawful vocation either inside or outside the home.
    - 2. Do your best as unto the Lord.
  - G. In order to live a godly life your vocation must be your third priority.

Conclusion: The Godly life is one that is properly prioritized, in which God comes first, family second, and vocation third. If you would live a godly life you must avoid the temptations of idolatry and neglect. It is only as you live a godly, properly prioritized life that you will experience the family and vocational blessings spoken of in Ps.128.