
6 PUTTING CHRIST FIRST

PART 2 LESSONS ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

As you grow in the Christian life it is important to continue studying the Bible regularly and learning how to practice the basics of Christian living. In Lessons on Christian Living you will learn about eight principles and promises God has given you as His son or daughter, and the corresponding responsibilities and privileges you have in living a life that pleases God.

You may find it best to take a few of the study questions each day, rather than trying to do the entire lesson in one sitting. This will help you have a regular intake of the word of God. And remember to use spare moments each day for reviewing your verses. Master each memory verse perfectly, word for word.

For effective Bible study it is helpful to have an easy-to-read Bible, a dictionary, and a quiet place to study.

6 PUTTING CHRIST FIRST

Review the following verses, and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory.

- 1 John 5:11-12
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- John 16:24
- 1 John 1:9
- Proverbs 3:5-6

MEMORIZE MATTHEW 6:33

Putting Christ First

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

God has given us many privileges. But we also have certain responsibilities. The Bible tells us what God expects of us. Our response should be to obey him and to thank him for all he has done for us.

Many promises in the Bible are unconditional. But most of those which concern our growth as Christians are conditional upon our obedience to His

will. *Lessons on Christian Living* highlights eight of these responsibilities which will help you build the foundation for a healthy Christian life.

Who will you live your life for? What has first place in your thoughts and plans? Jesus often challenged His disciples to consider their commitment to him and His kingdom. He said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up His cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

Following him in this way may mean struggles and trials, but also the privilege of resting in Christ: "Come to me," Jesus said, "all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

As you memorize and apply Matthew 6:33, seek to know Christ better every day. As you put Him, His will, and His work first in your daily life, you will begin to fully experience God's love and care, for he has promised to provide all of your daily needs.

EXPLORING MATTHEW 6:33

What are "these things"? (Look up Matthew 6:25-32.)

Matthew 6:25-32 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? 28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Are these necessities or luxuries? Explain your answer.

What has God promised to do if you put His interests first in your life?

"SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS"

1. What does God want us to do?

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

2. From 1 Samuel 12:24 give one reason for serving the Lord with all your heart.

1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

3. Read 1 Samuel 15:22. What does God desire more than sacrifice?

1 Samuel 15:22 Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

4. How should we obey God's commands, according to these verses:

Psalms 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart.

Psalms 119:60 I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments.

5. In 2 Timothy 3:16, what did Paul say is God's means for training us in righteousness?

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

"ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL"

6. Read Ephesians 3:20-21. How much do you think God can do for you?

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

7. In Isaiah 40:11, how does God promise to treat His people?

Isaiah 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

8. Read Philippians 4:4 and 4:6. List two things we are instructed to practice as believers.

Philippians 4:4-6 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

9. How does Philippians 4:7 describe the result of applying Philippians 4:4 and 4:6?

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

10. What was Paul's attitude towards his circumstances in Philippians 4:11-13?

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

How was he able to do this?

11. According to Matthew 6:8, how well does God know your present needs?

Matthew 6:8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

WRITE OUT MATTHEW 6:33 FROM MEMORY.

APPLYING MATTHEW 6:33

Take a moment to pray that God will help you give His kingdom and His righteousness first priority in all areas of your life.

From Matthew 6:25-32 list any needs which you want to trust God for. Claim His promise in Matthew 6:33 for meeting these needs, and pray about them. Place a check here when you have done this: