

“First Things First”

Matthew 22:37-40; 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Time flies! Need for priorities
- Paul’s prayer for the Philippians in discerning the ‘best’
- Effective People put first things first.

First Things First

A. Make “First Things” First. Setting Priorities

1. Jesus’ Teaching on Priorities-- Matthew 22:37-40
 - a. Love God-- TOP Priority
 - b. Love Others-- Second Priority
2. Jesus’ Modeling of Priorities
3. Our Top Priorities
 - a. Loving God
 - b. Loving Others-- 1 John 4:20

B. Keep “Other Concerns” in Proper Perspective.-- 1 Cor. 7

1. General Explanation
 - a. Paul wants us to live in undivided devotion to Christ
 - b. If we live in undivided devotion to Christ, certain “concerns” must be kept in proper perspective.
2. Specific Applications to...
 - a. Marriage/ Family-- v. 29
 - 1) Ministry begins at home.
 - 2) Ministry cannot end at home. Galatians 6:10
 - b. Weeping/Pain-- v. 30
 - c. Pleasures-- v. 30
 - d. Possessions-- v. 30
 - e. Causes/ Things of this world-- v. 31

C. Why “First Things, First”? The “Time Crunch”-- I Cor. 7

1. The Changing World Scene-- v. 31c
2. The Soon Return of Jesus Christ. Romans 13:11