

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Introduction

- 1) **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17** – the “dead in Christ will rise *first*” so that the living and the resurrected dead saints will meet the Lord *together* in the air when He comes the second time
- 2) “**First things first**” = all things have their proper order and certain things must be first
 - a) The priorities of living must be ordered properly with the most important things **first**
 - b) This principle is true in both the earthly and spiritual realm (Lk. 14:26-33; Acts 13:46)
- 3) There are principles of *first things first* to understand and believe about God, Jesus, and ourselves

I) **The First Things of God**

A) **First Commandment** (Mk. 12:28-34)

- 1) Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 30:6)
- 2) Unless we fully love God with our whole being, no reason to be faithful to Him

B) **First Love** (1 Jn. 4:19)

- 1) We don't need to convince God to love us – already demonstrated His love (Rom. 5:8)
- 2) His love for us in Christ is more than enough reason to love God (1 Jn. 4:10)

II) **The First Things of Jesus**

A) **Colossians 1:18**

- 1) **First Authority** – “head of the church”
 - a) The head directs all thinking and activity of the body (Col. 3:17)
- 2) **First Cause** – “the beginning”
 - a) The eternal Creator, the cause of all things (Col. 1:16-17; Jn. 1:3; Rev. 3:14)
- 3) **First Born** – “the firstborn from the dead”
 - a) The first to be raised from the dead to endless life (Rev. 1:5; Acts 13:29-34; Heb. 7:16)
- 4) **First Place** – “have the preeminence” [to be first, hold first place]
 - a) Firstborn over all (Col. 1:15); the First and the Last (Rev. 2:8)
 - b) He must have first place in our lives (Matt. 8:21-22; 10:37)

III) **The First Things of the Christian**

A) **First Pursuit** (Matt. 6:33) – seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness

- 1) Cannot serve God and mammon (v. 24)
- 2) Don't be anxious for your physical life (v. 25) – spiritual things are primary!
- 3) Serve God and be clothed with Christ (Rom. 13:14) and fed with righteousness (Matt. 5:6)
 - a) Study word of God, not forsake the assembling, pray, resist the devil, teach others, etc.

B) **First Love** (Rev. 2:4)

- 1) Initial love and zeal for Christ grows weary and lukewarm (Rev. 3:16; Gal. 6:9)

C) **First Day** (Acts 20:7; Lk. 24:1; Rev. 1:10)

- 1) Spiritual day of worship for the Christian

D) **First Duties**

- 1) Seek forgiveness and reconciliation (Matt. 5:23-24)
- 2) Take care of own problems before judging others (Matt. 7:1-5)
- 3) Keep your soul pure and clean (Matt. 23:25-26)

Conclusion

We must keep *first things first*! Remember to keep the matters of your life ordered to please God, not the world. Those who become last in this world for Christ will be made first in gaining the crown of life (Matt. 19:29-30)