

(Re: God)

I choose HIS KINGDOM

1. Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.

To fill a bowl with big rocks, medium rocks and sand you must put the big rocks in first, then the medium, and then the sand will fill in the empty spaces. Likewise, in life, you must first fill your life with the important things or there will be no room for them. This verse tells us what is “first” in importance – seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness. Then all the “sand” of life will be added. Let’s get our priorities right.

I choose HOLINESS

2. 1 Peter 1: 14,15 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance; but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior. (1 Timothy 4:3)

There must be a change in behavior and practice when Christ takes over. If we look the same as Christ takes over Lordship, then we must question whether He is truly Lord. Christians are holy in their behavior because Christ is holy, who is in control. This verse indicated that we have a choice to make in our holiness and lusting. May we make the right choices “as obedient children,” exemplifying holiness.

I choose TRUST

3. Proverbs 3: 5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

T.L.A.: Trust, Lean and Acknowledge. This is the “recipe” that leads to a straight path, meaning the easiest route of travel. To not trust, to “do our best” and to fail to acknowledge our need of God constantly is foolhardiness. Christians are people of trust in God and God alone.

I choose GIVING

4. Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Oh, if only Christians would take this “dare” or “test” of God, given here in Malachi. A tithe is 10% - that’s what the word means. As best as I can understand, the “storehouse” for today is the local church in which we fellowship

and minister. The pouring of blessings God promises may or may not be financial – but the promise is to completely satisfy the need. This is the only verse I know that God asks us to “test” Him. He means it, so we should take his “dare” and receive the blessings!

I choose WORSHIP

5. Romans 12:1, 2 I urge you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

This verse tells us that worship for the believer is not just a service on Sunday. It is a life and 24/7 of worshipping God by our sacrifice of body and mind. Just as the animals of the OT were sacrificed to worship God, so our lives are to be daily sacrificed to Him in action and thought – a “living” sacrifice which is our “spiritual service of worship.” In other words, it is what God deserves (and asks) of us. What less can we give. And we can’t give more. Our life given in service and worship is exactly what God wants of us. And it is a choice that the Christian gladly makes.

(Re: Others)

I choose LOVE

6. John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

[1 Corinthians 13:13] [Matthew 7:12] [1 John 4:7-11]

Love is the greatest of all (1 Cor 13:13). It is on the Thursday night of Passion week that Jesus speaks these words. It is the “new mandate” on Thursday, thus we celebrate “Maundy (mandate) Thursday.” The newness of this commandment is not the call to loving one another, but the way in which we are to love, namely, to love as Jesus loved us. His love was a selfless giving away of His time, energy and life for the sake of others. It wasn’t just “others first” – it was others only and always. When we love one another in this way, we are truly loving God and loving as God loves.

I choose THANKFULNESS

7. 1 Thess. 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

As one writer has said, Christians should be humbly grateful, not grumbly hateful. God wants us to always see the “glass” as half full, not half empty – and to thank God and others for the half full glass. “In everything” does not indicate that every circumstance is worthy of thanks (such as death, disease, etc.) but that we must thank God in the midst of every circumstance for being in control and giving us

victory in that circumstance. If ever you wanted to know what God's will is for you, this verse makes it perfectly clear: choose thankfulness. It's what Christians do.

I choose ENCOURAGEMENT

8. Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest anyone of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. [Hebrews 10: 24-25]

This verse tells us not only that encouragement of others is important, but that it is critical. The enemy is constantly trying to discourage the flock of God. Touch as many as possible at every opportunity with the encouragement of God. "Good job" – "I appreciate you" – "you are special to me" – "hang in there" – whatever, God will lead. But do it. Always. Today. It's critical. It's what Christians do.

I choose PERSEVERENCE

9. 1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Never think that your Christian service goes unnoticed. God sees and will use it for His good purpose – always. Your service always has value in God's eyes – and usually in others' as well. So keep on keeping on. Be steady and unwavering in your efforts for God – even when it seems like "stuff" or "busy work" or the results are not seen. If it's done for God, it is not vain. Christians persevere!