

Getting Our Priorities Right

by Bill Crews

The place that God deserves and demands in our lives is first -- before every one else, before every thing else. When we realize that He is our Creator, and when we by His grace become His children, that is the place we will always give Him. Not surprisingly, this is also the only way that we can be truly happy, content and filled with hope in this life. We make God first when we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (that is, with all of our being; Jesus called this the greatest commandment in the law of Moses, Matt. 22:36-38 and Deut. 6:5), when we trust in Him with all our heart (or might), and when we commit ourselves to obeying His revealed will in all things. *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"* (Lev. 19:18). This was also a commandment of the law of Moses, and Jesus called it *"a second like unto it"* (Matt. 22:39). In fact, *"On these two commandments the whole law hangeth and the prophets"* (Matt. 22:40). The idea is that if we love God as we ought, we will fulfill all our duties unto Him, and if we love our fellow-man as we should, we will fulfill all our duties unto him. These two commandments are still binding in that they are found also in the new covenant, and the new covenant (the new testament of Christ, the gospel of our Lord) reveals our duties to God and to others.

The most important thing **on this earth?** People! Not gold, or gems, or possessions, or human knowledge, or carnal pleasures, or sports, or power, or fame, or art, or food, or job, or animals, but people, each one made in the image of God. And the most important thing **of all?** God, the Creator! Let us get our priorities right. Please read the book of Ecclesiastes.

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