

# THE WORLD'S BIBLE #5

By Keith Greer

## **“WHERE IS YOUR PRIORITY”**

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

As we have said before, many of us may pride ourselves on the fact that we don't gamble, drink, swear, dress immodestly, or dance, and, yet, our own behavior may still be "worldly". How can that be?

If you are a man who likes to take a yearly vacation hunting or fishing, do you plan ahead so that you can meet with the saints and worship God on the Lord's day? Or, do you go ahead and go on your trip, knowing that you will not be able to worship and just expect God to "understand"?

Many of our children are involved in activities both during and after school. Do you allow the secular events in your children's schools to take priority over Bible studies and gospel meetings and just expect God to "understand"?

Most of us, if we have "natural affection", feel very close to the members of our physical family, and many are not Christians. When they come for a visit, do you set the proper example and continue to put the Lord first in your life? Or, do you stay home with them on Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings, and during gospel meetings – and just expect God to "understand"?

If you are a preacher, why did you go into preaching? Did you want a job where you can stay home whenever you want, play golf whenever you want, preach a few lessons, get a paycheck – and just expect God to "understand"? Or, did you want to try to spread the gospel and save souls?

There are many among us who long for gospel meetings and the opportunity we have to hear God's word and get to know others of "like precious faith". It gives us much strength and encouragement in what, sometimes, are discouraging situations. If you preach regularly in gospel meetings, what is your purpose? Do you preach so many meetings a year so that you can make extra money and take a vacation at someone else's expense? Or, do you realize that, while you may have preached 10 or 12 meetings, or more, during the year, many of us are in situations where we have longed for the one or two meetings that we can – with the Lord's money – afford to have?

Never forget that God made us free moral agents with the privilege of making our own choices in this life. Each one of us determine the priorities we are setting in our daily lives. Pressure of the job, duties at home, raising children, bills to pay, preparing for retirement,

and host of other things we could add are parts of our lives. None them can be used as excuses for failure to put spiritual things first and temporal things second.

Take a good look your daily and weekly schedules. How much time have you scheduled for activities that will bring you closer to God and help you grow stronger spiritually speaking? One of the things I've often heard in talking with weak Christians is "I just don't have enough time to pray, study my Bible and attend all of the services." Here is a vital question I want each of us to ponder – Do I run my life or is my life running me? Speaking honestly, if you're finding no time for spiritual growth and maturity in your life – maybe we're busy in the wrong things and need to make some changes!

Worldliness comes in many forms. Far too often, we forget that Satan will lay any snare that he can to entice us to serve him. We are told in 1 Peter 5:8-9, to "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." Just don't plan to do better, take some real positive steps to make Christ and His church our TOP priority! \*\*\*