

GOD'S FIRST THINGS

By Keith Greer

Today we want to briefly examine some "**first things**" the child of God should do.

Seek the kingdom first. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." {Matthew 6:33} Every child of God must set as his top priority the matters of the kingdom of God. How is this accomplished? By being busy in the Father's kingdom and doing what we can to further His work in His kingdom. Instead of waiting for others to act—we need to always be willing to step up and aid the cause of the kingdom.

Cleans first that which is within. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also." {Matthew 23:25,26} Every Christian must first seek to get the heart cleansed. Why? This is where all choices we make in our lives begin, Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20. Man's heart is where the battle is being waged between God and Satan for our soul. By making sure one's heart is pure, their action will follow the course that God had given him in His word.

First cast out the beam from our own eye. "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." {Matthew 7:3-5} Christians should be careful how they judge others. God's people have the first duty to make sure their own lives are in order before seeking to correct a brother's life. Unfortunately, it is easier to see the faults and shortcomings in others and overlook the problems we have in our own lives. God is not demanding that we must have perfection before judging another but we must render judgment that is righteous and not according to appearance, John 7:24.

Each of us makes choices every day as to what things are most important in our lives. Simple test—are you more spiritually minded or worldly minded? Does God come **FIRST**? ***