



Message-based Study

Date: January 7, 2024
Teacher: Rev. Dr. William (Billy) Burch

Message: "God First"

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

How were your holidays? What was one highlight from Christmas / New Years that you are thankful for?

Content

How can you "Put God First"?

Take time to reflect on this question before giving it an answer.
And next ask yourself, how am I doing at letting a "God first" perspective guide everything I feel, experience and do in my life?

Read Matthew 22:34-35. The Pharisees were attempting to stump Jesus with an impossible question to prove he wasn't the Messiah. From their failed attempt, Jesus gives us several key points on how to live a life for God.

Doing vs. Being

The question "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" is asked to Jesus by the Pharisees as they were considering what should matter most in their lives.

1. When we think of this question from Matthew 22:36, and we contemplate Jesus' answer, how does the distinction between "Doing vs. Being" matter when we put God first?

2. As we think of putting God first, we need to remember verses like Psalm 36:9 and Proverbs 4:2. How are you guarding your heart from being tainted and seeking Christ as your source of eternal life?

Where You Are vs. Where You Need To Be

If you have said yes to Jesus and are walking with God, you are on a journey with Him. However, even if you don't know Christ, you are also on a journey.

3. The first two words of Matthew 22:37 are "Jesus replied." Jesus will always meet you where you are, and you can ask him any question.

What question about your journey would you want to ask Christ?

4. In John 6:28-29, the disciples ask "what should we do?" as they wish to perform God's work as well. Jesus replies with "believe in the one he has sent." By believing in God, we are understanding He will lead us to where we need to be, while meeting us where we are.

What is one example in your life where God met you where you were?

Love vs. Indifference

Read Matthew 22:37-40. As a believers in Christ, we are called to put everything we are into loving God. Secondly, it's highly important for us to love our neighbors.

5. What does it meant to love our neighbor and to love our God as our highest priorities?

6. Why is it hard to sometimes to "just believe"?

Commitment

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind
you need to ask yourself:

What is most important in my life?

Putting God first needs to be at the center of how we live our lives.

**What are 3 practical things you can do to put God first in everything
you think, feel and do this week?**