

Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also” (Matt. 23:25-26). The warning is clear and distinct in this place. It is the same as expressed by the wise man when he authored, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23).* Our minds, the Bible heart, are extremely important to our spiritual health. There must be a priority placed upon its well-being. If it is faulty, the whole body suffers. Quite simply Jesus said, *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8).* The Psalmist penned, *“Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart” (Psa. 73:1).* We must be extra careful what we allow into our hearts, for in time, it will make its way out. God’s Son warned, *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man” (Matt. 15:18-20).* What goes into the heart will come out. We must appreciate this fact. Are you putting a premium on that which is allowed into your heart?

4) “First findeth his own brother Simon” (Jn. 1:41). In John’s opening remarks he composed, *“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ” (Jn. 1:40-41).* The attitude of Andrew is excellent! There were many things he could have done first. But his priority was to introduce someone else to Jesus the Christ. May we possess the same mindset!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST ♦ Vincennes, Indiana
Meeting at Holiday Inn Express in Vincennes, Indiana
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THE VINCENNES VOICE

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

“SETTING PRIORITIES”

by Larry R. Ping II

God’s people are to be a people of priority. They are among the few who recognize the need to prioritize. They are among the few who appreciate the fact some actions are more important than others. They, of course, use the Bible as their guide in determining such things. Are you putting “First things First?”

1) “First be reconciled to thy brother” (Matt. 5:24). In totality the Lord uttered, *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matt. 5:23-24).* A priority is placed upon the relationship between brethren in this place. We are to *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Rom. 12:10).* We are to have an *“unfeigned love of the brethren” (I Pet. 1:22).* It is to be so real and genuine, *“we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (I Jn. 3:16).* Jesus teaches our worship is not effective until we mend our relationship with our brethren. Have you put a priority on this?

2) “First cleanse that which is within the cup and platter” (Matt. 23:26). In pronouncing several woes upon the Pharisees and hypocrites Jesus said, *“Woe unto you, scribes and*

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FEBRUARY 4, 2024

BIBLE READING QUESTIONS

Read Romans 11:25-36.

Answer the following questions based upon your reading.

- 1) Paul stated he did not want his audience to be ignorant of what (Rom. 11:25)? _____
- 2) “And so all Israel shall be _____: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the _____, and shall turn away ungodliness from _____: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their _____” (Rom. 11:26-27).
- 3) What are without repentance according to Romans 11:29?

- 4) Upon whom does God have mercy (Rom. 11:32)?

- 5) “O the _____ of the _____ both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how _____ are his judgments, and his _____ past finding out” (Rom. 11:33).
- 5) What four questions are posed in Romans 11:34-35?

- 6) “For of _____, and through _____, and to _____, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. _____” (Rom. 11:36).

TOPIC OF THE WEEK: COVETOUSNESS **FOR THE DAYS OF FEB. 5 - FEB. 9, 2024**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Covetousness: Feeling, expressing, or characterized by a strong or immoderate desire for the possessions of another

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Old Testament passages dealing with covetousness
Exo. 18:19-21; Psa. 119:36; Pro. 28:16; Jer. 6:11-13

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

New Testament passages dealing with covetousness
Mark 7:20-23; Luke 12:15; Colossians 3:5; Hebrews 13:5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Bible story displaying covetousness

I Kings 21:1-16

(Ahab, Jezebel, Naboth)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Application: How to know and manage the difference between healthy desires and covetousness

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday Worship Services - 11:00 am & 3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm
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