

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

Volume VIII

September 16, 2001

No. 36

Lifetime Pursuits

Tommy Hagewood

"Jack of all trades and master of none" is a common expression that has been changed over time from its original meaning. Originally it was "Jack of all trades and master of **one**." The thought was that such a person was a master of one particular trade and could do fairly well in other pursuits of life.

Each of us goes through life pursuing various things with varying degrees of interest and success. Such is inevitable. However, we go wrong when we pursue the wrong things in life or when we pursue right things with undue priority. Fishing, hunting and golfing are all forms of wholesome recreation, but we would do wrong if we neglected our responsibilities to God and our families to do these things instead. Too often people come to the end of their lives like the man who spent years climbing the ladder of success only to find that the ladder was leaning against the wrong wall. Following are some of the lifelong pursuits people often choose to make in their lives.

Trivial Pursuits

Many of our pursuits in life may be trivial. Being trivial is not what makes them wrong. Making them the center and focus of our lives is what is wrong. I'm not a golfer. I wish I were. Some consider it cow pasture pool. I've learned

not to criticize any form of wholesome recreation and exercise. However, if a person neglected his God and his family to play golf he would be wrong. The same could be said of any other sport or "trivial pursuit." Parents do wrong when they neglect to assemble with the saints on the Lord's Day or at other predetermined times to involve their children in sports activities instead. Anything wrong with sports? No. The wrong is in emphasizing sports over our responsibilities to God and His family, the local church, of which we are a part (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Transitory Pursuits

The truth is all of our pursuits in this life are temporary. The problem is many never learn that we are but sojourners and pilgrims on earth on the way to eternity (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11). They live as though their stay on earth is going to be forever and they don't need God. The rich farmer of Luke 12:16-21 lived this way. God called him a fool, requiring his soul that very night, and adding: "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Twisted Pursuits

Paul spoke at length about those who gave themselves over to vile conduct because they

left God out of their knowledge (Romans 1:21-32). He included homosexuals and lesbians in this cesspool of putridity. Read the passage over and over and you will see Paul's emphasis on the fact that they rejected God for their own vile passions. The list of sins sounds like today's newspaper! The world seems bent on making perversity appear normal and acceptable. This is not new by any means (Isaiah 6:20; Proverbs 17:15).

Terminal Pursuits

All of our earthly pursuits, good or bad, will terminate. Either death or the Lord's return will put a sudden and final halt to them all. This fact should impress each of us with the need to make wise choices in life. Moses made such a choice when he gave up the passing pleasures of sin as the son of Pharaoh's daughter to cast his lot with the people of God. When you consider that he gave up all the power, wealth, and position of a prince for forty years of suffering and wandering as the leader of a complaining and rebellious people who had the mentality of slaves, you must be impressed. When you consider that he did so because he looked to the reward God would provide, you should be impressed even more (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Timeless Pursuits

Timeless pursuits include laying up treasure in heaven--not hoarding material things on earth (Matthews 6:19-21). Timeless pursuits are made by those who are steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). Which type pursuits are you making?

~via *The Southport Sounder*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Michael Clemmons will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

The Best Answer

V. C. McCormick

The best answer to the major problems in our society today is to be found in God's Word. It makes sense that God, the Creator of all things, would know what is best for His creation. However, it is a sad fact that society has no use for God's word, but what's even worse, Christians, by and large, are also ignorant of the basic teachings. We live in an emotional world. Everyone is seeking pleasure at any price. The pleasures being sought are not the innocent ones of past years. Many are ruining their lives in the here and now. They are destroying their personal health as well as raising the next generation without any moral certainties. All of us are facing the final wrath of God.

Peter said that God "has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness." This he notes is found "through knowledge of him (God) who called us by glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:2-3). Then he reveals several very practical characteristics needed to please God, and very helpful in our daily living with those who surround us. In fact he adds, "he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness" (2 Peter 1:9). Yes, God's ways are best. He has the answers.

Like Paul of old, we find many people who are very religious but who are worshipping God in ignorance. The answer to the religious divisions of the day is to do what God has said on the subject. The problem is we want to mold His word to suit our personal taste. We have difficulty in separating our wants from our needs. God answers our needs and we should be content to want the same. Though we can't change the whole world to a proper respect for the things of God, we can change ourselves. Even in Athens there were some that accepted God's answers.

Even those who claim to respect the word of God need to constantly check to see if they

are of the faith. “Examine yourselves as to whether you are of the faith. Prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Such an examination is more than just a feeling. First, you must “be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). For “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

It is not enough to say that God has the answer, rather the best answer. In fact the only answer. But we must search for that answer, then apply it as it is written. Then and only then will it be well with us.

~via *Brooksville Church Bulletin*, Brooksville, Florida.



Let Me First

Michael W. McLemore

On one occasion Christ heard these words, “I will follow thee, but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house” (Luke 9:61). Some say, when confronted with the passionate pleas of the Gospel, “Let me first get my education, a better job, a home, a new automobile, and the other necessary things of life.” These folks have a place for Christ in their lives – second place! They seem convinced that material security will somehow prepare them to follow Christ. Such a perception fails to grasp the meaning of Christ’s words: “A man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). So many have actually reversed the saying of Christ and are seeking first the wealth of the world thinking the kingdom of God will be added unto them. To gain all the world and to lose Christ is to lose all.

A young college student manifest another attitude commonly encountered. He said, “I will follow the Lord one day; but let me first sow my wild oats. When I have had all the good times I want, then I’ll be a Christian.” The first objective of this self-described life is to serve self, to satisfy every lust of the flesh. Following Christ and serving sin are as opposite as the poles. If one spends his life engaging in the sinful practices of the world he cannot hope to be with Christ in heaven.

Still others want first to gain a vast knowledge of the world. Have you heard men boast of their years of schooling as evidence of the truthfulness of their ideas? I’ve heard Christians do exactly that.

A few others are showing by their fruits that they will follow Christ, if they can be first. They want to be admired for what they do and say. They desire the praises of men more than the praises of God. It is a self-serving religion, not a God serving commitment.

How many other things do people put first in their lives? Dear reader, there is nothing wrong with having a good education, a better job, a home, a new or better car, or even having a depth of worldly knowledge. The harm is in allowing these things to take precedence over the things of God’s kingdom.

What is first in your life? Is it money, pleasure, education, glory, or is it Christ Jesus?

~via *Bible Viewpoints*, Katy, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Scottie Goode’s father, Hubert Goode*, was moved to HealthSouth Rehabilitation this past Tuesday... *Signa Skipworth’s step-grandson, Nicholas Woods*, continues in the Children’s Hospital in Birmingham ..*Buffy Wallen* has been sick this past week and unable to be services..*Sanda Martel* has continued to be sick this past week ..*Mike and Tisha Rogers* were sick and

unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... **Charles & Sandra Glass** were sick last week and unable to be at services...**Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary**, is in the Florence Comprehensive Care for Rehabilitation ...**Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton**, is at home sick battling cancer ...Remember **Millinea Word** as she continues her treatments/medication ...**Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out...**Aldeen Noles** is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convelesant Center...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ...**Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

BAPTISM: We rejoiced Wednesday night when **Robyn Goode** confessed her faith in Christ and put on her Lord in baptism. We are proud of Robyn and her decision to become a Christian. There is the most important decision that one will ever make and we rejoice when we see young people with tender hearts like Robyn who have the determination and conviction to do that which is right.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Helen Trousdale, Sanda Martel and Signa Skipworth** and *all the family* in the passing of Helen's niece and Signa and Sanda's cousin, **Martha Henson**, yesterday morning. Her funeral will be Monday.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Communication group three will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group three remember to meet with your group this evening

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Cld Moulton Road church** in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. They will have a singing this afternoon at 2:30 followed by a service at 4:00. Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. **Jim Deason** will be the speaker in this meeting.

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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