

Weekly Lift #29

27th October, 2020.

A little extra bible in your week



What are you looking for?

What have you been looking for over the past 6 months?

I was recently in a hardware store, which is not a surprise. I was looking for something in particular and I eventually found it. But I do like to browse as well. As I kept looking, I remembered a few other things I actually really needed. I found them and was very happy to have remembered all the things. It was a good result! And I didn't buy anything I didn't need, which is a small miracle for me.

It's good to find what we need. But it's also important to **remember** what we need. I find a great feeling of contentment when I remember my needs and am able to fill them.

When we ask God for what we need, we can often talk **at** him rather than listen **to** him. It's always helpful when we come to God in prayer to listen to him first. Open the Bible and read what he is saying to us first. It's good to listen to him first so we might be reminded what we *really* need.

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said to those listening to him:

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin.²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith?³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (Matthew 6: 28-32)

He tells first of all what we DON'T need, or at least what we don't need to WORRY about. Then he tells us what we really DO need...

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6: 33)

Seek, look for, go after, **His** kingdom and **His** righteousness. In other words, the things of eternal consequence. The things that matter to God. His kingdom and his righteousness. Eternal things.

It probably doesn't take much thought to realise what the kingdom of God and His righteousness looks like in our life. The Bible talks about them in many places. Love,

joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness... a heart for the things of God, a heart for people to come to know Jesus, a desire to be right with God. A willingness to be lined up with him – his thoughts, his desires, his kingdom plans. If we seek these things, we will be looked after with the other “things” of this world.

These are verses we are possibly very familiar with. We may have heard them many times and for many, they have become favourite verses. These verses are critical in our daily search for meaning and for fulfilling our deepest needs. Here is God speaking to us about the things that we really need. It’s good to come back to these verses again and again to remind ourselves of what we are really to be searching for, the things we really need, and the eternal significance of the things that will change our lives each day until the day of Jesus’ return.

Prayer

Lord, help us to listen to you before we speak. Help us to seek your kingdom and your righteousness. Help us to see the deep need in our lives for these things of eternal consequence. Change our hearts each day to be more like yours, that we would seek, love and desire the things that you do. We pray this in Jesus’ name and for his glory. Amen.

God bless.

Bruce Stanley

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Helpful links for your daily walk:

1 Thessalonians Bible Studies

The new Bible study guide for the book of 1 Thessalonians can be found here:

<http://stphils.org.au/blog/2020/10/14/staying-faithful-the-book-of-1-thessalonians/>

Missed Church on Sunday? Catch up on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/eastwoodanglican>

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<http://sc.stphils.org.au/weeklyblog> (simplified – Mandarin)

<http://tc.stphils.org.au/weeklylift> (Traditional - Cantonese)