

END-TIMES ISSUES



#131 Commandment #8 – Asking questions.

GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS. HE TELLS US TO BE READY.

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1

What are our actual needs?

**WILDFIRE!!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!**

Of all that we own, if we had **only 5 minutes**, and could keep **only what fit in our car** – and all the rest would be destroyed – **what would we leave behind?**

How do we distinguish between "needs" and "wants"?

- Perhaps the above scenario could help us to think about what our actual "needs" are. Or at least what they *aren't*.
- Even so, we would need Scripture to give us *clear* thinking. Do our priorities agree with what God says they should be?

2

What do we *really* need?

SINCE: Sharing, generosity, and building-up others are integral parts of fulfilling our Eighth Commandment obligations...

- If we understand what Scripture says about this, and *take it to heart* ... ⇒ ... it will influence our attitude toward *everything we have* – possessions, wealth, abilities, circumstances...
- Does this mean we will give it all away? **Not necessarily.** ⇒ But we will want to use it for the glory of God. This will influence *how* we are willing to use it, even when we are using it for *self*.
- We entered the world with **nothing**. We will leave it with **nothing**. ⇒ We will be held accountable for what we do with the "something" we have between these two points of time.

3

What are my actual needs?

WHAT LIFE DEPENDS ON VS. WHAT IS DISPOSABLE:

How can I distinguish between "needs" and "wants"?

- "Wants" may be useful; but they are optional. *We can live without them.* (They can also be enslaving.)
- "Needs" are essential for our survival.

>> MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK IN SCRIPTURE FOR ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS. <<

- FIRST, why does Jesus tell us to pray for our "daily bread"?**
 - Why not our "daily banquet"?

Our Father in heaven, ...
Give us this day **our daily bread**.
Matthew 6:9b, 11 (BSB)

Questions don't always get answered *immediately*. It's often a *process*.

4

>> I THOUGHT GOD WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME ALL MY WANTS! <<

HI, GOD! IT'S ME!
HERE'S TODAY'S LIST OF DEMANDS!



Our Father in heaven, ...
Give us this day **our daily demands**.
Matthew 6:9b, 11 (WPV)
(= "World's Perverted Version")

5

- What do I REALLY need?**
 - Does God **REALLY** provide?
 - Have I *ever* learned to trust him?

... **give me neither poverty nor riches**, but give me **only my daily bread**.
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.
Proverbs 30:8b-9 (NIV)

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED ... When people suddenly have more money:

- ALMOST ALWAYS** the first thing they think of is "SELF" – "What can I do to enrich my life, to increase my possessions and pleasures?"
- ALMOST NEVER** do they say: "God has taken care of me. How can I best glorify God with this *extra* money? How can I use it to make this world a better place?"

6

- WHO/what am I *really* serving?
 - What do I seek *first* in life? What do I "worry" about?

(In the following passage, the word "money" is a translation of "mammon," and refers to money, wealth, possessions, etc.)

You cannot serve both God and money.

Therefore I tell you, **do not worry** about your life, what you will **eat** or **drink**; or about your body, what you will **wear**. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

Therefore **do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we **eat**?' or 'What shall we **drink**?' or 'What shall we **wear**?' For the Gentiles strive after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:24b-25, 31-34 (BSB)

7

- Why does the Bible keep mentioning "contentment"?

- What should I be content with?

- What should I pursue?

(In the following passage, the phrase "love of money" includes all those things you can do with that money.)

Of course, godliness with contentment is great gain. For **we brought nothing into the world, so we cannot carry anything out of it.** But if we have **food** and **clothing**, we will be content with these.

Those who want to be rich, however, fall into temptation and become ensnared by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For **the love of money** is the root of all kinds of evil. By **craving it**, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, O man of God, **flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.**

1 Timothy 6:6-11 (BSB)

8

- What is more important to me?
 - Being free?
 - Being trapped by the love of money (and the love of what I can do with money)?

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said:

"Never will I leave you,
never will I forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5 (BSB)

- Am I full of greed, envy, with a desire to attain more and more?
 - Is being trapped by the love of money *really* worth it?

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV)

9

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness.

Cast but a glance at **riches**, and they are **gone**, for they will surely **sprout wings** and **fly off** to the sky like an eagle.

Proverbs 23:4-5 (NIV)

[Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Guard yourselves against every form of greed, for **one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**"

Luke 12:15 (NIV)

Do not store up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moth and rust **destroy**, and where thieves **break in and steal**. But store up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where moth and rust **do not destroy**, and where thieves **do not break in and steal**.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21 (BSB)

10

These treasures will be for Eighth Commandment purposes. They will be for honoring God and benefitting all people (including self), NOT for boasting, prodigal living and self-indulgence.

What type of attitude do I have? What are my priorities?

- What if my *physical* well-being matched my *spiritual* well-being?
(In this passage, that seems to be what the apostle John was praying!)

Beloved, I pray that in every way you may **prosper** and enjoy **good health, as your soul also prospers.**

3 John 1:2 (BSB)

- Am I content under *all* circumstances?
 - Do I complain every time things don't go my way?

I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances.

I know how to **live humbly**, and I know how to **abound**.

I am accustomed to **any and every situation**—to **being filled** and **being hungry**, to **having plenty** and **having need**.

I can do **all things** through Christ who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11b-13 (BSB)

11

- Am I so important that I have to devote my life to myself, my plans, my ego, and my "kingdom"?

Do you see a man who is **wise in his own eyes**? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 26:12 (BSB)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in **honoring one another.**

Romans 12:10 (BSB)

Do nothing out of **selfish ambition** or **empty pride**, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.

Each of you should look not only to **your own interests**, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4 (BSB); you need to have the same attitude as Jesus (v. 5+).

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When **they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves**, they are not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV)

12

- Why do I think it's mine, anyway?
- Who does it belong to?

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for **everything in heaven and on earth belongs to You.**

Both **riches and honor come from You**, and You are the ruler over all. In Your hands are power and might to **exalt and give strength to all.**

For **everything comes from You...**

1 Chronicles 29:11a, 12, 14b (BSB)

"**Naked I came** from my mother's womb, and **naked I will depart.**"

Job 1:21b (NIV)

- If I say "it's all mine," and
"it's none of God's business what I do with it"...
then does that mean I'm a thief?

13

- How important is self-denial anyway?
- Do I *really* have to get rid of my self-inflated opinion about myself, and admit the truth?
- Do I *really* have to say, "I am not #1"?

For everyone who **exalts** himself **will be humbled**, and the one who **humbles** himself **will be exalted.**

Luke 14:11 (BSB)

Those who **give to the poor** **will lack nothing**, but those who **close their eyes** to them **receive many curses.**

Proverbs 28:27 (NIV)

Do you see a person **wise in their own eyes**? There is **more hope** for a fool than for them.

The rich are **wise in their own eyes**; one who is poor and discerning **sees how deluded they are.**

Proverbs 26:12; 28:11 (NIV)

14

Do not be proud, but **be willing to associate with people of low position**. **Do not be conceited.**

Ro 12:16b (NIV)

If anyone has material possessions and sees **a brother or sister in need** but **has no pity on them**, **how can the love of God be in that person?**

1 Jn 3:17 (NIV)

- Can't I just say something nice to them, and be done with it?

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," **but does nothing** about their physical needs, **what good is it?**

In the same way, **faith** by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is **dead.**

James 2:15-17 (NIV)

(Passages that emphasize "brothers" and "sisters" are referring to "believers" – Christian family – *and we know the needs are genuine*. Others (non-Christians) aren't totally excluded from being helped; but they are not to be our #1 focus.)

15

- Shouldn't I *first* take care of *my own plans* for my life?
- Can't I just wait and "follow Jesus" when I get older?

Why, **you do not even know what will happen tomorrow**. What is your life? **You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.**

James 4:14 (NIV)

Seek the LORD while He may be found; **call on Him while He is near.**

Isaiah 55:6 (BSB)

"Today, if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts.**"

Hebrews 4:7b (BSB)

What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet **forfeit his soul?**

Mark 8:36 (BSB)

"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and **we are not saved.**"

Jeremiah 8:20 (NIV)

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☆☆ OUR MISSION: ☆☆

Our willingness to "follow Jesus" and our willingness to obey the Eighth Commandment are interrelated.

We can't do the one without doing the other.

DECIDING HOW WE WANT TO LIVE:

- It **BEGINS** with understanding the options.
- It **CONTINUES** with allowing our choice (Jesus or self) to determine our values. (If we choose Jesus, it also includes *trusting* him for the ability to make the needed changes.)
- It **FINISHES** with living-out our choice.

17

And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did **for one of the least of these brothers of Mine**, you did **for Me.**'

Matthew 25:40 (BSB)

Credits

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