



# The Caller

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## Prioritization by Mel Futrell

Brother Jack Lewis (1919- 2018), correctly observed, "We all share a common problem that there are more demands on our time than we can meet. Hence, a system of priorities has to be set up that must continuously be reevaluated across the course of our lives" [*Leadership Questions Confronting the Church*, 1985, p.87]. It would be hard to improve upon that succinct statement of reality.

What concerns me most in relation to the above statement is the apparent fact that far too many Christians have a faulty system or no system of priorities. Perhaps now more than ever, Christians should be monitoring their every activity seeking to place them properly within their lives. Can you honestly say that at the present time you have what appears to be an acceptable balance of the activities in your life? Were you to be weighed in the balances, would you be found wanting (Daniel 5:27)? Do you have in place a system to evaluate your allotment of time? Where do work, family, hobbies, the Lord, social functions, sports, etc., fall on your priorities ladder? At the mid-point of this year surely these are legitimate questions.

Brethren, the issue is absolutely real. And the problem of prioritization takes on eternal consequences when the questions are: Should I attend Wednesday night Bible study or camp out on the couch? Will it be a movie or the Gospel meeting? Do I watch Sunday evening sports or attend Sunday evening worship? Should I offer this to the Lord or spend it on myself? For many, these are tough choices. But I ask brethren, should they be? Should not these choices have been made when one turned their life over to Christ (Luke 9:23- 24; 14:27-32; 2 Corinthians 5:17)? At the very least as one matured in Christ these matters should have been firmed up. It is high time for some to call to a halt the misplacement of their time, money, and energy. I'm not suggesting that we really have a choice in this matter; either we prioritize properly or we ultimately pay the penalty (Matthew 25:24-27).

Here are some prioritization pointers that might help. Naturally, before one can evaluate his system of priorities he must have a system of priorities. Therefore, knowledge of where to begin is essential.

David said, "*I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.*" (Psalm 119:59)

So one must first consider their ways. In other words, what am I doing at present? What things am I now involved in? What might I change? Call it taking personal inventory.

Second, begin the actual ranking process. Reflect and ask yourself, what should come first in my life – community affairs, family, a social media presence, God's kingdom, recreation, school success, work? In what order should they be? Frankly brethren, the Lord has already answered that for us. Listen to him.

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Matthew 6:33)

You say, well I already know that. I hope so, but many don't or won't. As just one of many examples, earlier this year while conducting a weekend Gospel Meeting, a group of teenagers at the congregation chose to attend the preaching service rather than attend their high-school prom that night. To say I was both surprised and pleased would be a gross understatement. Already at that early age they had started the process of prioritization. Brethren, when we start ranking the activities, goals, and things of this life, we best keep in mind Matthew 6:33 which points us in the always right direction.

Third, self-discipline goes a long way toward proper prioritization. The self-disciplined individual is the self-correcting individual who makes adjustments when called for. Unfortunately, we all let the proper order slip from time to time and thus, the necessity of disciplined reexamination (2 Corinthians 13:5).

I encourage and exhort you at this halfway point in the year to reflect upon your life and the many activities in which you are involved. Life can be so rewarding and bring a great and wondrous reward in the life to come if our life and priorities are what they need to be, ought to be and can be (Matthew 25:21; 1 Timothy 4:8).

# 2019 VBS

