

Priorities and Time Management – The demands of family, work and ministry can find us out of breath and a feeling that we are running fast and getting nowhere. Without a good view of who we are and what God desires for us, we will let our busy schedules fill our life with activities that have little consequence for eternity. Let's see what the scriptures have to say about doing the right things in the right way.

But we have to start even before priorities – WV is where it starts

World View (Weltanschung) – World Outlook

- Nature of the world, how is God working in it, metanarrative
- How do we determine truth
- Action – how do we transform the world
- Determines priorities
- Our lens to view/interpret the world (Getz – Scrip/History/Culture)
- Who we are
- What God desires for us

Who we are – made in the image of God to glorify Him (1 Cor 6:20), we have value because of God and not because of anything that we have done.

What God desires for us – Glorify Him, make disciples (Matt 28:19,20)

Life verse – Isa 43:4

My purpose statement – Help men/women to become what God wants them to be.

Matt 28:19,20 II Tim 2:2 Col 1:28,29

Purpose Statement/Mission Statement

What is your niche in the KOG?

What ministry pushes your hot button?

God is infinite and personal, He has a place for you. Jer 29:11 I know the plans....

Gen 25:8 - Visualize yourself on your deathbed and you are content – why and what did you accomplish?

World View -> Purpose -> Priorities -> Use of time

Priorities

Why start with priorities? Climb the wrong hill, don't want to be really good at doing the wrong thing. Without the right priorities, we just become a very efficient sinner.

Too bad Hitler did not spend all of his time playing video games rather than developing an interest in politics. Friend who studied “7 habits of highly effective people” and decided the best thing to do was divorce his wife – she was holding him back.

Example of Jesus:

Worldview: Biblical, God’s view – The metanarrative - Redemption

Purpose: Why did Jesus come – many verses (truth, save the lost, set captives free)

Priorities: Jn 4:34 Jn 17:4 focused on people, teaching, modeling, discipling

Matt 28:19,20 Jn 3:16 Isa 40:8 Jn 13:34,35

Use of time: having dinner, teaching, training, healing, comforting, very measured, never rushed

Make observations from John 11 about Jesus priorities and His use of time.

Jn 11:4 - 16

Jn 11:21

Rock/Jar illustration

Planning – get the big rocks in first

What are the really important “big rocks” for a believer?

What are the time implications of these?

What priorities are in these verse and what is the time implication of each?

Matt 22:36-40

Jn 14:21

Col 3:16

Matt 28:19-20

Jn 15:17

Jn 15:7

Eph 5:28

James 4:13-15

Ps 90:12

Ps 39:4

I Tim 5:8

Lk 9:57 – 62

What were their priorities

How did their priorities determine their answer to Jesus

What is your “not now...Jesus”

How do you prioritize tasks?

Does job come before ministry?

Does family come before ministry?

Time Management

Tyranny of the Urgent (Charles Hummel)

- 30 hour day will not help
- Jumbled priorities
- Other people's demands
- Jn 17:4 Finished the work but never out of control
- The need is not the call
- Daily QT causes us to refocus
- 1 hour per week for spiritual inventory
- Your greatest danger is letting the urgent crowd out the important

Important: Eternal, move us toward our mission

Urgent: Grab our attention, immediate

Time Matrix – 4 quadrants

- 1 - Crisis, pressing issues, deadlines, meetings, reactive
- 2 – Preparation, planning, prevention, relationships, personal development, exercise
- 3 – interruptions, some mail, fun activities
- 4 – Trivia, some phone calls, TV/video games, time wasters

Add more activities in each quadrant

How do we move to more 2nd quadrant time?

Robert Murray McCheyne having said, "God gave me a message to deliver and a horse to ride. I've killed the **horse** and so can no longer deliver the message." Died at age 29.

Helpful hints

Live Simply

II Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Mark 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Daily QT

The irregularity of our modern life is one of the greatest foes to deep spirituality. Men are so much away from home; they eat, sleep, and travel at such unseasonable hours that it is often almost impossible for them to have fixed times and places for devotion. The more is the reason why they should be careful to omit no duty, and to neglect no means of grace.

EM Bounds – Christian Advocate, July 26, 1890

Weekly Planning

Prov 24:3,4 Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts.

We usually overestimate what we can do in one year and underestimate what we can do in 5 years.

Planning is a tool – don't forget to live for today

Use technology where it makes sense

Routines

- It is hard to change the world when you can't find your keys
- Put things in the same place, keep organized (drawers, garage, etc)

Hinderances:

- Personal disorganization
- Multitasking – can't stay on task
- Distractions
- Interruptions
- Meetings
- Games, social media
- Perfectionism
- Poor communication
- No daily plan
- Low-value information sources
- Low tech
- Slow reading speed
- Wasted transition time
- Wasted driving/traveling time
- Can't say no
- Ineffective delegation
- Excessive socializing
- Lack of self-discipline
- Poor planning
- Procrastination
- Laziness

He who aims at nothing hits it.