What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?

Part 4 2019



God's Answer

• <u>1 Cor 14:1</u> TLB Let love be your greatest aim;....

• Then God adds:

 <u>1 Cor 16:14</u> яме Let <u>everything</u> you do be done in love (true love to <u>God</u> and <u>man</u> as inspired by God's love for us).

 <u>1 John 4:7-8</u> Beloved, let us <u>love</u> one another, for <u>love</u> is of God; and everyone who <u>loves</u> is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does <u>not love</u> does not know God, for God is love.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

<u>Conclusion to These Scriptures</u>

- I Cor 14:1 If we are to let <u>love</u> be our greatest aim...our <u>dominant life value</u> through which we <u>make all decisions</u>.
- <u>1 Cor 16:14</u> And if <u>everything</u> we do is to be done <u>in love</u>.
 <u>1 John 4:8</u> And if God <u>is love</u>.
- John 14:15 And if we <u>love Him</u>, we are to <u>express</u> that love by <u>keeping His commandments</u>.

• <u>Conclusion</u>: Then we are to make <u>God</u>, <u>His Love</u> and <u>His</u> <u>Commandments</u> as the <u>filter</u> through which we make all decisions and influence <u>how we behave</u> while the <u>world is watching</u>.

Connecting These Scriptures

• So then, 1) God (who is love) and 2) His commandments (by which we are to live) become our greatest aim in life through which we are to make all of our decisions and take all our actions.... • And because God becomes the most important Being in our life, all our plans, our needs, our wants, and everything in our life become secondary to God's plans, needs, and wants....His are first. • Therefore, His commandments (Torah) are a description of God ... of His nature, His character, and His love....His Torah is a reflection of God Himself, and because that Law comes from the most important Being in our life, we desire to live by it... to be One with Him.

Connecting These Scriptures

We should not <u>obey</u> any of God's Law for <u>the rewards</u> (the focus is not on the rewards)....the focus is on <u>the One</u> from which the Law comes....the <u>Law-Giver</u>....the Ten Commandments have a <u>Commander</u>....the focus is on Him...on <u>loving Him</u>, not loving the rewards. <u>Why</u> would you want to <u>serve</u> God <u>without rewards</u>? Because knowing that it's from and for God is <u>reason enough</u>....this is LOVE!!!
We serve God <u>Not</u> He serves us....we serve <u>His purpose</u>...we serve <u>His needs</u> instead of Him serving us.

 It's not that we (God's people) have a mission; rather, He has a mission and He has us to carry out His mission.

We're Not Into Religion

- <u>Religion means</u> = I need things from God, and if I behave myself a certain way, He'll give me all those things I need, either now or after I die. <u>Religion is for people</u> who are <u>constantly asking</u> God for things....like a <u>leech or parasite</u> who wants to get through life with as little pain as possible.
- Religion is <u>trying to gain</u> something from God...the <u>focus</u> is on "<u>me</u>" instead of the focus being <u>on God</u>, <u>His purpose</u> and <u>His needs</u>.
- God <u>came down</u> from heaven to <u>Mt. Sinai</u> to tell us <u>what He</u> <u>needs</u>....He gave us the Torah, a description of Himself, so that we would be "<u>light</u>" to the world....so that He would have <u>a people</u> on this earth to <u>tell others</u> WHY He created the heavens and the earth.

Focus is on Serving NOT Being Served

• <u>Matt 20:20-28</u> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." 22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

Example of a Serving Attitude

• <u>23</u> So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." 24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers (they were displeased because they also wanted high positions in the kingdom). 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

Example of a Serving Attitude

<u>26</u> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." • Jesus the Messiah came to "serve His Father and to serve us" so that we would learn to "serve God" and :His needs" NOT ours. • There is no dignity in being a blood-sucking-parasite-Christianleech. The focus is on serving <u>NOT</u> being served.

How Are We To Serve God?

- By <u>letting the world</u> know what God wants and needs...by letting the world know <u>why He created the world</u>...by <u>letting</u> the world know <u>His story</u> and <u>how our individual stories fit</u> into the context of His story....His story is the most important one....ours is secondary but fits into His story.
- We begin by telling people that <u>God has a story</u>...that <u>God has a</u> <u>need</u>...that He created this world out of a need to add meaning to His existence.
- In God's plan, <u>others will eventually follow</u>...but for now He needs a loyal remnant (a few) who are willing to tell the story.

Whenever a new invention comes to market...it usually costs lots of money and only a few begin to buy it.

Like the flat screen TV....when it first came out, it cost lots of money and only a few bought it.

Now, practically everyone has a flat screen TV.

Same with the KOG....God now needs only a few loyal people...eventually others will follow.

Vision/Mission/Value Statements of the COGSA

• <u>Mission</u>: "To make disciples who make disciples...and in the process, help change lives through the Power of God's Applied Word to heal a broken-hurting world".

 <u>Vision</u>: "To prepare a people for servant-leadership with Christ in Tomorrow's New World".

• <u>Values</u>: "To represent the government of God on earth in all areas of life by demonstrating the following behaviors:

• Love God – Vertical Relationship (Worship & Discipleship)

• Love One Another – Horizontal Relationship (Fellowship/Ministry)

• Love the World – Outward Relationship (Evangelism)

These are some *basic things* that God has to say *about love*!!!

We'll continue next week.