

## Seek *First* The Kingdom of God!

---

by Wayne Goff

The attitude of heart that places the kingdom of God **first** in your life is certainly a most important attribute. If the kingdom is placed first, then the eternal kingdom is assured! But how often do we see brethren *actually* putting it first? Do we comprehend the true meaning of the statement? Let us examine the statement.

*"First"* (PROTON) is used as an adverb signifying first in time (**Matthew 8:21**), first in order (**Romans 3:2**), and that which precedes something else (**John 7:51**).

**The sense "above all" is the obvious one in Matthew 6:33, for Jesus is not teaching that we should seek the kingdom first and then other things, but that there should be exclusive orientation to the divine kingdom and righteousness.**

- *Theological Dictionary of the N. T.*

*"Seek"* (ZETEITE) means to seek or strive after, to endeavor, and to desire something. Here it is applied to the kingdom of God. W.E. Vine says *specifically* of Matthew 6:33 "of seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness, in the sense of coveting earnestly, striving after."

Both words, **seek** and **first** are strong words which impress upon us the idea of strongly searching for something above all else. So Jesus is saying to us, *"With strong desire strive after the kingdom of God before everything else!"* Dear reader, is that what you do in your life? Do you put the kingdom of God above everything else? If not, then you are not observing the command of Jesus here, heaven is not yet assured you, and you need to reorganize your life! If so, then I am thankful to God. We need more of you in the Lord's church today.

### Why?

Perhaps some are wondering why we should put the kingdom of God above everything else. Why did Jesus place such great stress on the subject?

- 1. Because Jesus said we should.**
- 2. Because the eternal well being of our soul is most important to us, Matthew 16:26**
- 3. Because if we fail to go to heaven, it does not matter what else we accomplished!**

Jesus explained in **Matthew 16:26** that it does not matter if a man gains the entire world if he loses his own soul in the process! The price paid was not worth it! Friends, it takes a good deal of faith to truly believe this statement. Many good brethren give lip service to the statement, but their actions betray their thinking. We regularly see brethren put work, school, recreation, and family before the Lord's kingdom or church. The prevailing attitude is that these things are important and the church is secondary. I hope we can change this attitude because it is wrong and it saps the strength from today's church!

365003