

Sunday, December 29, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Title: Setting my FIRST Priority

Text: Psalm 27:1 - 14

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to review their personal priorities and set God as their HIGHEST priority.

Introduction:

Here we are together again on another Sunday and about to enter another year. With the passing of every day and every year we are that much closer to eternity – to the return of Christ Jesus!

~ 2 Peter 3:11 – 12, *“Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, (12) waiting for and hastening the coming day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn.”*

~ Cambridge dictionary definition of ‘priority:’ “something that is very important and must be dealt with before other things: The management did not seem to consider office safety a priority. My first/top priority is to find somewhere to live.”

1. Outline of Psalm 27:

~ vs. 1 – 3: the reality of David’s current situation and his declaration of confidence.

~ vs. 4 – 6: David’s priority, his protection, his hope, his sacrifice.

~ vs. 7 – 10: David’s prayer, the answer, his response, David’s concern, his perceived condition.

~ vs. 11 -12: David’s request and his inner fear.

~ vs. 13: David’s faith.

~ vs. 14: David’s instruction.

2. Our Personal Application:

~ vs. 4, *“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.”*

~ This does not change my INTERCESSORY prayer list; but it changes my personal prayer list!

~ It forces me, by His Holy Spirit, to recall that I am part of His body (Ephesians 1:15 – 23), I am part of His bride (Ephesians 5:22 – 33), I am part of His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17 and 6:19 – 20).

~ Psalm 139:16 and 90:12 (Ephesians 5:15 – 21)

3. Our Instruction from Father God:

~ vs. 8, *“You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”*

~ What is MY personal response.

4. Our Instruction from David:

~ vs. 14, *“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”*

Conclusion:

Galatians 4:4 – 7, *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (6) and because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” (7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”*

