

Setting Priorities that affect all areas of life

Intro: All day every day we are choosing between alternatives - in what we do, say, think, how we spend our money, our time, our energies... What does the Lord say about it?

Why do we make the choices that we make? *Examining Motives*

2 Cor 5:6-10. "...we make it our ambition to be pleasing to [the Lord]."

As opposed to pleasing ourselves, such as:

self-exaltation Matt 23:1-12, or sinful indulgence Eph 2:1-3

This requires humble dependence on God's gracious work in us. Titus 2:11-14

Phil 2:12

What choices should we make? *Defining Priorities*

Eph 5:1- 11 "...learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

1 Thess 4:1-3b receive instruction as to how to please God

This requires humble dependence on God's gracious work in us. Ps 25:4-12

How can we actually follow through with our 'good intentions'? *Intentional Methodology*

Col 3:1-17 'put off, put on'. Also Eph 4:17-5:21

This requires humble dependence on God's gracious work in us.

How do we deal with the pull to go back to the old way? *Counting the Cost.*

Luke 14:25-35 count the cost- not just of the loss...

...but also the gain! Compare Matt 5 to Matt 23!

Col 3:1-17. What are we really giving up? What are we gaining?

This requires humble dependence on God's gracious work in us.