

# WELCOME

Please mute your devices to avoid a disruption during worship.

## ***Prioritizing Life***

Berry Kercheville  
(Abridged)

A few years ago, I listened to a woman describe an evangelism group in her local church. She spoke of how dedicated and sacrificial the group was and how they had hand-picked certain Christians whom they believed would “give it all up” for the cause of saving souls. As she continued, she mentioned a young couple with whom they had been disappointed because they had dropped out of evangelism meetings for several months. The reason? The woman had given birth. It was also revealed that others in the church wanted to participate but were refused because their circumstances or limited talents would hinder the level of sacrifice expected by the group.

To say the least, I was disturbed. I offered words of caution to those listening. The key to serving the Lord is balance. We have all seen it and perhaps practiced it ourselves—a person becomes consumed by a cause, a hobby, a sport, a relationship, or even a sin. Worse still, such people often look down on others who are not as committed as they are. Passion is good, and passion for God is essential, but passion that is misplaced or unbalanced by other responsibilities is dangerous.

I have always appreciated the counsel of the Preacher in Ecclesiastes 9:7–10. He speaks of enjoying God's gifts, maintaining purity and character, delighting in life with one's spouse, and working diligently with one's hands. Notice the order. First comes a relationship with God, which enables a person to enjoy His gifts properly. Closely connected are purity and godly character, symbolized by white garments and oil on the head.

Following this is enjoyment of life with one's spouse “all the days” of life. Such enjoyment requires intentional investment and shared life. Though not explicitly mentioned, children naturally follow within this sphere of responsibility. Finally comes diligent labor in one's vocation or calling. While work deserves full effort, it must never compete with responsibilities to God and family.

When Christians become consumed by personal passions or urgent demands, this order is easily reversed. The evangelism group disappointed in the young couple with a newborn had done exactly that. They likely believed their commitment to evangelism was identical with putting God first. Yet service in God's kingdom must be balanced with responsibilities to spouse and children.

Ministry is not identical with devotion to God. God Himself is the One who satisfies our deepest needs and provides lasting joy. “Apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?” (Eccl. 2:25). David wrote, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you, O God” (Psa. 42:1). When our relationship with God is defined in these terms, we will properly prioritize spouse, children, career, and ministry. When ministry becomes so consuming that it crowds out prayer, Scripture, meditation, and family life, it has become an idol.

Another example occurs when parents place their relationship with their children ahead of their marriage. Children can easily monopolize family life to the point that husbands and wives neglect one another. Once the children leave home, such couples often discover their marriage feels empty. The best thing parents can do for their children is first to love God deeply and then to love one another faithfully. A child's spiritual maturity and security matter more than constant entertainment or activity.

This reshuffling of priorities is serious because it results in idolatry. We readily see how careers become idols when God is neglected for professional success. Yet children can become idols as well when their happiness, achievements, and activities become our greatest passion.

When we carefully order our lives, we recognize the danger of anything that consumes our time and affections beyond its proper place (Proverbs 15:16-17).

## Announcements:

### Prayer List

- Long-term health issues:
  - Rob Canon
  - Mandy White
- Brian Escobar: Being treated for lung cancer.
- Lily's Father: Recently passed from cancer.
- Mike Grimes: Recovering from his recent health issues.
- Ray Griffin: Undergoing rehabilitation after his stroke.
- Doris Fields: Still suffering from shingles but is seeing signs of improvement.
- Theresa Canon: Was admitted back to the hospital due to an infection from her surgery.

### Traveling/Away

- Nico Azaroff: Deployed with his unit until the end of this year.
- The Hammonds: Visting friends in Grand Cayman.

### Morning Worship Assignments

**Opening Prayer-** James Wright  
**Scripture Reading-** David Johnson Sr.  
**Sermon-** Joe Wright  
**Closing Prayer-** David Chavez  
**Song Leader-** David Johnson Sr.

### Evening Worship Assignments

**Song Leader-** Bradley Wright  
**Closing Prayer-** David Johnson Jr.

### Key Scripture:

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord,  
Than great treasure with trouble."

-Proverbs 15:16



### ABOUT US

We seek to follow the teachings of the Bible, which is the only source to find doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News, which is, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has presented himself as the perfect sacrifice by willingly going to the cross to take away our sins.

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Bible Study 4:00 PM

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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