

## WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM ME?

Matt. 6:33

## INTRODUCTION:

Two high school students were discussing a class mate. No wonder he is good in French, one said. His father and mother talk French all the time at meals. Then said the other, I ought to be terrific in geometry. My father and mother "talk in circles all the time."

To be sure, we go in circles, when we have no goal. And too many of us suffer from aimlessness and we go around and around.

Every man needs to have a sense of direction. Man is one of the weakest creatures on this earth. The lion, the bear, the elephant, the horse are all far stronger than he is. And yet man has the greatest work to do on earth because God put him here and told him to subdue the earth, and to plan and carry out the work of the world. The world would be just one big jungle without man. But how can a weak man do all that is required of him. In other words, what does God expect from a man. What does he expect from me.

God comes and says, I need a partner. I will give you power. If you will link your life with mine, we can do some great things.

He says to a man, in science, if you will turn your mind over to me in research - I will give you guidance. To the man in education, in every walk of life - God says I want you to be my partner. And as many have been willing to do this, they have been used of God to develop resources and rockets - and many wonderful things. But it has all been man plus God.

But over and above, God says, to every Christian - without me you can do nothing. Come unto me - link your life with mine and we will accomplish this spiritual task.

Now this text today is a wonderful and marvelous truth for the conduct of a Christian. And it has a tremendous promise. There are two parts in it. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness. That is your part - that is my part.

All these things shall be added unto you - this is God's part.

So you can understand very clearly that you need not to go in circles. You can be a partner with God. You put his interest first, and then God will give out of his storehouse unto you. That is a beautiful thing.

If you are here, poor and needy, and here is God - he is above all. I will meet your needs - he says. I will supply every need you have.

## I. THE FIRST PART OF THE TEXT

Seek ye first, the kingdom of God. Now the Christian comes and how you can put God and His interests first. That is, set your mind on God's kingdom. And all the other things that you desire will be a by-product and will be given to you.

Let us remember that this text is for the children of God. And like a loving father, God says, if you will do thus and so - I will reward you. Now there is just one way to become a child of God. You must come to him in faith in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. As many as receive him, to them gave ye power to become

the sons of God.

After you have been born again, after you have become a member of the family of God, he says to you - you are my child. Now I want you to put my interests first. I want you to seek the kingdom first in your heart - and I will give you all that you need.

It is a wonderful thought that we have a God who gives us a purpose, with something like this - with a man. Now how can I put him first, you say.

First, you can put Him first (in your living). Now it is not easy to live as a Christian should. I am tempted every day.

I say to Him, I will give you my life. And God says now I want your life to always be seeking the kingdom of God first. You must keep that Christian profession before you all the time. Not one minute must you forget that you are a child of God. Wherever you are, you must remember that you are a Christian. And there are certain things that you cannot do. In order to be a real Christian, you have got to be constant.

Now the Christian life may have two sides - it may have a positive and a negative. First, there are some things that you can't do. There are some places that you can't go. But just putting these things out of your life doesn't make you a strong Christian. You are not only to be good - but you are to be good for something. You are not only to be good - but you are to be doing good. So the Christian (separation) is from the bad things. And it is a separation unto the good things. You put God first - you must take a definite stand. You just say there are some things that I am not going to do. There are some things that I am going to stick too and stand up too. I am going to make these things first.

There is nothing so powerful as the influence of a Christian life. I remember a man telling about, after studying the conversion of the Apostle Paul, he said I was saved four years ago like Paul. I was a chief sinner. But now, he says, I have been trying to live for the Lord for four years. And someone asked him what was the chief reason for his change in life. He replied, it was the life of my consecrated wife. For 27 years, she not only prayed for me, but she lived a wonderful Christian life before me. And it caused me to see my need of Christ.

Billy Sondag once addressed a letter simply, God's Man-Adrian, Michigan. The Postmaster in that town was not bewildered - he handed the letter over to the man who he knew to be living closest to God. It was the right man. Can anyone look at your life and say, he's God's man. She's God's woman. That's God's young person. He reminds me of Jesus. She reminds me of Jesus. The Christians of the New Testament were different from others. They were so separated from sin, that people took note that they had been with Jesus. How is your life counted. Does anyone ever say to you - he is different. He has met Jesus and there has been a change in his life.

Sometime ago in Pa., 100 birds were found dead at the statue of Wm. Penn. What caused their death. They were migrating South in the darkness - they struck the statue. They were simply flying too low. That's the tragedy of so many lives today. Christians are living on the low level. They are giving their lives to worldly things when they ought to be putting God first, in every area of life. The end of a worldly life is spiritual calamity. If only they would put God in the first place.

I might illustrate this with John Wynamaker. He said that his father owned and operated a big brick yard. One day he needed a man. So he put an ad in the paper. Four young men the next morning came to his office. He took them to the

window and pointed to a large pile of bricks in one corner of the brick yard. He told them to take four wheelbarrows and move that pile of bricks to the next corner. And stack them carefully. So they pulled off their coats, rolled up their sleeves, and went to work.

About the time they finished, he said, I want you to move them to the next corner. And stack them carefully over there. They looked at him with a question in their eyes, but they proceeded to move the bricks. When they had finished, they came up to the office, once more, he took them to the window and said, I want you to move them over to the other corner now, and stack them again. They shifted from one foot to the other, and decided again not to question - but to go and move the bricks. When they had finished, they returned to the office dripping with perspiration. Now Mr. Wynamaker said, move the bricks back into the corner where they first were. Three of the men went out into the back yard to work. But one of them stayed behind. After a moment he said, Mr. Wynamaker, I thank you very much for giving me a day's work. I needed it - and I appreciated it. But life is just too short for me to work at something that isn't any benefit to anyone. With a smile Mr. Wynamaker said, as he walked over and put his hand on the young man's shoulder and said "you are the man I am looking for". The brick business was just a test - you have passed it. Come tomorrow morning and I want you to go to work for me. And it won't be moving bricks.

Now Jesus was saying the same thing to his Disciples - seek ye first the kingdom of God. My Father's works and I work, and you must work - and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing the greatest things for God. And you will do even greater things than I did because my time was so limited in the three years that I spent on earth.

Second, you can put him first in (your loyalties). Our text tells us and gives

us a challenge that Christ is to be first. No other person, no other pleasure, no other thing in the world should come before him. When Jesus saw us on the road to Hell, he put us first. He didn't think of his own pleasure and comfort - which cost him his life. And he was loyal to it. Life is filled with choices. And as we consider these choices, we must remember our loyalty to Jesus. We ought to say he is first in my life. In view of that fact, which choice must I make. If you do that, you will chose always the highest and the best. Are you being loyal to Christ when you go to the places that he does not approve of. When you do the things which do not please him. When you say the things that you ought not to say.

Jesus loves everyone. He loves the sinners. Those who rebelled against him. He loved those who put him to death. He loves us, and we are to love others in the same way. Are you loyal to him when there is hatred in your heart and when there is not a Christ-like spirit. You may do many many things that are good - but if your heart is filled with a wrong spirit, how much good are you going to do. If we are loyal to Christ, we will have something of his spirit. We cannot keep the wrong spirit in our hearts.

We ought to be loyal to his church.

It is just like a friend - your best friend could be on his death bed and he would say to you. I am going to trust a certain amount of money to you, and I'd like to see you use it in a certain way. Here is a work of God that I love and I'd like for you to spend it in this work. Now after he has passed away, if you are going to be loyal to him - you'd see that his wishes are carried out.

One day Jesus died on the cross. He left everything good to you and to me. He said, I love my church, and I want you my child to belong to it. Give your best to it. I want you to take care of the church. This is a dear thing to me. And the

gates of Hell are not going to destroy it.

Are you loyal to his church. Some people drop in to church once in awhile. Some people give a dollar after they have indulged themselves in everything else. They go to Scope and spend \$5, \$10 on one night out - and then give a dollar to the church. Is that loyalty. And some people never serve in the church - is that loyalty. Some never invite anyone else to come to church. Now we must know that Christ built his church, and you are loyal to your clubs, your lodges, your political party. To your school - but I tell you that you ought to be loyal to the church - Christ's institution. You work in these other things, and your gifts go to them. But what do you do for Christ and His church which is going to abide forever. The best satisfaction of life is found in His church.

A ship was sailing from the Orient and they had several cages of birds on board. Far out at sea, one of the birds escaped. And with delight, he swept up through the air. It was free. But in a few hours the poor bird fell back upon the deck of the ship breathless, struggling, exhausted. He had found no place to plant his feet. He was glad to come back home. Now if you are a real Christian, you may leave the church. You may go out into the world, and you may seek the delights of the world, but you will find no satisfaction until you come back home.

There was a woman once, she was active in every department of the church life. She had some slight difference with the Pastor - she left the church. And she sought her happiness in the world. And she said, I have gone out into the world. But later she came back, she said I come back to church, I could not find any happiness or satisfaction outside the church. Neither can you, if you are a Christian. So I say, you ought to be loyal to the church.

Third, we can put him first (in our love.) Now if we love him, we will seek him. And God has provided a way for us to do this through the exercise of prayer. God is not far off. He is not behind a vale. He is closer than hands and feet, and nearer than breathing.

Charles Kettering, the chief engineer for General Motors, in his time was a great man in the field of mechanics. At a banquet, a man watching Mr. Kettering's big strong hands, asked him the question - what is the most important thing that you ever did with your hands. Mr. Kettering replied humbly, the most important thing that I ever did with these hands was to fold them in prayer to my Heavenly Father. Yes, if you love Christ and want to put him first - you will pray.

Then if you love Christ, you will listen to him. There are those that are far away. Now you can hear God's voice as you read the Bible. The average Christian hears the word of God only on Sunday morning as the Pastor reads the Scripture. This is not enough, you ought to read the Bible for yourself and remember that God is talking to you.

Then if you love Christ, you will show it by your giving. If you tell me that you love your wife with all your heart, but I see you wearing shabby clothes and I learn that you do not provide enough to eat. Then I'll know that you do not love her. God's word is specific about the matter of giving. It tells us how much we are to give - the tithe is the minimum. And we will get great joy by going beyond that. We are to bring it to God's storehouse. Now this can mean nothing but the church tells what the tithe is to be used for. It is to be used for God's work. To glorify him, to win souls. It tells us then what he will do. It says that God will open up the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing upon us.

This helps us to see whether we love the dollar more than we love God.



The dollar is not almighty. It really does not bring happiness or contentment. It does not bring any building of character. It can never take you to Heaven.

There are some who say I cannot afford to tithe because I am in debt. Well, you are the very one that ought to tithe. God will help you to pay those debts. You say I have a family to care for - yes, let God help you with the family. You say I am starting a new business but you need God as a partner in your business.

Now God has a double purpose in commanding you to tithe. He wants others to know of His Son and that He died for them. If Christians would give, God's work would move forward, with wings.

One day a missionary in Africa went to a village where the natives had never seen a white man. The villagers surrounded him and feared bodily harm. Instead, the chief walked over and took the missionary's hand and said, "where is the river where you washed your hands so clean?" Now I can tell you something this morning, there is a place where you can wash your hearts that are black with sin. And that is the fountain that cleanses. You and I know that it is Jesus. But it is not enough to know and not give this to others.

J. Winston Pierce tells a little story of a family having morning devotions. They took turns in reading Scriptures. One morning the four year old insisted that she be allowed to read the Bible. The other children didn't like the idea but the Mother said, let her try. She started at Genesis - she read a verse that she had learned in Sunday School. "God is love." She turned to Psalms, and there she quoted the same verse again, God is love. She then turned to Matthew, and quoted the verse again - God is love. Her brothers and sisters said see, she can't read the Bible. Her Mother said, yes, she can. When you really learn to read the Bible, it says that God is love on every page.

And that is the way you can put Jesus first and seek the kingdom first. By discovering that God is love - and making this the whole ambition of life.

Some years ago, a man and his son were attending a convention in Houston, Texas. On the platform was Dr. Truitt, one of the speakers. And the man said to his twelve year old son, there are two good men sitting up there. Dr. Truitt, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, and there is the other man, the President of the Cattlemen's Association. And the man asked his son, which one of them would you rather be. He looked at both of them for a few minutes and he said, I wouldn't want to be President of either one of those things. But I would rather be Dr. Truitt than anybody in the world, because everyone in the world loves Dr. Truitt. Everyone that knows him loves him. And that must make life so happy for him.

Yes, we need to be loved, and God wants us to love him. And he wants us to put him first, in our love.

Most people remember the story of Robinson - the original hero, a Scottish sailor named Alexander Selkirk, had a quarrel with his captain and asked to be put ashore on an island some 400 miles west of Chili. And he was happy about that at first. But four years later, after he had been on that island for four years, a rescue ship found him - he was on the beach waving his arms. And they reported that he was a Scotchman. He had so much forgotten his language for want of use that he could scarcely make them understand him.

Now Christians can forget the language of faith. We need to say them every day. We need to seek the Kingdom and thy will for God every day.

II. THE PROMISE IN THE TEXT

If we put God first, all want the blessings of the Kingdom of God to fall upon us. But we are not too eager sometimes to be receptive.

Now remember this, the rain does not come down accidentally. There are conditions in the atmosphere before the rain descends.

The same things are true in righteousness, blessedness. Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after righteousness. For they shall be filled.

Now sad is the day when a man or woman is content as he is. And he fails to recognize that he must prepare and he must seek - he must become involved. And he must undertake if he is going to share in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus plainly told Pilate, my Kingdom is not of this world. So man must not put his eyes on the world and things - but on Jesus.

Jesus said, all things, these things will be added unto you. What things? Jesus has just been talking about material things. So he says now, if you will put me first, if you will give your best - I will give you all you need. This is the word of our Lord. He knew that he would give and keep his promise. We test him. The only thing that counts at the end of the way is what you have done for Jesus. I am pleading for you today to lay your treasures up in Heaven where thieves never steal. Where the stock market conditions will never affect you. And where your treasures will bless you throughout eternity.

A certain man kept a lighthouse on a rugged coast. He had many ships and many lives in his keeping. On the first of each month, he received a certain amount of oil - enough for the month. He was cautioned to guard his supply. One

night there came at his door a woman who asked for some oil to keep her child warm. The man gave it to her. Then a man wanted enough oil that his son could read at night. And another man wanted some oil for his engine. The man parceled out the valuable oil. At the end of the month, the oil gave out. And the lighthouse went out. That night three ships went down and many lives were lost. The next morning the government agent was there rebuking this careless man. He apologized and tells him how he had given the oil for good causes. The government man was saying, your task was to keep the light burning. You used the oil for secondary purposes - therefore ships went down and lives were lost. For that there is no excuse.

Dear Christian Friends, we have a task above all else. And that is to keep the light of Jesus Christ shining in the world. We have just one life to use. And we have no right to exhaust this life and have nothing left for Christ and his church.

I think a splendid illustration of what Jesus is talking about happened back in 1893. There was a panic, Phillip Armour, of the packing company, at that time had built a great concern. He was a good Christian man and he had many employees that had confidence in him. Close by his little factory was a bank and Armour was the director in that bank and many of his employees had savings there. When the panic broke out, a run on the bank forced it to close it's doors at noon one day. They did not have enough cash for those who wanted to draw their money. The frantic workers came running back to the plant in tears. When Mr. Armour was told about the situation, he immediately came on the high steps of his office, lifted his hands for silence and with a smile on his face he said, please don't be afraid. I make you this promise, I personally will see that not one of you will lose a single penny of your savings in the bank.

A murmur went up and there was a roar and men threw their hats into the air. They rushed up the steps and took Mr. Armour on their shoulders and carried him back

- Matt 6:33 - What does God expect from me?

Students - French - ought to be Trufi Germany - "Talk in Circles"

Man Ned. Punition -

Text: 1<sup>st</sup> Conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> Promises

## I - First Part of Text

### 1. Live your Living -

Negative - can't do, Please can't go -

Positive - Separation Bad things - put things 1<sup>st</sup> -

Billy Sunday - letter "God's Man" Adrian Mich -  
Living closest God -

100 Birds - Statue Wm Penn, death, town -

John Wynnman - Father - Medal Man - 4 men -  
Pile to corner - mit corner Back too - one "Life to Bring  
Work at something not benefit anyone -"

### 2. Live your Loyalties -

Text challenge 1<sup>st</sup> -

To church - X cross - love for - Take Care of -

Scope's evening - ch - 1<sup>st</sup> -

Ship - Cage Birds - one - glad on back -

missionary. John was thoughtful for a moment  
he said, "Bob, I too want to make a full surrender and  
follow Christ completely as you have been doing."

### 3. in our love -

Charles Kettering - Gen Moton - Banquet -  
Hands - What imp't thing done with? - folded in Prayer -

Miss - Africa - "Where is The River where  
you washed your hands so clean?" - Tell  
where wash hands - Blood X -

J. Winston Reid - Family - 7 yrs old -  
Read Bible - ~~God is love~~ - When beam  
" " God is love is on every page -

Rubinson Cocco - <sup>Here</sup> Scottish Sailor Alex  
Selbirk - 400 miles thru - 4 yrs -  
Scotchman - 700 other languages - for want  
of use - not understand - (use every day -

### II. Promise in The Text .

Blessing will fall -

Rain - not accident -

Jesus, I will give you all you need -

1st - your eyes to see - feet to walk - hands to serve -  
Heart to love -

lighthouse - oil worth - national supply  
child - warm - son to read - engine -  
35 mps - dies - (No 2 course)

Phillip Armour 1893 packing Co -

Banker - not afraid make my penny good -

... the world is crucified unto me,  
and I unto the world. Galatians 6:14

IF WE have been reconciled to God through the merits of  
Christ, the evil pleasures of this life must be discarded,  
for they block the rich blessings of grace and hinder our  
testimony. This is what Paul meant when he said that the  
world and its enticements should be "crucified."

A devoted missionary, home on furlough, was asked to  
speak in the neighborhood where he had spent the days  
of his youth. After the service, a former boyhood compan-  
ion said to him, "Bob, you have something that I don't  
have. I'd give the world if I could experience your joy and  
victory." The missionary replied, "John, that's exactly the  
price I paid. **It cost me the world!** To renounce its fleeting  
and unsatisfying pleasures is not actually giving up very  
much; yet it seems the hardest thing for some people to  
do." "I never thought of it that way," said his friend. "You  
mean that to please God a Christian must make a choice

**between the world and discipleship?"** "Yes," replied the  
missionary. John was thoughtful for a moment, and then  
he said, "Bob, I too want to make a full surrender and  
follow Christ completely as you have been doing."

Believer, have you made such a commitment? Tell me:  
Are you more disturbed about a scratch on your new car  
than about a sinner lost and on his way to eternal doom?  
Are you more concerned with your newspaper being un-  
read than with your Bible being unopened? Does the fact  
that your crops are not growing distress you more than  
your lack of spiritual development? By answering such  
questions you can judge whether you have actually been  
**crucified to the world!** —H. G. B.

Take the world, but give me Jesus,  
All its joys are but a name;  
But His love abideth ever,  
Through eternal years the same. —Crosby

**THOT: Separate yourself from the fellowship of the world, or  
it will separate you from the fellowship of God.**

48  
P5 102  
\_\_\_\_\_ at Jerusalem, was commissioned  
by God to do the same at Rome.  
9. A woman of Joppa named \_\_\_\_\_, having sewn