

Digging Deeper During the Week!

Putting **First Things First** is what being ‘on mission’ is all about. *This week, as we explore these essential priorities, we are not speaking of doing more we are talking about doing what is right!*

Monday First a Servant, Then a Minister!
14-Apr Romans 1.1-6

Paul explains to the ‘superior’ thinking Romans that when we come to Jesus, our priorities change concerning how we think of ourselves!

- Paul says – before the big and lofty title of ‘apostle’ – that he is actually a slave (original language word)! Therefore he tells us that to be ‘on mission’ first starts in the heart and head! What changes have to happen in us if we are to actually become a slave of Jesus?
- In order to serve this incredible Lord of ours and be ‘on mission’ for Him, we have to come to grips with our position. Paul tells us why we have received grace and our position – what was the purpose (5)? How does obedience to Jesus relate directly to being His slave?

Tuesday First Comes Prayer, Then Comes Ministry!
15-Apr Romans 1.8-12

Faith flows into witness! This is the crux of what Paul praises the people of the church in Rome for.

- Faith moves us to share our faith and seek to bring people into such a relationship that we desire to see the same happen for others. What are the implications for sharing our faith – when will we be done sharing this new life in Christ with others (8)?
- As Paul passionately prayed for these dynamic disciples who were already ‘on mission’ there is a clear desire in his heart? What is it and how does he express it? Does this passion flow from you?

Wednesday First You Serve God, Then God Judges Your Service!
16-Apr 1 Corinthians 4.1-5

How we serve ‘on mission’ has a great deal to do with our understandings of who we are and what Jesus has called us to!

- In order to serve Jesus, Paul says we have to be ‘subordinate’ to Him and we have to ‘manage’ all that He has given to us. As you consider these for a moment, ask yourself how these two relationships with Jesus will have influence upon your service?

*“I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.” **Philippians 3:13 (NLT)***

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- Since Paul knew that one day all of his service to Jesus would demand an accounting (4), he sought to be ‘on mission’ all of the time. When Jesus returns, what will He do (5)? How should these two activities motivate our actions as we are ‘on mission?’

Thursday First I Serve, Then Some are Saved!
17-Apr 1 Corinthians 9.19-23

Once again Paul tells us, “I have enslaved myself to all, that I might win the more” (literal translation). Look at his ‘on mission’ reasoning.

- His choice to ‘enslave’ himself to others so that he can lead them into a dynamic relationship with Christ has a method ... what is the method he explains in this passage?
- What would you have to overcome in order to undertake the mission of Jesus like Paul did? What would those changes look like?

Friday First I Strive in God’s Ministry, Then for God’s Prize!
18-Apr 1 Corinthians 9.24-27

Being ‘on mission’ means focusing our lives on the priorities of God and disciplining our lives so that we are fulfilling his heart’s desire.

- Paul is motivated to receive the prize from Jesus. Although we don’t know what it will look like, we do know it means that someone will be awarded with Jesus’ appreciation. Do you desire His gratitude?
- What did Paul do in order to be ‘on mission’ in such a way as to bring honor to Jesus and remain qualified to be ‘on mission?’

Saturday First Prayer Warfare, Then Personal Witness!
19-Apr Ephesians 6.10-20

Living ‘on mission’ is a spiritual battle. Our adversary does everything he can to destroy our testimony and discredit our witness.

- Where does the strength for such spiritual battle come from (10)? If we are to engage the enemies of our faith we must know two things. What do we have to put on (11)? Who are we fighting (12)?
- When we realize there is ‘spiritual gear’ needed to fight this battle, this explains why so many perish in the battle. What do we need to be equipped with if we are to fight and win while we are ‘on mission’ (13-17)? And what is the motivation for all this warfare (19-20)? How do we sustain the battle and remain ‘on mission’ (18)? What is your prayer from what you have learned here?