

**“But seek first the
kingdom of God and His
righteousness”**

Matthew 6:33



**How should we “seek first”
the kingdom of God?**



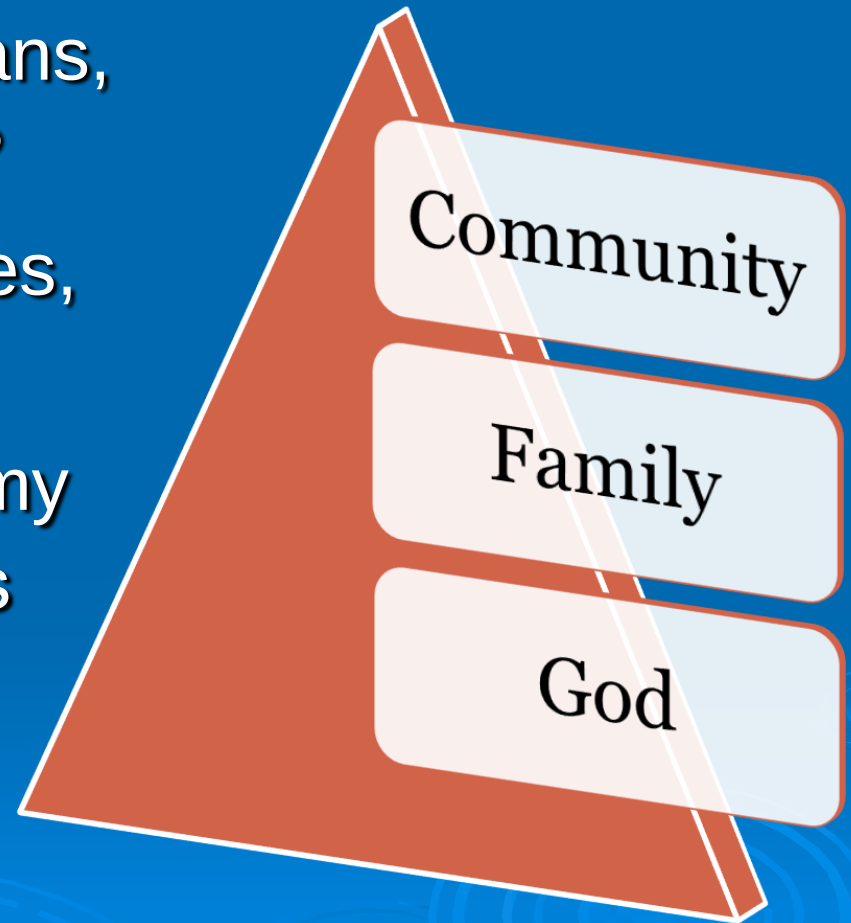
1. The point of “First” ⁽¹⁾

- “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” *1 Timothy 2:1*
- “Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob” *Psalms 132:3-5*



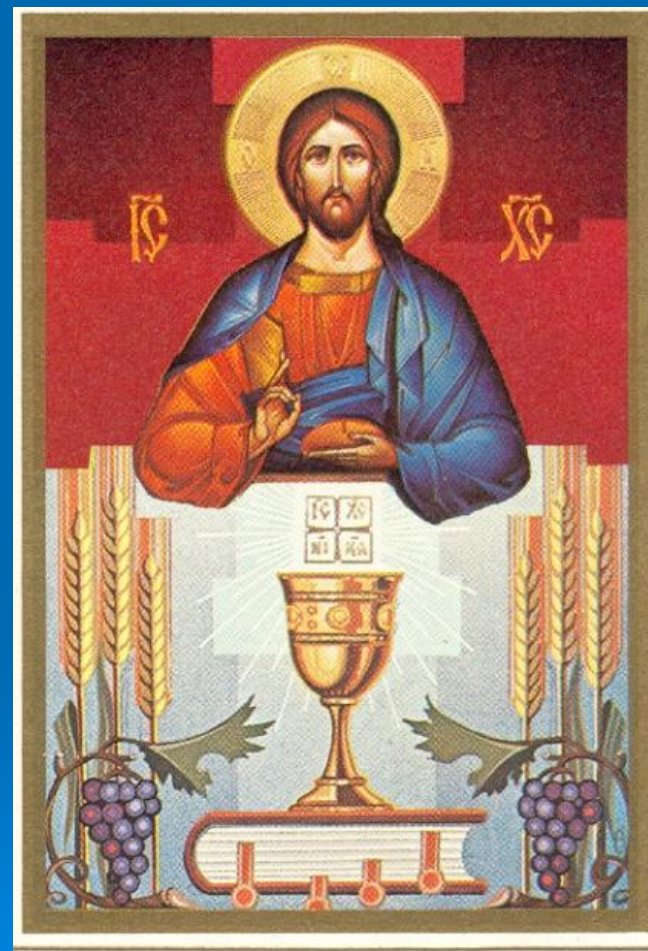
1. The point of “First” (2)

- When I set my daily plans, where are my prayers?
- When I set my expenses, where are my tithes?
- What is the pattern of my choices between God’s ordinances and other interests?



2. The element of the “Cost”

- “I was not so committed to financial success that I was willing to abandon my principles and priorities. Our decision to close on Sunday was our way of honoring God and of directing our attention to things that mattered more than our business”



Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy

3. The element of “Convenience”

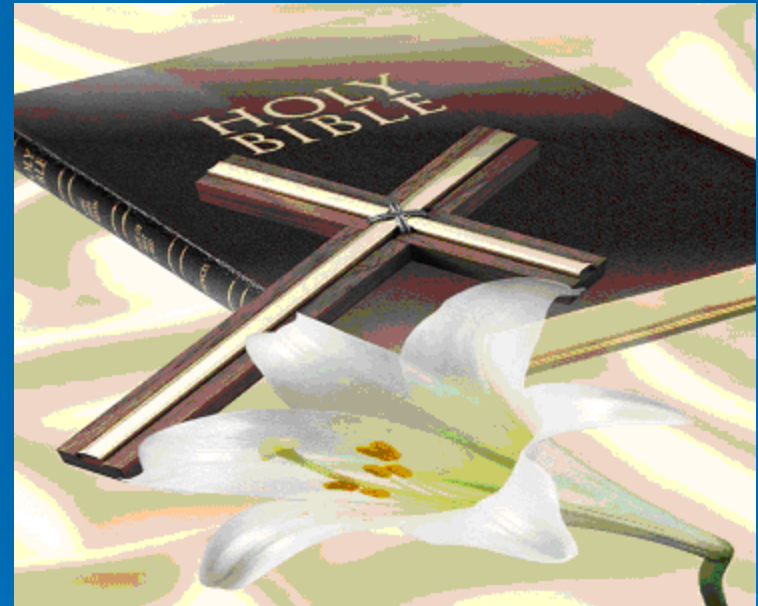
- Do I serve when convenient:
“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season”

2 Timothy 4:2

- Am I willing to carry the yoke to the end?

“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”

Luke 1:38



4. To seek it first is to strive to keep all of God's statutes

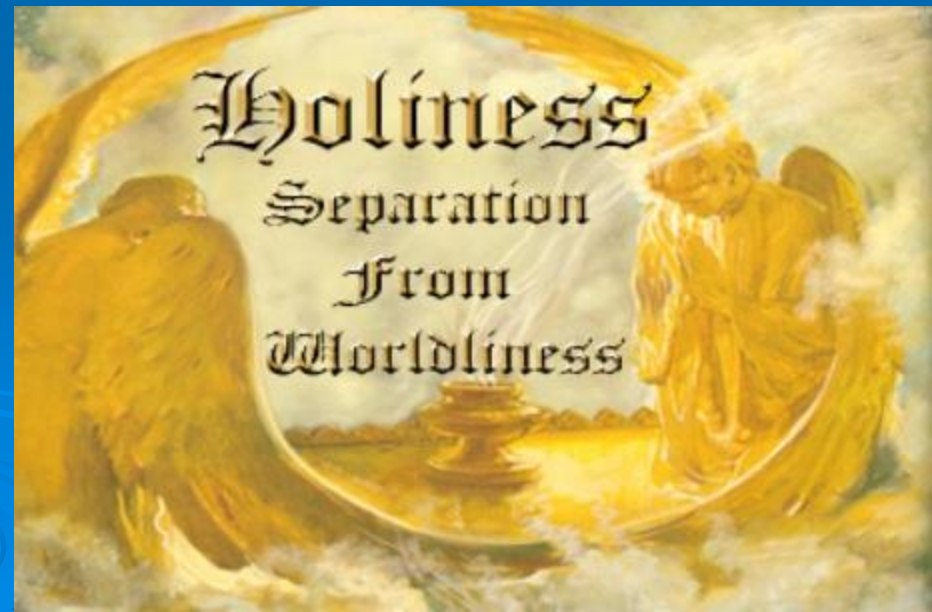
- “And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” *Luke 1:6*
- The command to be perfect: “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect”
Matthew 5:48



4. To seek it first is to strive to keep all of God's statutes

- “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

2 Corinthians 7:1

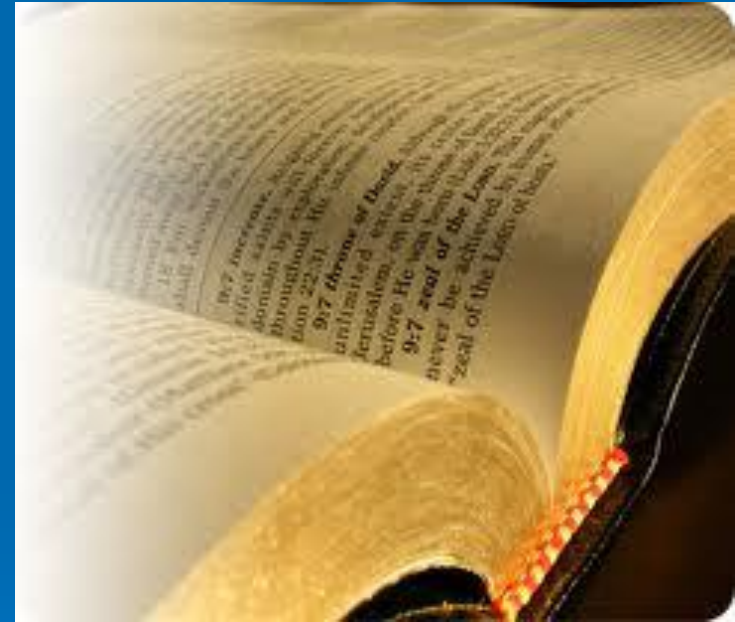


5. To “seek” is to care to “know” ⁽¹⁾

- “Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD.”

Hosea 6:3

- From the Scriptures: “and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” *2 Timothy 3:15*



5. To “seek” is to care to “know” (2)

- From the life of those who preceded us: “If you do not know, O fairest among women, follow in the footsteps of the flock, And feed your little goats beside the shepherds’ tents”
Song of Solomon 1:8
- From experience: “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” *Psalms 34:8*



6. Pitfalls to avoid

- The kingdom should be sought; it is not to be found: “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force” *Matthew 11:12*
- The kingdom as a destination not a bridge to earthly blessings.
- Seeking the kingdom is a life to be pursued not a profession or an image to be used.

