

I was just thinking about ... GOD'S PRIORITIES

After listening to a sermon preached at Hillsongs Conference 2006, a few of us Christians stayed behind and had a discussion. Amidst the plethora of thoughts and feedback, we realized that we need to have a firm understanding and a clear perspective on what God's priorities are. The knowledge and realization of these priorities will spur and teach us how we ought to live our Christian lives and what our priorities and focus should be on. It helps align our vision/sight, actions, decisions, words and thoughts with God's will. His Person, Purpose and Priorities.

If I might start by placing some ground work - first and foremost as seen in both OT and NT is that God displays consistency in three characteristics that sum up His righteousness: faithfulness, justice and mercy/grace/love. Through which His glory and name be made known throughout all the nations. He desires truth because His Words and promises are true, He is true in His character and His will and purpose ultimately comes to pass. The Psalmist says that He desires truth in our inmost parts. (Psalm 51)

We know that our being is designed to worship. Our lives are living sacrifices of worship. But we need to understand worship. Its basis, purpose and how wonderfully and beautifully it can be expressed and experienced with our entire being. Our mind and our heart.

God's priority can also be seen largely in the fruits of His character which climaxes in giving His Son to die on the cross for the world. Through the cross of Christ, all three characteristics are upheld and ultimately His righteousness shines. And from this, we can see that God's work and purpose does not stop there. Stemming from this is mission, His heart, passion and purpose. Seen in all of the apostles' lives and of course, many Christians today.

His blessing is for Christians as we are now part of His family by grace. We need to understand what blessings mean. Rom 8 helps us. God has given us His all - His very life. How much more are we assured of every need in our lives to be provided for by a God who is faithful to His Word and people.

His love is for the church (seen in the finale of Revelation). The body of Christ, His people, the sinners saved by grace - recipients of His mercy - the redeemed. God's priority is the church that it may stand firm, united, grow and be fruitful and multiplying His Kingdom.

God looks to quality not quantity and evident throughout the OT (and NT) is that He seeks a people that are faithful to Him. No spiritual adultery. No partial hearts. No blemish sacrifices. No inconsistency of living. No dysfunctional or disharmony among each other. No conformity. No complacency. No compromise. And the greatest thing is this: He enables us by His Holy Spirit and grace so that this might be possible. Well, at least as a start of a life-long process of moulding and refining. A glimpse and foretaste of eternity. This is the reality of living between two epiphanies: we look back at what Christ has done for us and look forward to His coming again. In the meanwhile (or as we stand in the middleground between the two great

appearances..hehe, couldn't resist), we live in view of His mercy (Rom 12) and in light of His return (2 Peter).

We are assured that He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. We are a people predestined, created to do good works, which He has prepared for us in advance to do. And this, a result from faith in Jesus and trusting in God's grace. For His glory forevermore. AMEN.

These are God's priorities. They reflect His passion and mission. His purpose and Person. What's our response as His people who are called according to His purpose? Should it not take priority in our lives as well? As chosen people of God, let us seek to live lives worthy of His calling. What is seen of God should also be seen in us as we bear His image, reflect His character as the Holy Spirit helps us.

Unchanging truth. Undying Love.

Soli deo Gloria!
Aaron.