



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Throughout history we have seen great men and women of faith laboring tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel and the glory of God. Henry Martyn was a British missionary to India and Persia in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Upon his arrival in Calcutta he cried out, "Let me burn out for God." David Brainerd, the great missionary to the American Indians, who died while still in his twenties, said, "Oh, that I were a flame of fire in my Master's cause." Adoniram Judson, the famed missionary to Burma, spent long, tiresome years translating the Bible for the Burmese people. He was eventually put into prison because of his work, and during that time, his wife died. After being released, he contracted a serious disease that sapped what little energy he had left. Nevertheless, he prayed, "Lord, let me finish my work. Spare me long enough to put the saving Word into the hands of the people." As the young Hudson Taylor contemplated the fate of the unreached multitudes of China, he earnestly prayed, "I feel that I cannot go on living unless I do something for China."

Today, most Americans claim to be busy (in fact, many complain that they are *too* busy). However, the main problem is not that we are too busy, but that we are too busy doing things that keep us away from serving, obeying, and worshipping God. Christians are not immune to getting caught up in the rat race known by the pseudonym of "the American Dream." Too many Christians are so busy doing so many other things, they leave no time, energy or money for the things of God. We are called to be busy – busy following, serving, and glorifying God!

Periodically we need to stop and seriously ask ourselves, "Am I busy doing the Lord's work, or is my busyness keeping me from doing the Lord's work?" We need to regularly take a spiritual inventory of our lives in order to examine our walk with Christ. Let me encourage you to take some time to prayerfully and honestly answer the following questions:

1. *Is the worship of God being edged out of your life?* ~ Has your worship of God been relegated to a couple Sundays a month, or an obligatory burden or chore? Has your worship of God been reduced to doing "religious" things for God?
2. *Is the Word of God being edged out of your life?* ~ Are you just trying to squeeze Bible reading into an otherwise full day? Has the Bible become a duty rather than a delight?
3. *Is the work of God being edged out of your life?* ~ Are you coming to church just to "get fed", or are you engaged in ministering to others? How are you using the spiritual gifts God has given you?
4. *Is the wonder of God being edged out of your life?* ~ Has your Christian life become a religion – a set of heartless rules, rituals and routines? Has your love and passion for God grown cold?
5. *Is the will of God being edged out of your life?* ~ How often do you prayerfully seek the Lord's direction and wisdom for your life? Do you only seek God when you are in trouble or in need? Are you practicing spiritual discipline, or being controlled by personal feelings and desires?

The truth is, we commit our time, energy and money to that which is important to us. How we live our lives is a practical expression of our true spiritual vitality and maturity. It is easy to profess a supreme love for Christ, but the veracity of that claim is seen in how we live for Christ. It is one thing to declare God as our King, but are we truly submitting to His rule in our lives? May we have the courage and passion to genuinely "*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*" (Matt.6:33).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(10/6/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #40):

Numbers 29-32; 2 Chronicles 11-15; Psalm 117-118; Proverbs 28; Jonah; Acts 3-4; Hebrews 5-7

Recommended Reading:

"Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem" by Kevin DeYoung