

Some Quotes Related to Our Study

—“When I put God first, God takes care of me and energizes me to do what really needs to be done.” —**Dr. David Jeremiah**

—“Put first things first, and we get second things thrown in. Put second things first and we lose both first and second things.”

—**C. S. Lewis**

—“For the faithful follower of Christ, self-discipline is the ability to regulate our conduct using biblical principles and godly discernment rather than by impulse, personal desires, peer pressure, or social trends. This is a direct result of submitting to the Holy Spirit’s control and applying the truth of God’s Word to our lives!” —**GAD**

—“Following Christ isn’t something that can be done halfheartedly or on the side. It is not a label we can display when it’s useful. It must be central to everything we do and are.” —**Francis Chan**

—“Prayer is a precious privilege that God provides to His family, all who are faithful followers of Christ. Our Father in Heaven is always available to us! Prayer should also be a primary priority for us. We’re repeatedly reminded in God’s Word that we should humble ourselves by asking for His assistance!” —**GAD**

—“The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, the love of soft living and the get-rich theory of life.” —**President Theodore Roosevelt**

—“Remember: In the end, you’re not living to impress your friends or your relatives or your coworkers. All of life is for Jesus.”

—**Chris Tomlin**

—Therefore, **having these promises**, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. —2 Corinthians 7:1

—**Devote yourselves to prayer**, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving. —Colossians 4:2

—“The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities. Our life is the sum total of all the decisions we make every day, and those decisions are determined by our priorities.” —**a principle from leadership training**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—The list of inspired instructions & practical principles in Romans 12:9–21 addresses many areas/aspects of our lives, but it should be clear that each instruction & principle is intended to help us become more conformed to the image of Christ.

—**1}** From about 50 years after the start of the Church in Acts 2 and until the Reformation (which began in 1517), there appeared to be a distinct division between the clergy and the congregation within the structure of the Church. Based on what many historical scholars have written, at that time, most people seemed to think that only the priests & church hierarchy were “in the ministry.” Over the years since then, there have been many different viewpoints about what it means to be “in the ministry.” Many contemporary Bible teachers believe that God has called every faithful follower of Christ to serve “in the ministry.” Based on what we’re studying in Romans 12:1–21, how would you respond/react to this teaching?

—**2}** After teaching about exercising and employing our spiritual gifts, Paul places an emphasis on several specific aspects of serving God and His people in Romans 12:9–21. This is closely connected to time management and the priorities we set for ourselves. Basing your answer only on what we read in Romans 12, what should be our top 5 priorities in regard to how we manage our time & protect ourselves from becoming too busy to be effective in what’s most important?

—**3}** Some Bible teachers suggest that Romans 12:11 is a cure for becoming lazy and lethargic. The final clause (serving the Lord) helps us identify the fact that everything we do should be done as if it’s done for the Lord, regardless of the person or reason for doing it. Why is this important for us to remember? What impact does it have?

—**4}** Romans 12:12 exhorts us to rejoice in the hope our salvation provides for us. However, there are times when hope is hard to find in the midst of our sin-sick society. How does persevering in trials/oppression & being devoted to prayer help us find hope?

—**5}** Romans 12:13 reminds us to be concerned about each other’s **welfare**, to keep **watch** over each other with loving care, and to be **welcoming**. How should this change (or challenge) our priorities? How does this relate to our accountability to God & toward one another?