

It Is All About God

Introduction:

1. In Ecclesiastes 12:13,14 – there is a statement often quoted.

A. Every individual must take personal responsibility to do what this passage says – ***if you desire salvation and blessing from God.***

B. In order to please God, honor Christ, exert proper influence, and behave for maximum benefit in every relationship and circumstance – it is necessary to take this seriously.

C. **Eccl. 12:13,14**

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
For this is man's all.

¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment,
Including every secret thing,
Whether good or evil.

2. I want to say to us tonight - - based on this passage and the entire Biblical volume → **It is all about God!**

A. Family – Baptism – the Local Church –
The Christian's Life ~

B. **It is all about God.**

1. Learning who He is.

2. Discovering His plan of salvation.

3. Realizing the fullness of His provision for us in Christ.
 4. Reading the Bible – to know what we should do, in response to Him.
 5. Making our plans for the trip to heaven – to be with Him, where Christ is, at the right hand of God.
- C. The message tonight is simple → **It is all about God.**

Body:

- I. Family – *it is all about God.*
 - A. Psalms 127 {read}.
 - B. Do you know what happens, when we build something – without God's authority and blessing?
 1. The tower of Babel is a monument to the dreadful outcome – when men build something, without God's authority . . . therefore, without His blessing.
 2. It was an ambitious project which failed – because God's face was turned against the efforts of men to promote themselves.
 3. When we build something – when we set up something and pursue it, without the guidance of divine authority – therefore without God's approval, we do not enjoy

authentic success.

C. And that's the point – with regard to families, in Psalms 127 - - “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...”

1. This is a warning to those – who would build a marriage or home without the principles of God.
2. Husband and wife; parent and child need to surrender to God's will – in the conduct of their family.
3. If God is not present in the home; if His instructions do not find the highest place - - there cannot be authentic and godly success.

D. **It is all about God!**

1. It is not about money.
2. It is not about education.
3. It is not about rushing from one extra-curricular activity to another.
4. It is not about what neighborhood you occupy.
5. It is not about clothes, computers, cell phones and the latest video equipment.
6. Many of these things will find a place in the home – but should never be what the home is all

about.

- E. It is all about God – the author of the home, and the One who can guide and bless families committed to Him.
- F. Fear God, and keep His commandments.

II. **Let's Talk About Baptism For A Few Minutes.**

- A. The religious world around us may have concluded – we, who are members of the Lord's church – place great stress on baptism.
 - 1. In times past, our brethren observed an indifference toward biblical baptism, and attention was given to that – in sermons, articles and debates.
 - 2. I believe you'll agree - - we need to teach exactly what the Bible says on this subject, and every subject.
- B. I hope we will include – in our teaching – that baptism is all about God.
 - 1. He gave the command.
 - 2. The apostles of Christ taught baptism into Christ, for the remission of sins, *as essential*.
 - 3. Baptism – in teaching and practice – must be connected directly to God.
- C. In Colossians 2:12 - Paul said that Christians are "buried with Him in baptism,

in which you also were raised with Him, through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

1. Now the part of this I want to call our attention to now is – “the working of God.”
 2. Baptism is something man does, in response to the gospel – but **it is about God; in fact, it is “the working of God.”**
- D. Baptism is a command of God; it is something the believer does in response to the Son of God; it was presented as essential, by the apostles of Christ.
1. When done as the Bible directs, it brings the subject into fellowship with God.
 2. It shows one’s commitment to God and repentance of sin.
 3. In baptism – we participate in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
- E. Paul said – *buried with Christ in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*
1. Baptism is all about God.
 2. Just as God expressed His power, to raise Christ from the dead – when

our faith causes us to obey the Lord's command to be baptized – *that is all about God.*

- F. Baptism may have been central in the restoration movement – but first and foremost – let's connect baptism with God.
 - 1. If you have not been baptized, you need to ask yourself why!
 - 2. Given all God has done, in Christ – to save you from sin and lead you to heaven . . . why would you hesitate??

III. The Local Church - - **It is all about God!**

- A. You cannot read the New Testament without seeing – Christians working and worshipping together in local churches; congregations.
 - 1. Jerusalem; Antioch; Ephesus; Philippi; Corinth; churches in Galatia and Asia Minor; the church in Rome.
 - 2. This was not by accident, but by apostolic design.
 - 3. Christians became teams locally, in what we call “local churches,” to worship and work under the authority of Christ.
- B. Some of the very first instruction we

have in the New Testament – that pertains to local churches **sets the pattern, of the obligation of local churches to adhere to the teachings of the apostles of Christ.**

1. **Read: Acts 2:40-47.**
 2. This is Luke, telling us about the events of the Day of Pentecost, after Peter's sermon – and after the local church was formed.
 3. Verse 42 says: "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine."
 - a. Is there any doubt, this is what God desires?
 - b. This is what honors Christ?
 - c. This is the basis for determining what work local churches ought to do – the teachings of the apostles.
 4. What other churches do – cannot be our standard.
 5. What the world expects – cannot be our authority.
- C. It is all about God.
1. The way we show our praise and

reverence to Him is – coming together as a unit, and *following His written will.*

2. In our worship; in our work; in our use of resources; in our teaching and organization - - *continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.*

D. It is not about:

1. Numbers; budgets; buildings; preachers; marketing; recreation; fun; community involvement.
2. Some of these things may find a place in our work – but we've got to get our eyes focused on the main thing.
3. It is about God.

E. And let me say – the modern direction of so many churches will continue, and the departures from the New Testament will multiply, until individual members stand up and say – **We want to follow the Bible.**

F. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him,” (Col. 3:17).

IV. The Christian's Life is **All About God.**

- A. Let me take us to 1 Thess. 4:1-8.
1. As we read – listen to the repeated references to God; *you cannot miss it.*
 2. Here is the text, **1 Thess. 4:1-8 {read}**.
- B. Look at some of the key statements in this passage:
1. In verse 1: “just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God.”
 - a. Who is “us?”
 - b. Paul and the apostles.
 - c. The standard of apostolic instruction – vital in the life of a local church . . .
 - d. Vital as the standard of your life as a Christian.
 - e. Paul said, “you received from us how you ought to walk.”
 2. “For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.”
 - a. The commandments given through the apostles – were revealed by the authority of “the Lord Jesus.”
 - b. A Christian is one who keeps

these commandments.

3. Paul applies this to the matter of sexual purity - - then after stating that case, he says: "...he who rejects this does not reject men, but God..."

C. **It is all about God.**

1. My way of life as a Christian – is all about taking what God revealed through the apostles of Christ, and doing that; living that kind of life . . . with all the purposes, motives and reverence that is due the Almighty God.
 2. It is not about – being better than someone else.
 3. It is not about – being a part of a group that is superior to another group, and boasting of your elitists status.
 4. It is not about – just coming to a building.
- D. Being a Christian is all about God – as Paul describes in this passage: "how you ought to walk and to please God."
- E. He said in Col. 1:10 - "fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Conclusion:

1. In all that I do – if it is my intention to fear God and keep His commands – **everything will be about God!**

- A. What does God say about it?
- B. What does God want me to do?
- C. What serves His interests?
- D. What pleases Him?
- E. What will be me in the best position to lead others to Him?

2. This is what it's all about . . . Listen again to the passage we used in the beginning of the study:

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
For this is man's all.
¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment,
Including every secret thing,
Whether good or evil.

3. What is your life all about?
- A. If it is not about God, there are changes you need to make.
 - B. Can we help you in that?
 - C. Now would be a good opportunity to let that be known, while we stand to sing.

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