

Title: Authentic Christian Living

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

Introduction

1. Unfortunately, we sometimes let the _____ things in life rob us of accomplishing the more important things.
2. Truly important are neither _____ nor demanding.
3. Both people and organizations tend to give greater attention to what they _____ rather than what they are becoming.
4. As you study his comments, you realize that Paul had some very definite _____ for his life.
5. Paul concentrated on _____ things rather than urgent things.

I. Scriptural vs. Spiritual

6. Paul chose to concentrate on the _____, continue to develop his relationship with Christ, and let his life and ministry reflect that experience.
7. Many people are absorbed by how other see them, but Paul focused on what God _____ of him.
8. The foundation of his teachings about the Christian life did not focus on the errors or failures but upon the _____ and truth of the scriptures.
9. Paul was not what we'd call a " _____ pleaser."

10. The first and most important principle to maintaining a vibrant and meaningful Christian life is a love for and _____ to the scriptures.

11. Only _____ can assure you'll make it to heaven.

12. Find a translation you like to read and start a _____ of reading it every day.

13. Build a _____ of communing with God through the scriptures.

14. Through the scriptures, God can speak to you _____ and powerfully.

15. Don't let the urgent things of your day rob you from getting in on God's insights and _____.

II. Belief vs. Faith

16. The second essential of Christian living is: "Don't just believe in the Bible, _____ the Scriptures to your life.

17. Belief in Jesus is not the same as having the _____ of Christ.

18. Paul consciously resisted being a _____ abuser.

19. Paul's priority was to _____ what he preached.

20. Being genuine and authentic is being free from life's imaginary and false _____.

21. Authentic Christians know how to enjoy life and get the most out of their _____.

III. Compassion vs. Judgment

22. Paul reaches out with a compassionate and gracious spirit making _____ approachable and tender.

23. God's grace made Paul tender and _____ to those around him, no matter who they were or what they had done.

24. Without authentic love and compassion, rubbing shoulders with _____ will only make you bitter instead of better.

25. Christ can _____ even the unlovable.

26. Paul also wanted them to see how it _____ in his own life.

27. Our job is to show mercy and compassion towards every person to bring them into the _____ of Christ.

28. Don't fall into the trap of using people to promote your _____.

Conclusion

29. Most people don't need more _____ and regulations.

30. Jesus always wove grace into the _____ of truth.

31. Authentic Christian living does not choose _____ or Grace.

32. God's law _____ us to God's grace.

There are those who long for and deserve the message of truth presented in compassionate love!

Read your Bible, be a person of faith, and show compassion when dealing with others and you'll be well on your way to living an authentic Christian life.

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. urgent | 12.habit | 24.others |
| 2. noisy | 13.discipline | 25.love |
| 3. were | 14.directly | 26.worked |
| 4. priorities | 15.wisdom | 27.fellowship |
| 5. important | 16.apply | 28.agenda |
| 6. Scriptures | 17.faith | 29.rules |
| 7. required | 18.power | 30.garment |
| 8. grace | 19.live | 31.Law |
| 9. people | 20.imitations | 32.brings |
| 10.obedience | 21.experiences | |
| 11.Jesus
Christ | 22.himself | |
| | 23.compassionate | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. How often do you read your bible? What priority do you give it?
2. Can you say you are living the Word of God? What in your life falls short of what the Bible teaches?
3. Who do you know that annoys or irritates you? What can you do to see them as Christ sees them and look on them with grace and compassion?