

The Main Thing is to Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing!

What is the “main thing” in Christianity? Ask 10 people and you’ll get about 12 answers! Some answers will be social (remember the golden rule, Matt 7:12). Some will be political, (Paul was called to speak to kings too, Acts 9:15). Some will be family oriented (God tells us to treat our family well, Ephesians 5:22 - 32; 6:1,2; etc.). Some will include following your nation’s laws (Romans 13:1-6). Some answers will be about developing the social graces of the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). And there will be many other answers, all with proper scriptural support. Most answers will reflect the person’s particular approach to or understanding of Christianity. But these answers are mostly *processes, maturity principles and outcomes, not the main thing!* Perhaps it is debatable, but I believe **two things** stand out as “the main thing” (OK, two main things).

First is evangelism. Jesus came to earth, “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). By those two things we seek and secure salvation (John 8:32; Ephesians 2:8-10). Only truth can make us free (from sin) and without grace we cannot be saved. Jesus told us the reason He came to earth, “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). He did not shed His blood for social justice or community service. He shed His blood to get us to heaven by that blood.

Second is pleasing God. The apostle Paul understood this *main thing*, and he knew that any individual, himself included, should adopt a particular lifestyle that surpasses all else. By divine inspiration, he wrote to a formerly conflicted, now maturing church family in Corinth and focused their minds on *the main thing*:

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men.... (2 Corinthians 5:9-11, NASB).

Did you catch it? In this passage Paul shows the *main thing* (the “goal”) is two-fold: to be pleasing to Him **so that** he can persuade men to follow the path to God.

It should be clear that to help get others get to heaven is not a merely social process nor pleasing the community. Paul said if he were trying to please men he would not be pleasing to God (Galatians 1:10). *Paul’s main thing was pleasing God in such a way that he could help get people to the right side of the judgment seat of God!*

How strong is your desire to please Him? Are you seeking the lost?

-Ray Wallace