



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Matthew 6:33

1. “SEEK THE KINGDOM” AND “GO TO CHURCH” ARE NOT THE SAME

- Kingdom and church are the same
 - Matthew 16:18, 19; Ephesians 5:5, 29, 30
- “Seek” means more than worship
 - Matthew 13:44, 45-46; Colossians 3:17
- “Seek” gives the church priority categorically across the board
 - Mark 1:18, 20; Luke 9:62

2. GOD DESIGNED THE CHURCH TO SUCCEED IN ANY SITUATION

- **The church is God's "Plan A"**
 - Colossians 2:17; Daniel 2:44
- **The church is God's manifold wisdom**
 - Ephesians 3:10; Hebrews 12:2;
Matthew 18:20; Ephesians 2:13, 14;
2 Corinthians 12:2, 3; Philippians 1:21-24

3. MY DEDICATION TO THE CHURCH REVEALS MY ACTUAL LOVE FOR GOD

- **Excuses make a mockery of martyrs**
 - Luke 22:42; Acts 2:46
- **Loving my beloved brethren is evidence of my love for God**
 - John 13:35; 1 John 4:20-21
- **God blesses each of us through the actions of other dedicated Christians**
 - Romans 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:14

TO BE SAVED

- **HEAR** the gospel and discover how Jesus saves (Mark 4:20)
- **BELIEVE** in Jesus, trust He is the Lord and Christ (John 14:11)
- **REPENT** of sin by changing your mind, then behavior (Acts 3:19)
- **CONFESS** with your mouth to men that Jesus is Savior (Luke 12:8)
- **BE IMMERSED** (baptized) in water for remission of sins (Acts 8:38)

TO BE FAITHFUL

- **Be STEADFAST** in loyalty to Christ (1 Timothy 6:12)
- **Abound** in good **WORKS** of God (Ephesians 2:10)
- **Hold to SOUND** teaching (Colossians 1:28)

TO BE RESTORED

- **REPENT** of sin by changing your mind, then behavior (Acts 8:22)
- **PRAY** for God to forgive the sin of which you've repented (Acts 8:22)
- **CONFESS** sin to God (1 John 1:9), & perhaps to your brethren (James 5:16)