

# WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT?

The word “important” occurs 18 times in the Bible. The term “very important” occurs only once in the Bible.

## 1 Kings 3:4

“The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most **important** high place, and Solomon offered **a thousand burnt offerings** on that altar. <sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

Great Sacrifices by Solomon for the Lord  
Great Opportunity for Solomon from the Lord

## Jonah 3:3

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very **important** city--a visit required three days.

## Matthew 6:25

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more **important** than food, and the body more **important** than clothes?”

Thank God for life. It is estimated that 155,520 people die every day and 354,240 people are born every day. That’s an increase of about 200,000 in the world every day. Every hour 6,480 people die. Last night 45,360 people died.

**Matthew 23:23**, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more **important** matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness.

The Lord Jesus is telling us this morning that the important matters are

law,		Money and wealth
justice,	NOT	High IQ
mercy,		Power
faithfulness.		Popularity

**Mark 12:28.** “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most **important**?"

"The most **important** one," answered Jesus, "is this: `Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

<sup>31</sup> The second is this: `Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

**Acts 8:26,** “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an **important** official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

**Philippians 1:15,** “It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The **important** thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, **Christ is preached.** And because of this I rejoice.”

The media are almost totally ignoring the most important world news event that you can imagine. I am referring to the incredible global progress of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the last 2 centuries. 200 years ago a British cobbler named William Carrey began a thrust of the missionary enterprise.

In the days of William Carrey there were about 50 Bible translations, 7 mission boards and 170 missionaries

In 2002 the number of languages having some portion of Scripture has grown to 2200. There are 2500 protestant mission boards with 120,000 missionaries. There are about 350 million evangelical Christians in the world today.

A popular concept of evangelism is “**presence evangelism**” but this falls far short of the mark. We are responsible to win people to Christ.

In Matthew 28:18 the command is to go and make disciples. Even evangelicals like J.J. Packer, who limits our responsibility to “**proclamation evangelism**” are not going far enough. Only **persuasion evangelism** fulfills the intent of the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts 17:2-3 we see that Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ, " he said. <sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.”

Luke 14:23, "Then the master told his servant, `Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.”

MAKE THEM COME IN OR COMPELL THEM TO COME