


THE “MAIN THING” AS WE MOVE TOWARD THE FUTURE TENSE OF SALVATION – WITH CERTAINTY

Scripture Reading:

I Peter 1:3-9

Self-help, leadership, motivational speaker and writer Stephen Covey developed the phrase, “the main thing is keeping the main thing the main thing.” In other words:



KNOW what your main objective is in life



KEEP your attention and energies focused on that main objective

Introduction

Introduction (continued)

- Covey's "main thing" is what **I Corinthians 9:25** would describe as a "corruptible crown" - an earthly, world-system goal.
- The NT believer's efforts focus on the "**incorruptible crown**"
- For exercising that part of the Fruit of the Spirit called **self-control**; control of even legitimate bodily appetites in order to accomplish God's will and works.

The “Main Thing” for the Lost Sinner

The gospel for initial salvation - Rom 1:16, I Cor 15:3-4

Our two exterior church signs: “Perhaps Today”

- **Are you ready to face eternity?**
 - **To the world, the Word of the Cross is foolishness - I Cor 1:18**
Only the Holy Spirit can convince one otherwise – Jn 16:8-11
- **“God gave His Son...” - Christmas message**
- **“To die for our sins...” and “rise bodily from the dead” - Easter**
 - **If unsaved, this is the ONLY message to pay attention**

The “Main Thing” for Born-from-Above Believers

- **Love all the brethren, by our actions, all the time**
 - Rom 2:4-5

- **Our first Love – loving God by means of loving our (spiritual) brother**
 - I Jn 4:20,21, I Jn 3:16-18, cf James 1:22

Interruptions & Distractions from the “Main Thing”

Determining to have “stuff”

- **I Tim 6:6-11** “flee these things!”

Trying to “fix” the World System

- **I Jn 2:15**

The ridicule of scoffers

- **II Pet 3:3-4**

The ridicule of former friends

- **I Pet 4:1-4**

CONCLUSION

Till we arrive at HOME:

- the first purpose of the grace-believer is to love ALL brethren ALL the time with God's self-sacrificing love, directed for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ
- The second purpose?
 - See the first purpose!

“The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing”

CONCLUSION

The earthly activities of our daily lives will require our mental attention

But all these activities must be filtered through:

- **The FOCUSED thinking on how God sees us in His Son:**
 - **The thinking of unceasing prayer – worship of God**
 - **The encouraging thoughts of things to come**