

# NEWS NORTH

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## SETTING PRIORITIES

As Christians, we are different than the unsaved, and are thus to behave differently. I suppose most Christians would agree with the above statement. I mean it is a Biblical principle, is it not? Titus 2:14, I Peter 2:9.

Yet I wonder how many of God's people actually allow God to control their thinking when it comes to the matter of setting one's priorities for life. Lest you think I am preaching down to you, please allow me the following observations of my own life.

**I like deer hunting!** I mean I like it a lot. I like the changing of the season in the fall. I like the colors associated with it. I like the freshness of cool air after a long hot summer. I like watching the woods for movement that signals the presence perhaps of America's most popular game animal. If it's a deer, I like the intensity that is required to remain still while I look for the curve of an antler. I like the wonderful table fare that is sometimes forthcoming from the effort. I like it from beginning to end. Yet, **I am compelled** to ask myself, "What is the subject of my thoughts", whether in the tree stand or out of it, when perhaps I ought to be seeking God's mind about furthering the ministry He has called me to. Should I really be giving this kind of attention to something that won't matter a few years from now.

**I like Ginger Ale!** Not just any kind of ginger ale, but a certain brand that is aged for years in barrels. I like it better than egg nog mostly because I can buy it all year around. I like the perfect amount of ginger taste in it. I like the carbonation that makes me cough if I inhale it. It's my favorite soda. Yet, **I am compelled** to ask myself, "Do I spend money on this unnecessarily while lost people perish because we cannot afford to send a missionary to them?"

**I like my house!** I mean, we have to live somewhere, don't we? My house is in a quiet development and my neighbors are nice people. Thanks to an inheritance that I received when my mother died, it is paid for. It would be considered middle America housing. It is comfortable, yet not exclusive. Yet, **I am compelled** to ask myself, "Could I live in a more modest way that I might better address the command given to me by my risen Christ, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature'?"

All of the above, and much more, in fact, everything regarding life, is about setting priorities. I am not saying these things are wrong. I am saying everything must be considered in the light of setting priorities. It's about what is important to me. Is getting the gospel to the world really that important to me? If it is, won't I set my priorities so that I will not have to wonder whether the Lord is pleased with my stewardship. I'm not just talking about money, but that is certainly part of it. Is he pleased with how I spend my time? Is he pleased with my life style? Is He pleased with my thought life? Is He pleased with my home and how it is furnished? Is He pleased with how I spend money? Must I not ask, "Do I live where I live and how I live because that is what we Americans do"? Am I guilty of trying to keep up with the Jones, and all the while not even aware of it? Are my priorities right? Have I considered everything, every area, every detail?

God, help me to be pleasing to you in this matter of **setting priorities** for I will not obey the great commission until it becomes a priority with me.

**"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,"**  
**Matt. 28:19.**

**"...turn you northward." Deut. 2:3**