

When Did You Put the Church First?

by Johnie Edwards

We have been taught: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). Jesus made this statement to folks who were worried about all kinds of things (Matthew 6:25-32). One of the problems churches face, including us, is most members do not put the church first. Let’s explore a little bit:

I Put the Church First Unless I Don’t Feel Really Good. Who is he that feels good all the time? A slight headache, a sore finger, a hang nail, a little cough can keep some members at home for two or three weeks. I really do put the church first like Matthew 6:33 says.

I Put the Church First Unless the Yard Needs Mowing. If I can get the yard mowed in time to attend services, I’ll be there because I always put the church first like Matthew 6:33 teaches.

I Put the Church First Unless My Cat Is Sick. You know my cat is my best friend. Although we did sing: “*What a Friend We Have in Jesus.*” Poor kitty.

You do know that a cat has nine lives. But, I always put the church first just as I read in Matthew 6:33.

I Put the Church First Unless We Have Company In. You know we never miss church services because Hebrews 10:25-26 teaches us it is a sin to do so! It’s improper to leave company who have no interest in spiritual matters to attend church services. We would not want to offend them. They might never go to church, if we did that! Really? We always set a good example before others. We want them to see “Christ living in us” (Galatians 2:20). You know we are “an epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2). We are “the salt and light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-16). We want our friends and company to know that, so we follow what the Lord said in Matthew 6:33, unless we have company when it’s time to worship God!

I Put the Church First Unless I Get to Work Overtime. You know all that new stuff we bought; we have to pay for it, or they will come and get it! I have to “provide for my own,” just like Paul said in 1 Timothy 5:8. I have done my duty

then; and that's what really counts! Oh, I really believe a person ought to put the church first as we read in Matthew 6:33.

I Put the Church First Unless the Kids Have a Ball Game. You know "all work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy." Our child is the best player on the team and they could not win without 'em! We can put the church first after the season is over; as we believe in putting the church first as it says in Matthew 6:33. Don't be surprised if your kid doesn't put the church first!

I Believe the Church Should Be First in My Life, Unless It's Girls Night Out. You know we have to be sociable. We have to try and be good examples to our non-member friends and let our lights shine as Paul taught in Philippians 2:15.

I Put the Church First Except on the Wednesday Bowling Nights. When I joined the bowling league, I made a commitment that I would be there every Wednesday night. I must always be true

to my word, you know! I thought you made a commitment to the Lord, when you obeyed the gospel to be a "faithful steward" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

I Put the Church First Unless Something Else Comes Up. Let me ask you, What do you consider more important than the New Testament church? Jesus "purchased the church with His own blood" (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:19). "He tasted death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). That includes YOU! You know that, "it's in him we live, and move, and have our being..." (Acts 17:28).

When You Did Attend, You Didn't Put the Church First. Because you had nothing else to do!

Johnie Edwards is John Isaac's grandfather and works with the Church of Christ West in Plainfield, Indiana.

***FIRST MEANS BEFORE
EVERYTHING ELSE!***

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