

OPINIONS/COMMUNITY

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

[SERMON 10-11-26]  
ARTICLE BY JERRY HALL, PEELED OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A HOME CHURCH, JOIN US.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:31-33; 1 Kings 3 & 11; Proverbs 4:23

The Battle of Priorities  
One of the greatest challenges in life is not choosing between good things and bad things. Most of us already know how to make that distinction. The real, daily struggle of the human experience is choosing between what is most important and what is merely urgent.

During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke directly to this struggle:  
"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." — Matthew 6:31-33

Notice that Jesus did not say that food, clothing, jobs, bills, and family responsibilities are unimportant. He doesn't dismiss our daily needs. He simply teaches that there is a fixed divine order to life: When the order is right, life works under the

blessing of God. When the order is wrong, stress, anxiety, confusion, and spiritual drift will take over.  
Jesus is pointing out a profound truth: Everyone is running after something. The question is not if you're seeking, but what you're seeking first.  
Today, I want to talk to you about "Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing."

I. Everyone Has Something First  
For some, it is financial security. For others, it is career advancement, physical comfort, or social status. For some, first place might be occupied by ministry commitments, family obligations, or personal hobbies.  
But the word of God establishes that no matter what occupies first place in your life, it will never be sustained or blessed the way it was meant to be unless Christ is at the center.

The Byproducts vs. The Main Thing  
We are incredibly blessed to see miracles in this church. We see physical healings and other miracles. Just last week, we prayed for an individual whose medical condition was so severe that they hadn't been able to keep food down or eat a single thing in three days.

Within three hours of standing in agreement and praying over them, they called me and said, "Guess what? I am healed. I just sat down, ate a full meal, and I feel great!" We praise God for that! I love seeing miracles, and so do you. But we must understand a critical theological truth: Miracles and blessings are the byproducts of our relationship with God—they are not the Main Thing.

Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness—not our own performance, not our own goodness, but Christ's righteousness. When we pursue the person of Jesus, the provision follows. Jesus said,  
Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34).  
If someone were to audit your life for the next 30 days—monitoring your calendar, your checkbook, your search history, and your casual conversations—what would they objectively conclude is the absolute "Main Thing" in your life? Is it Jesus?  
Remember the problems we're having today is nothing new. The Bible says there's nothing new under the sun, what has been will be again. So, it seems

humanity keeps repeating the same mistakes over and over again.  
We see the most striking, powerful example of this truth in the life of King Solomon. He was given a blank check by God, but yet he chose wisdom. He had his priorities in order. He was Living Matthew 6:33 before it was spoken. Solomon unfortunately later on, married hundreds of wives from other countries who worshiped idols. They eventually let him away from God. Solomon began to worship the blessings and forgot the One who gave them to him. The Christian life is a continual, daily discipline of alignment.  
Proverbs 4:23 warns us: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Solomon wrote those very words, yet he failed to follow his own advice.  
If King Solomon—the wisest man who ever lived apart from Jesus Christ—could drift away from keeping the main thing the main thing, what makes us think we are immune to the same spiritual drift?  
Always remember, we don't worship the gifts of God, we worship the God who gives them.  
Amen.

Rural Development, bids for the city hall renovation project were allowed to be advertised on October 1. Mayor Hunt said a pre-bid meeting was held on October 7, with 5 contractors in attendance. Close of bids is October 21, and the bids will be reviewed by engineers and brought up at the November meeting.  
Mayor Hunt followed up at the meeting on discussion regarding placing a new emergency alert siren near Save-A-

Tax rate  
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tors. For the new Little League Park, he said Park and Rec had contributed nearly \$100,000 toward bleachers/trash cans/etc., \$30,000 in reimbursements the dugouts, and \$4100 for concession equipment. At the older sports complex, water cost \$8471, electric was 9492, and trash pickup was \$1800. He also said people needed to be paid to work tournaments. Williams said he did not know yet what a full year of expenses would be at the new park. He encouraged council members to visit the park this week in the evenings to see all of the young people using it.  
Mayor Hunt added that you can see the economic contributions by visiting Bath County this week by looking at the number of people buying gas and groceries at Save-A-Lot for Preston Court Days. He said the county and city provide infrastructure

and services for these visitors. "We deserve something for that," he said of the restaurant tax. "We appreciate Park and Rec."  
The new tax rate will take effect Jan. 1, 2027.  
Council members also held a first reading of the city's property tax rate, which is 22.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the compensating rate. Hunt presented a chart showing the city's tax rate for the previous 15 years, beginning in 2011. He noted that the rate is lower now than it was back then, and it is because property assessments for the city have increased, including new businesses

in town. The new rate is expected to generate \$163,327 in revenue.  
They also voted to approve the 2027 motor vehicle and watercraft tax, which is has stayed at the same rate for the past three decades, at 36.0 cents per \$100 of assessed value.  
Council members scheduled a special-called meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15, at noon to hold a second reading of the tax rates, in order to allow City Clerk Melissa Berry time to get them printed to mail out in November.  
Following approval by the grant agency USDA

Tax rate  
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There will be a public inspection of the 2026 General Election. Voting machines will be available to view on Friday, October 16, 2026, beginning at 9:00 AM. Anyone who wishes to inspect any voting machine will need to come in during this time. If you have, any questions please feel free to call the Menifee County Clerk's Office at (606)768-3512.  
Krystal Chapman-Menifee County Clerk  
  
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Pleasure Ridge Apartments  
270 Ramey Rd.  
Sharpsburg, KY  
  
Admittance age is 55  
  
Rent based on 30% of income  
Contact: 606-247-2254  
  
We do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or preference, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation.

Menifee Housing Associates  
  
Section 8  
Based on 30% of income.  
Located at 36 Motley Ct.  
Frenchburg, Ky. 40322  
(606)768-3672  
  
We do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or preference, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation.

Beaver Creek Apartments  
  
Rent based on 30% of income  
Contact: 606-768-3672  
  
We do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or preference, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation.

YARD SALES

Bath Area:  
  
Yard sale - 4372 East US 60, near Hart Pike intersection. Saturday, Oct. 17, 8 to 3. Lots of interesting items, good prices.  
  
YARD SALE! Bethel Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, October 17th 8:00am to ?????? Multiple families. Clothes, knick knacks, a little bit of everything. The Junior Firefighters will be selling chili, hot dogs and sandwiches. Hosted by Renee France, Tonya and Teri Mattox and others. Teri Mattox and others.

Rowan Area:  
  
Estate sale of Roger and Wilma Davis  
563 S. Ky 7 Sandy Hook 41171  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday October 15th - 17th from 10:00 - 4:00 and Sunday October 18th from 1:00 - 4:00.  
Large house packed with years of collecting.  
Go to estatesales.net for pictures and more information.

FOR RENT

Menifee Area:  
  
Efficiency Apartment Rental  
Available December 1st, 2026  
Fully furnished all utilities included quietest country setting, near Cave Run Lake. Wellington, KY 606-776-6567  
www.kymuskie.com/lodging

FOR SALE

CASH for your unwanted car or truck. We can pick-up. Call Stephen at 606-584-8881 or Mason County Auto Sales Buy/Here 606-883-3340 4694 AA Highway, Dover, KY 41034  
  
For Sale: 2 Knight model LK-93 50 Cal Blackpowder muzzleloaders, both have scope and camouflage pattern stalks, both are in great condition. Call 606-748-1849.

4 County Classifieds.  
Call Monica  
845-9211

WANTED!!!

People paying too much for Medicare Supplements

According to a NEW LAW, you may save up to 50% on premium with the same benefits!

WANTED: People with Medicare & Medicaid

Make sure you are getting all the benefits you qualify for!

Come in and see Jim at one of the locations listed below or call for a personal appointment.

606-683-2104 or 859-948-4376

JIM WILL BE AT SOPER'S DRUG (227 W. MAIN ST., CARLISLE, KY)  
OCTOBER 6TH, 20TH, & 27TH FROM 10A.M. TO 4P.M.

JIM WILL BE AT ROSS DRUG (125 FOXGLOVE DR. #1, MT. STERLNG, KY)  
OCTOBER 7TH, 14TH, 21ST, & 28TH FROM 10A.M. TO 4P.M.

JIM WILL BE AT MED SAVE (136 JESSICA LANE, OLIVE HILL, KY)  
OCTOBER 2ND, 9TH, 15TH, 16TH, 22ND, 23RD, 29TH, & 30TH  
FROM 10 A.M. TO 4P.M.

JIM WILL BE AT MED SAVE (131 South Malone Blvd., Ste. E, Grayson, KY)  
OCTOBER 12TH, 19TH, & 26TH FROM 10 A.M. TO 4P.M.

