

## PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST

In my life I have been greatly bothered by one thing and somewhat less but very definitely bothered by its opposite.

The first of these has been the tendency of most people to forget their major objective. Time and again I have known individuals who gave every evidence of being anxious to put Christ first and to make His desires the major thing in their lives. Yet I have heard these same individuals, when discussing a true minister of Christ, criticising minor points and taking antagonistic attitudes which have cut down the ~~influence~~ usefulness of the particular minister. I have known such individuals including myself to spend a time and effort on lesser objectives, and thus fail to accomplish clearly what they should on ~~the~~ <sup>nearly</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> great objectives that the Lord desires us to accomplish. I/ We have all of us at times become so interested in secondary matters that we fail to give the time and attention to the great objectives that we consider to be primary in life. True Christians believe that these objectives are determined from the Bible. We -- There is no questions as to a few main objectives that are taught in the Bible and that most true Christians will readily admit should occupy the major part == position in life. Yet how many a Christian instead of devoting himself to trying to win people to the Lord and show them how to grow in grace, will spend great amounts of time arguing over some minor point of doctrine, or of ceremony or will adopt attitudes of support or ~~antagonism~~ <sup>antagonism</sup> to others on the basis of ~~the~~ lesser points instead of the major points. I == There is nothing more important than that we determine what is definitely taught in the Scripture; what is vital and that we give these matters the primary place and not allow ourselves to be divided from other Christians by secondary matters.

The opposite error however is while much less important is one which ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> have constantly observed. This is the ~~the~~ tendency to put great emphasis on matters which are not decisively taught in the Scripture, or at least which we have never carefully examined Scriptural evidence to determine that/they are decisively taught. There are many of the ideas, attitudes, and beliefs of most Christians which are taken over from their parents, from