



How Do You Do It All?

Someone recently asked me this question on the Internet. The question wasn't, "how do you, Kevin, do it all?" The question was, with all of life's demands, (i.e. God, work, home, and recreation) how do you balance it all, keep up with it all, do it all? It is a good question and a question that we need to consider from time to time. I'm not going to pretend to be an expert on the subject of "time management." There are many who have written books on the subject and provided valuable insight in that regard. However, I do want to set forth some biblical principles that help us as we struggle to keep our lives in balance with all of the things we daily have to do.

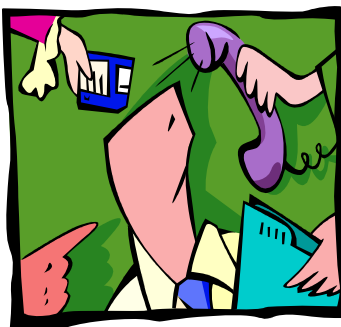
First, we must recognize that we can't "do it all." A lot of times we set unreasonable expectations for ourselves. As a result, we end up trying to do too much with too little time and resources. While it is often difficult, it is no sin to say "no" to someone's request of your time. God never commanded us to do "everything." What God did command is that if you say you will do something then keep your word and do it (Matthew 5:37). This isn't always easy for us to do either and sometimes we commit to things to which we should have said no. In such situations, we simply must apologize and move on.

Second, we need to prioritize our activities. Of course, God always demands to be first in the decisions we make in our lives (Matthew 6:33, 22:37). Everything we say and do should be done with the goal of seeking Him in mind. If we do that, then God sets certain priorities for us. God expects us to show love for the church (Hebrews 13:1).

God expects us to love our families (Ephesians 5:25, 6:4, Titus 2:4, 5). God expects us to provide for our families (1 Timothy 5:8). God expects us to behave appropriately with our employers (Ephesians 6:5). God expects us to show respect toward our nation and her leaders (1 Peter 2:17) and to love our fellow man (Matthew 22:39). God helps us prioritize if we will let Him lead our us.

Third, we need to set reasonable, accomplishable, yet challenging goals. For example, it would be unreasonable to say that with a handful of people we are going to knock on every door in Arkansas in a day. Setting unreasonable goals tends to discourage instead of encourage. But neither should we set goals that are so simplistic and accomplishable that we never grow in our involvement with the church. We need to have goals that we can accomplish with the talents that we collectively possess but that also challenge those collective talents. In the parable of the talents, to each was given according to their ability, yet it was still a challenge (Matthew 25:15).

Fourth, focus upon one task at a time instead of the whole project. The old adage, "How do you eat an elephant?" is appropriate. The answer: "One bite at a time." When you look at a project as a whole, it often appears as if it will never get done. The more we focus upon that, the more we get discouraged in working on the project. Instead, we need to break down the project into tasks and focus upon the singular items one at a time. Before we know it, the entire project will be complete. Jesus said in Matthew 6:34 that we have enough worries simply trying to keep up with the things that we need to do today. And that's exactly



Gold Crosses & Blood Soaked Lumber

S In I Jn. 2:1-2, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also the sins of the whole world".

Jesus really is the only one born of flesh with the mission of dying. Man was not intended to be born into this world and then die. But it has been since man sinned in the Garden and sin was brought forth into this world that all men die, for all have sinned, Rom. 5:12.

We know almost nothing of Jesus' earlier years before He called out His disciples and began His wonderful ministry. In Luke 2:42-49 we read of a 12 year old Jesus going to Jerusalem with His earthly mother and father for the Passover. The temple would have been a very busy place at this time, more than usual. At the temple sacrifices were performed as they had been for hundreds of years at the hands of the priests. The sounds of the temple court certainly would have been filled with the sounds of the multitudes but also of those of the animals brought for sacrifice. Imagine, and it is not a pleasant picture, all the blood, all the death, all the taking of life. Did a young Jesus witness these things? What were His thoughts? Did Jesus see Himself when He may have possibly looked into the eyes of

the Passover lambs?

How many animals were sacrificed under the OT economy? I'm not talking types, I'm talking sheer numbers here. And with all those sacrifices, how much blood was actually spilled out? My grandpa raised chickens and grandma cooked them. In my experience with grandpa taking a chicken and cutting its head off, I was amazed at how much blood there actually was in a chicken. Now, I'm not trying to be gross here, I just want you to get a concept of the amount of blood spilt. How much blood in bull, a goat, a ram or a lamb? Multiply this by the hundreds of thousands and you have alot of blood. Not a pretty picture is it?

Well, I believe that it was suppose to be ugly. Death is not beautiful, it is repulsive and repelling. I believe God was teaching the nation how awful sin really was and it's true nature. In the Bible sin equals Death! "For the wages of sin is death..." Rom. 6:23. Wages are what someone is paid for what they have done. But here is the sobering thought...we have all sinned, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God", Rom. 3:23. Someone may say concerning his job, "I get paid what I deserve to get paid". Friend, what do we deserve for sin?

But out of all those animal sacrifices not one single solitary sin was ever forgiven! Massive amounts of blood - no forgiveness. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins", Heb. 10:4.

The verse before it says that a "remembrance again made of sins every year", concerning those sacrifices. A remembrance. Not forgiveness - a remembrance.

We don't really know when Jesus may have realized His ultimate mission. But if you were Jesus, what would your thoughts be as you looked at all the death, blood, and sacrifices around you? What would your thoughts and feelings be towards all the people around you? What about all the people who were here before you and would be here after you? It boggles my mind to even try and place myself in that position.

John says that Jesus is the propitiation for our sins and the sins of the world. What does propitiation mean? The pagan Greeks applied the term towards their gods in trying to appease them. Does that mean Jesus was an appeasement? An appeasement to whom? John says the propitiation was for sin. An appeasement for sin. An appeasement to God for sin. You see, God is holy and can not, will not, shall not have any fellowship with sin or any unrighteousness. In the OT we can read of God's wrath against sin. Paul says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...", Rom. 1:18. There will be day that men will call for the mountains to fall upon them to try and hide themselves from the wrath of the Lamb and no one whose has taken Jesus as savior shall be able to stand in that awful day Rev. 6:15-17.

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 12/05/04

Morning	Things That Unite — One Faith
Scripture	Ephesians 4:1-6
Evening	Lessons from the Life of Jeremiah
Scripture	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Lessons from the Cross

Weekly Record

Week of 11/28/04

Sunday Class	56
Sunday A.M.	63
Sunday P.M.	55
Wednesday	61
Contribution.....	\$1709.50
Budget	\$1778.13

Gold Crosses and Blood Soaked Lumber (cont.)

But John says that Jesus was the propitiation for sins. The appeasement for sins. This is why God smote Christ and crushed Him, Isa. 53:4,10. This was done at the cross at the place called the skull. Jesus was crushed, an appeasement for yours and my sins and the sins of the world. There at Calvary the wrath of God against sin burned and Jesus took it all for us. So simple is the message yet so powerful its meaning and lessons. "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani", Jesus cried out while bearing our sins.

Today, many Christians wear silver and gold crosses on beautiful and even ornate chains around their necks. Our buildings are crested by them. We have them in our homes. They mark the graves of those who have gone on before us. Each one of them glittering, majestic, regal looking. But the true cross of Jesus is a not a gold cross, or a diamond en-

crusted one, nor the stately one atop the steeple. No, the true cross of Jesus is a piece of blood soaked lumber. The blood of God, the blood shed as a propitiation. The blood shed which unlike that of bulls and goats is able to forgive sins.

I don't believe it wrong for people to have crosses or wear them. They look nice and I think many do wear them in a modest and loving manner. I believe we have them in our homes and atop our buildings to remind us of what was done for us 2,000 years ago outside the walls of Jerusalem by a man called Jesus, the Son of God, the very God.

But of all the crosses I have seen or will ever see I have no greater love or appreciation for any other than that blood soaked piece of lumber. No, it is not pretty...It's amazing grace and love.

Jim Wright

(Continued from page 1)

what we should do, take one day at a time.

Finally, there's a song from the movie Mary Poppins that we should consider as well. "Just a spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down." When we find ourselves with tasks that we don't want to do or tasks that are difficult either physically or emotionally, we should seek to see the good that will come from doing such tasks and then focus upon the good, not the bad. We can always rejoice in that we are seeking to serve God in everything we do and not man. Glorifying God in our lives should be an overriding cause for us to be happy doing the distasteful things of life (1 Corinthians 10:31).

This obviously doesn't exhaust the subject, but it does give us some principles to consider as we seek to be pleasing to God and influential for good to our fellow man. Let us then round out each of these scriptural truths with prayer on our part for wisdom to apply each of these principles appropriately each day.

Kevin Cauley

Kevin's Korner

S

don't suppose that I would get into too much trouble mentioning the "C" word at this point. Yes, the Christmas season is upon us and everyone is hustling and bustling trying to get their holiday shopping completed. We've got a few things done already, but there is much more to be done. I'm not sure when we will find the time to do it, but we always manage to do it somehow.

Some of you have been wondering what we will be doing for Christmas this year. Usually we head out of town for the holidays, but with the baby coming in early January we've decided to stay here this year. So instead of us going to see our family, our family is coming to see us. My parents and my sister are planning on coming to visit us the week before Christmas sometime. We don't know

exactly when, as of yet. So, we will be having Christmas at our home here in Berryville.

As to the baby's condition, he is doing well. We still haven't come to a consensus on a name as of yet, so any help would be appreciated. We're thankful that Mary Lynn, while having trouble tying her shoes, is doing well and the baby appears to be healthy each time we visit the doctor's office. We think he is going to be a BIG boy by the time January rolls around.

Some of you have also inquired concerning my right leg. I believe I injured my hamstring while discarding some heavy items. It feels like it is getting better, slowly, but I have seen the doctor and am continuing to follow up with it. Mostly it hurts when I laugh or sneeze, so try not to make me do that too much, please (wink).

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley ... 870-423-6707

*"Rejoice in the Lord always:
and again I say, Rejoice."
(Philippians 4:4)*

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- We express our sympathies to the Eddings family at the loss of George's sister, Tommie Stewart. Sister Stewart was a member of the church at Western Grove. Memorial services were held yesterday at Carver Cemetery.
- Please pray for the following individuals: Joann Bragg, Elvis Koble, Neva Welch, Maxine Whitely.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis and Opal Hull and Edith Mischler.
- This past Wednesday evening, brother Ervin Hand confessed fault and requested restoration. We are so thankful for him and we welcome him back wholeheartedly.
- This coming Wednesday at 4:00 PM our youth are requested to meet here at our building to assemble holiday fruit baskets.
- Our monthly men's breakfast is this coming Saturday morning at 7:00 AM. Cooks, please come early!
- Our annual holiday party will be held at Ken and Debbie Smith's house this coming Saturday, December 11th, at 6:30 PM. Ken said that eating will begin at 6:30.
- Next Sunday evening will be our monthly questions and answers session. If you have a question, please put it in the box this week!
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting will be held this evening. If you have any items to be presented to them, please see on of those men.
- The pantry item for this week is Coffee. The children's home truck came this past week and they were delighted with the amount of food and clothing that the church had donated. They mentioned that this congregation was one of the most consistent congregations in giving food out of all of the churches in Arkansas. You are to be commended for your love!

Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	December 5th, 2004	December 12th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Bruce Foster	Bob Moore
(assist)	George Eddings	Brent Stevens
	Ray Duncan	Jack Gentry
	Jerry Roller	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Bill Fort	Dan Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	Rusty Windle	Dale Pinkley
	Bob Moore	George Eddings
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Ray Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Bob Philips	Kevin Cauley

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.