

THINGS THAT COUNT IN LIFE

(No. 1108 (see 805)– 2/7/16 - NLC)

INTRO: Super Bowl tonight— in any game (including life), we need to make sure that what we do *COUNTS*. According to Scripture, only *certain things* count!

1. NEW CREATION (NOT RELIGION)

- a) **Gal. 6:15:** *Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; **what counts is a new creation.***
- b) **2 Cor. 5:17:** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!*
- c) **John 3:3-8:** ³*In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...”*
⁵*Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.*
⁶*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*
⁷*You should not be surprised at My saying, ‘**You must be born again** [“from above” – AMP].’* ⁸*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”*
- d) **Eph. 4:22-24:** ²²*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the **new self, created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness.*
- e) **Ps. 51:10 (KJV):** **Create** in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

2. SPIRIT (NOT FLESH)

- a) **John 6:63:** *The Spirit gives life; the **flesh counts for nothing.** The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*
- b) 1 Cor. 15:50 – flesh cannot inherit the Kingdom of God
- c) Rom. 8:12 – we are not debtors to the flesh
- d) Gal. 5:16-26; 6:7-9 – sow to the flesh, reap destruction

3. OBEDIENCE

- a) **1 Cor. 7:19:** *Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. **Keeping God's commands is what counts.***
- b) **1 Sam. 15:22:** *But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **To obey is better than sacrifice,** and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”*
- c) Mat. 7:21-23
- d) James 1:22; 4:17

4. FAITH THAT WORKS

- a) **Gal. 5:6:** *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The **only thing that counts is faith** expressing [“working” – NAS] itself through love.*
- b) NOTE: It is not a question of faith OR works—it is faith *that* works (James 2)

5. CHRIST & CHRIST ALONE

- a) **Phil. 3:7-14 (NKJV):** *⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have **counted loss** for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also **count all things loss** for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish, THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST** ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴**I press toward the goal for the prize** of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
- b) Many are running, pressing & striving... but after the wrong things!

- c) **Mat. 16:25-27:** ²⁵*For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it.* ²⁶**What good [“profit” – NAS]** *will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?* ²⁷*For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.*

CONCLUSION: We want a life that counts—we don’t want to waste time & energy on things that don’t count! We want to be HIGH IMPACT & LOW MAINTENANCE Christians—blazing torches for Jesus, not “twinkle, twinkle little stars!”