

GOD MATTERS

God matters because my eternal destiny depends on Him.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ We all observe things in the world around us and make decisions regarding what we let into our head- or heart-space – the things we choose to care about; the things we choose to ignore.
- ❖ Many people ignore their real family, skip church if necessary, to watch, cry real tears and invest real emotions over soap operas and sitcoms with fictional storylines, relationships and characters. Others over-invest time into "reality", sports, home and personal improvement shows.
- ❖ However, there is one "big-ticket item" we all have to think about at some point in our lives: our feeling toward our Sovereign Lord, our creator, our master – the God of the universe.
- ❖ Will we allow Him into our heads and hearts, or live our own way as if He doesn't exist, irrelevant to our lives? How will we respond to Jesus Christ, God manifested in flesh? These are important questions because **God matters**.
- ❖ There are many who respect others' decisions to follow Christ but are unconcerned about making such a decision for themselves. Someone articulated what many others imply or are thinking when the topic of Jesus arises: "Why should I care about God, anyway?"
- ❖ So, what do we mean when we use the term "GOD"? On the back of our church bulletin, we read: "We believe there is one God, the eternal, holy, loving, all knowing, all powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all," followed by many supporting scriptures.
- ❖ Not only does God see and know everything, but one day He will call each and every one of us to give an account of all our actions in this life. Scripture tells us:
 - *Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. (Ecclesiastes 11:9)
 - *The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. ¹⁴For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. (Ecc. 12:13-14)
 - *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- ❖ Standing before the judgment seat of Christ is a reality all of us will face one day. "...[It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment..." (Hebrews 9:27). It is very wise for us to care about the day we will stand before God and the answers we will give Him regarding our life and actions.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Ecclesiastes 11:9, 12:13-14;
 2 Corinthians 5:10, 6:14-18, 7:1, 8-11;
 Hebrews 9:27; Luke 12:16-21, 14:16-21;
 Psalm 95

- ❖ *This matters.*
- ❖ Since Adam and Eve, every human inherits a condition called – not 'skin cancer', but – *sin cancer*. The good news (gospel) is that we don't have to die from this cancer and face the penalty of eternal separation from God.
- ❖ However, if we don't come to Jesus in faith and repentance and accept His free gift of salvation, death is our fate.
- ❖ We need to care about that.
- ❖ What really matters to you? Is it your family, health, job, love relationship, fancy toys, money, house, education, popularity? The pills or bottle that gets you through the day?
- ❖ More than anything else, we need to understand that God matters. Our best life on Earth and our eternal destiny depends on being in a saving relationship with Him.
- ❖ In Luke 12, Jesus tells the parable of a rich landowner. It's easy to see what mattered to this man. Here's what he was saying: "Soul, you have everything you need for years to come! Take it easy and have a good time. Eat, drink and be merry!" (16-21)
- ❖ But Jesus called him a fool. We know from Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:22) that calling someone a fool without cause puts a person in danger of hell fire. Yet Jesus calls this man a fool. Why? Because the man couldn't see past the pleasures he was preparing for his soul to the fact that, that very night, God was coming for his soul. All the riches he was accumulating on Earth were useless and pointless if his soul wasn't rich toward God. God Matters!
- ❖ God matters. Repentance matters. Come to Jesus for the first, fifth, fifteenth – but final – time. You matter to God. He must matter to you.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Take time to read the scriptures listed in the Key Scriptures box, particularly those not referenced in the lesson. How do these verses a) encourage us? b) warn us?
2. How can we take care of our responsibilities while giving God priority?
3. Reflect this week: Based only on my typical activities/thoughts, does God matter to me?

PRAYER TIME

Take my life an let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee – because You matter to me.

Start-up: Rate each list (or others you create) from most to least important: a) health, wealth, happiness; b) cook, clean, garden; c) food, fun, rest.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN-CHURCH SERVICES RESUME

Date: Sunday, April 4th (Easter Sunday)

Public Health protocols to be observed

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth
Will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study

SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE

**SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast**

**MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube**

**WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast**

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

March 21, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"And Jesus answered... her,
"Martha, Martha, you are
worried and troubled about
many things. But one thing is
needed, and Mary has chosen
that good part, which will not
be taken away from her."
Luke 10:41-42 NKJV*

1901 Jane St, Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9
Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com

Website: www.faithsanctuary.com

Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>