

10-25-20 Action Expresses Priorities

Rhett Jacobs, Democratic candidate for the South Carolina House of Representatives and a man who listed "education" as his top priority, submitted a required campaign disclosure form, handwritten, on which he detailed expenses for "filling fee," "campaign work" and "litature." It seems that Mr. Jacobs did not *act* on his priorities.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "*Action expresses priorities.*"

When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees which commandment was the greatest, our Lord did not hesitate to state: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" This commandment is to be our top priority. And, of course, in loving God we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

If you are like most people, you never seem to find the time to do all you would like to do. (That is, before the pandemic slow-down.) Your activities, duties, and responsibilities crowd your schedule so that you just can't seem to do all you want to do or even need to do. We know that we need to find time for necessary activities, such as working, eating, hygiene, sleeping, and travel. But many other things also compete for inclusion our schedules, like sports events, television viewing, music listening, home upkeep, visiting, shopping, and education. Many of us feel overwhelmed when we consider all of these time-consumers!

There are things which are definitely important to us in our lives and at same time there are things which may be clearly worthless. Still, ability to set priorities is something that can be easily mastered provided *you know where you want to go in life.*

We know that our time on earth is shockingly brief in light of everlasting life that looms before us. We are here for a day and then must face eternity! Therefore, in pointing yourself in the direction you want to go in life you should consider where you want to go for eternity as well.

Keep this in mind: Loving God as top priority is not only about getting to heaven. It is to make our journey towards heaven heavenly as well. In fact, if we love God the most, we will love others the best. C.S. Lewis once said, "*When I have learned to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now.*"

Charlie Brown, in the "Peanuts" comic strip series, wants very much to be loved and treated with respect. In one episode, Charlie Brown is lying down with his head resting on a stone as Lucy stands beside him. Charlie looks up at Lucy and asks: "If I tell you something, will you promise not to laugh?" Lucy replies, "I promise." "This is very personal and I don't want you to laugh." Lucy responds: "You have my solemn promise. Charlie then shares something very special to him: "Sometimes I lie awake at night listening for a voice that will cry, 'We love you, Charlie Brown!'" Lucy bursts forth with a boisterous: "HA HA HA HA." Poor Charlie is crushed again.

The truth of the matter is: We are loved by God unconditionally and without limit. God has each one of us as His priority. Making our love for God as our top priority will have us taste heaven on the way to our final destination.

