

Extracurricular Activities

Ponder: Your priorities

Scripture: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33, NKJV).

Curriculum, according to the dictionary, means a course of studies in a school or college. A high school student's curriculum may include courses in math, science, English, history, and music. Most schools also offer extracurricular activities, meaning things outside of the curriculum. Baseball, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and the like are extracurricular. In theory, the emphasis is on the curriculum. If you pass the subjects in the curriculum, you can participate in extracurricular activities. If you don't keep your grades up, however, you are ineligible for extracurricular pursuits.

Here's my question: What aspects of your life constitute the curriculum, and what is extracurricular?

We're busy people! We have jobs, school, recreation, and at some point we must eat and sleep. Then there are spiritual matters like worship, Bible study, prayer, evangelism, and visiting the sick and homebound. So, let's return to the question: Which ones of these make up the curriculum and which do we treat as extracurricular? Far too often we view God and spiritual things as extracurricular. Other matters take priority. We pay heed to God and spiritual things when and if we have time and resources left over.

The Bible tells us to work for a living, and sometimes our job prevents us from being in Bible class or the morning or evening assembly. I get that. It affects my family just like it does yours. And even when we're working for someone else, the bottom line is we're working for the Lord.

My concern here isn't with our employment. What disturbs me deeply is that other totally optional matters receive greater dedication than our obligations to God. We're giving priority to things that truly should be extracurricular.

You've heard multiple times what Jesus said in Matt. 6:33 (quoted above). When we make our obligations to God the curriculum, He has pledged to take care of everything we truly need.

So, let's do an honest evaluation of our priorities and make certain we aren't treating service to God as an extracurricular activity.

Hymn: "Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God"

Prayer: Father, please help us to truly make our relationship with You our top priority. In Jesus' name, Amen.