

this wonderful righteousness of God in Him. It is a gift from God. We don't have to earn our right standing with God, we can receive it from Him as a gift of His grace, all because He acts with lovingkindness towards us. There is a need to confess our need and ask for forgiveness. It is no good trusting in our wealth, our wisdom, or our strength, as we can do living in the world. They are not of value or importance to God.

He delights in lovingkindness and judgement and righteousness in the earth. Yes, it is down here on our planet, not just in heaven, where these things matter. That is where we are, and it is very practical. That is why Jesus Christ had to come to the earth and die for our sins here, as it was so vital to God that our forgiveness and freedom, and our knowledge and understanding of Him should be in this life, here on the earth.

If you want to understand God and His love for you, look no further than Jesus Christ who died and rose again. It is Jesus' death and resurrection that proves He is true, and that God is true too. Jesus rising again shows He has power over death, which in the long term is the worst enemy for human beings. Jesus gives us eternal life, so that love, judgement and right standing with God can be yours now and forever. Receive the risen Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, and then you will understand and know what is really important. There will no longer be a need to seek for wealth and fame and might, but rather to experience the lovingkindness of God for the rest of your life here on the earth, and then for ev-



er in heaven with God. When you receive, you will see what is really important by understanding the wisdom of God in sending the Lord Jesus to the earth to die for your sins. You will know the power of God in dealing with all your needs, and you will know the Lord Jesus and all the spiritual riches He has for you in your life. Knowing and understanding all these things will cause you to give thanks to God that He has shown you the things which really matter. Please pray the prayer

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for helping me when I could not help myself.
 .Forgive me for not doing the things which are important to you. Thank you for showing me the truth.
 I confess to you that I have sinned and done things against the will of God. Please forgive me and cleanse me from all my sin.
 Please come into my heart and change me so that I can truly serve you for the rest of my life.
 I realise that without you I have no hope in this world, but that with you I have eternal life.

Lord Jesus, thank you.
 I now belong to you and I rejoice in you as my Saviour and can now truly call you Lord. Amen



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THE THINGS WHICH REALLY MATTER



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The things which really matter

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In the world we live in, we love to have heroes. There is an “A list” of stars and celebrities who make the headlines, and make a fortune for a certain type of magazine. People are famous for either how rich they are, how clever they are, or how strong (skilful) they are. We have multimillionaires who give huge sums of money to charity and hit the headlines; they are even involved in TV programmes, passing on the ways of their success.



Football, athletics, rugby, tennis and golf all have their stars performing at the highest level. The Olympic Games and the World Cup Finals demonstrate the popularity of sport in these modern times. National or local pride is often involved in sporting contests, which help to take people’s minds off the real problems of life. Most people have their heroes, in whichever country they come from. The real superstars have worldwide fame, sometimes with all the problems that can bring them. There are musicians and singers too who have “a strength”, perhaps a talent, which also makes them popular and brings them many fans.

There is a great hunger for knowledge and discovery, and those who make such discoveries have huge renown. In modern times, it is the software designers, and the DNA and genetic scientists



who make the headlines, and regrettably there are those who used their inventive skills for less helpful deeds; bomb makers for example.

Even with those who never make the headlines there is pride and pleasure at success in one area of life or another. Parents love to go to prize givings when their children have done well and receive an award. Dads and Mums watch their children playing sport or performing in a school concert, proud of their child’s achievements. In some ways these are the important things in life.



In Israel many hundreds of years ago there was a prophet called Jeremiah. He was very well known in his day. Sometimes he was popular, but mostly he was unpopular because of the things he said to his countrymen. He definitely hit the headlines, or would have done if they had had TV or newspapers in those days.

Jeremiah said this; you can read it in chapter 9:

“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD”.

It rather turns everything on its head, as if God is saying “Wait a minute, if you are going to boast (glory) about something, don’t let it be about your riches and



wisdom and strength, but boast of your knowledge and understanding of God; that is much more important”. Maybe you don’t believe in God, or have your doubts about His existence, or blame Him for everything that goes wrong in your life. Many do that these days. But if He exists and He is what the Bibles tells us He is, then God is all powerful and all knowing, and therefore knowing Him and understanding Him really is more important than all those other things. Riches and fame and skills pass away; we can’t take our money with us when we die; sportsmen get too old to perform; and fame, well, it can be “here today, forgotten tomorrow”. God is for ever and so knowing Him is very, very, important.

Jeremiah speaks that the things which we need to know and understand are the things God delights in. Maybe humans delight in their money or fame or strength, but to understand God we need to know the things which really please Him.



There are three things again.

Lovingkindness, a lovely word which includes love and being kind, such a practical gentle and caring help from a God who we are told “is love”. But judgement too, with a facing up to facts, being honest about things, showing us our needs and problems. Judgement means dealing with those problems too. God calls them sin; it is why we all do and think bad things. God put all the penalty for our sins on His Son the Lord Jesus, who took the judgement of God for us, so that we can be free. Finally, righteousness, which means being right with God. When Jesus died he took our sin but we were also made