

A Life's Lesson Learned While Packing

We sometimes experience things while going about our normal pursuits that have spiritual implications because they relate to biblical truths. I learned one such lesson recently while packing the suitcase and car for a week-long trip. The best way to accomplish this is to “put the big items in first and fit the smaller ones around the big ones.” The spiritual implication is that we need to put the big items first in our lives. The spiritual equivalent of the space in our suitcase and car is our *time*. Our time is precious and we all have a limited amount, but what “big” items in our spiritual lives should be given priority?

One such item should be attendance at all services of the congregation. This should be one of the first items we put on our schedules (Heb. 10:25). Missing a service of the Lord's church should not happen unless we can't possibly get there.

Prayer and Bible study should be given a place in our lives before our schedule is filled with less important things (I Thess. 5:17; Heb. 2:1-3). Failure to regularly pray and study is a recipe for spiritual decline.

Service to others, like visiting the sick and shut-ins, helping the needy, being good neighbors, etc., should be a big part of our lives (James 1:27). These things take time but they result in our laying up treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:20).

A corollary to time is money. You have heard the saying, “time is money and money is time.” Our contribution to the church should have “big item” status although the dollar amount normally is not the biggest item in our personal and family budgets. Actually, our contribution is not primarily what the Lord wants from us. Jesus knows when we give ourselves to Him, the money will follow (II Cor. 8:8). Each of us should seriously examine our giving in order to determine if we have, in fact, given ourselves to the Lord as we should.

Jesus requires us to prioritize our lives to conform to His teaching. He said, *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you* (Matt. 6:33). Why not begin now to pack our spiritual suitcases with “big” items? *Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation* (II Cor. 6:2b).

For the elders,
Don Denton