

## SEEK YE FIRST

There are many things which catch the eyes of men and many things for which man seeks. While many in the religious world teach that man has no responsibility in regards to his salvation, the Bible very clearly teaches that men are to be seekers. Jesus says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Mat. 7:7). Sadly, many "seek" the wrong authority and therefore "find" the wrong conclusion. The world seeks advice from the likes of Dr. Phil, Oprah, or the latest, best-selling "self-help" book. Many in the religious world seek some well-known preacher or school to serve as their authority. When questions arise, they seek an answer from the authority of their choice and usually receive an answer to their delight. Others seek the teachings of a pamphlet to find the words to "pray for salvation" which can be found nowhere in God's Holy Word. Jesus plainly teaches that man's number one priority is to seek God and His plan for righteousness. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33). God's plan to make one righteous is found within the pages of the New Testament (Rom. 1:16-17). Therefore, in order to seek God and His righteousness, one must search the Scriptures. Why then do so many "seek first" sources of authority other than God? When young people have questions about marriage or parenting, whom should they seek first? The correct answers to their questions are found in God's Word. In addition, God authorizes and commands older Christians to help the younger (Titus 2:1-7). Unfortunately, rather than seeking the counsel of the wise (Pro. 24:6), many seek after the counsel of the ungodly (Pa. 1:1). Using just a little common sense, it is easy to see the wisdom in seeking advice from faithful Christians rather than from unfaithful Christians or from those who are not Christians at all. Marriage questions should be directed towards faithful Christians who have godly marriages. Parenting questions should find their way to faithful Christians who have raised faithful children. Why would any Christian, seeking to be faithful to God, seek answers from those who have not been able to follow God themselves? Seeking God first means seeking only those things which are authorized in God's Word. Seeking God first also means seeking moral advice only from those who, themselves, have sought God's Word as their only source for authority. Non-Christians and unfaithful members of the Church may seem to have good answers but are only speaking "great swelling words of vanity...While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (2 Pet. 2:18,19). How many Christians have been brought back into bondage because they bought the words being sold by the unfaithful? "Through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you" (2 Pet. 2:13). We need not worry about being dragged into sin if we only seek God and His righteousness first and seek advice from those who are faithful to Him. "For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye Me, and ye shall live"(Amos 5:4). This promise is made to the Spiritual Israel, the Church of Christ, today. "If ye then be risen with Christ, *seek* those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, *then shall ye also appear with Him in glory*" (Col. 3:1-4, emphasis B.G.).

- Brad Green

