

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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The
Mission
of
FBCWR:
To present the Lord Jesus
Christ: His work
on the
cross
and
His in-
dwelling
power
to meet
man's
needs.

"Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap."

Luke 21:34

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Focusing On The Way

Luke 8:14 - *"The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity."*

Am I out on a limb here? I'm guessing that the greatest stumbling block for Christians is not obvious struggles like drugs, alcohol addiction or adultery. It is that dangerous state of being a moral, hard-working, law-abiding person who is enslaved to routine and addicted to busyness. As Jesus said in the verse above, we can receive the Word, yet not do much in the way of spreading it because basically we're distracted by things in this life. We are certainly "on **our** way", as He said, but to where? Answering urgency's call, or worse, just doing the next thing on the list?

Pick up the kid.
Take him to the doctors.
Go to Kroger's.
Buy milk and can opener.

It's not that these duties are evil, they need attention. But does the Lord have input when we make our lists or is His role just to make certain things go smooth for us?

Moving Lists

I have been covered up by lists the last month because we moved across the

street (which sounds way easier than it was, trust me). Between fix-ups and improvements, we're still looking at considerable effort. We prayed about the move when the opportunity arose because we want to multiply what God has given us yet we want to be undistracted from our (yours too) primary purpose on the planet—to help people connect with God.

Focusing Amidst the Blur

Paul knew this struggle and his words have powerful application in my situation: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 - *But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who buy, should be as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.*

Jesus said we should "be **in** the world but not **of** it". The difference is that our routine would include time with Him—that we would not just enjoy the pleasures of this world but draw upon His love and peace to fulfill our deepest desires. It means when we sit down to make a list, we invite, and listen for, His input. Who does He want us to talk to today about Him? Who can we pray for? Who can we call and encourage? Does God want to be that personal with us? Sure, this is His focus.

-Joe Fornear

