

First Things First in 2022

A. Old Testament - The First Day

Genesis 1:1-5

“He separated the light from the darkness” Isa 60:1-3

- Seeing Light and darkness are the most important distinction in our lives
- Our natural eyes distinguish between light and dark – our spirits discern between light and darkness too – The Spirit is hovering.

B. New Testament – First Things – First 3 references in NT

1. Matt. 5:23-24

‘First go and be reconciled’

The reference is to a broken relationship which must be healed; here it is the responsibility of the guilty person to take the initiative. Be reconciled to can therefore be translated as "do what is necessary to be friends with your brother again" or "become friends again." UBS

2. Matt. 6:28-34

“Seek first His Kingdom and righteousness” then pursue provision
Priorities – God, Spouse(family), work, ministry

The word "seek" is a present imperative, a command to fulfill a continuing obligation. To "seek the kingdom" means both to submit to God's sovereignty here and now and to work for the future coming of his kingdom. To "seek His righteousness" means to seek to live as God requires, to truly seek these "first" calls for total loyalty and commitment. It means to turn to God first for help, to fill our thoughts with his desires, to take his character for our pattern, and to serve and obey him in everything. *Barnes Notes*

- Kingdom of God is His Kingship, His rule, His authority – *G E Ladd*

The mystery of the Kingdom – *G E Ladd*

- A. The Kingdom is now here with persuasion rather than power
- B. The Kingdom is here but not with irresistible power – It does not force itself upon men
- C. The Kingdom of God has come among men and yet men can reject it

3. Matt. 7:1-5, [Luke 6:27-42; Rom 2:1-3]

“first take the plank out of your own eye”

The word "judge" (Greek, krino) can mean evaluate or analyze. It also refers to private, judgmental attitudes that tear down others in order to build up oneself. The command "judge not" does not refer to judging in a court of law, nor is it a blanket statement against critical thinking. Believers should be discerning and make certain judgments. *Barnes Notes*