

## Church First - cont.

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We can say: I will not seek a church relationship that has no commitment, conditions, or involvement.

We can say: I will not ask, "What can the church do for me?"

We can say: I will not be short on allegiance and long on criticism.

*We can put the Lord's church first by becoming a member of the Lord's church (Acts 2:47).*

We can say: I will be baptized into the body of Christ according to the Bible plan (1 Corinthians 12:13).

We can say: I will be an active member and not merely a spectator (Romans 12:4-5).

You can have a local "church of Christ" that is not first in the lives of its members (Revelation 2-3). But, let's not have that. Let's examine ourselves and do some soul-searching (2 Corinthians 13:5). Let's really put the Lord's church first in our life. - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- In fishing for men, there is no closed season and there is no restricted area.
- Chains of habit are often too small to be felt until they are too strong to break.
- Some people praise dead saints while others persecute living ones.
- Master your habits before they master you.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Putting the Lord's Church First

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Many things compete for our time and attention today such as family, work, school, the world, etc. However, we are told by God to make a choice; to set our priorities. Jesus said that we must “seek first the kingdom” (Matthew 6:33). That we have to engage with the things of this life, there is no doubt. But, at the same time, we must put the kingdom of God first. Can we really do this? Yes we can! Yes we must!

If others can put the Lord's church first, then we certainly can. Jesus put the church (people) first by dying for it (Acts 20:28) and Paul put the church first by suffering for it (Colossians 1:24). They put the church first ... what about you, what about me? Let's think about the “first church of Christ”. How can we put the Lord's church first?

*We can put the Lord's church first by putting the worship assembly before all others (Matthew 10:34; Acts 11:26; 1 Corinthians 14:23).*

We can say: I will come worship instead of attending outdoor activi-

ties (1 Timothy 4:8), guests (Acts 10:24, 33), or work (Philippians 2:12).

We can say: I will come worship even if I am not feeling my best (Psalm 122:1).

We can say: I will come worship when other things come up in my schedule (Luke 10:41-42).

*We can put the Lord's church first by putting the Lord before self (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18).*

We can say: I will let the Lord lead not self (3 John 6,9-11).

We can say: I will serve others in the church not myself (1 Corinthians 11:22; Romans 12:10; 16:1).

We can say: I will not seek to be “the greatest” (Mark 9:34).

We can say: I will not be a part of the “me generation” (Philippians 2:4).

*We can put the Lord's church first by having care and concern for the Lord's*

*church (2 Corinthians 11:28).*

We can say: I will care about the church's work and growth by being active in it (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 8:1,5).

We can say: I will care about the church's spiritual and physical needs by donating my time and money to it (Acts 2, 4, 6).

We can say: I will care about the church's purity by living right (1 Corinthians 5:1-13).

We can say: I will care about the church's leadership by working to have elders (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1ff).

We can say: I will care about the church's message by always standing for truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

*We can put the Lord's church first by committing ourselves to Christ as a faithful spouse and not as a casual “date” (2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:32; Revelation 19:7-8; 21:2,9).*

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