

Any In My Life?



On December 29, 1972 an airplane for Eastern Airline flight number 401 left New York City. The destination was Miami Florida. The airplane was a new Lockheed L-1011 Tristar plane. It was a practically new vehicle. It has only been flying for a little over 4 months. There were 153 passengers and 7 crew members on board. Among the passengers were two off-duty airline employees, a co-pilot and a maintenance specialist. The maintenance specialist was riding in the cockpit. He was a specialist for the L-1011 Tristar airplanes. There were 4 people in the cockpit the pilot, the co-pilot, the flight engineer, and the maintenance specialist, but he was there in a passenger capacity and not to work.

The flight was uneventful and routine until they were preparing to land in Miami. As the crew was going through the steps of preparation for landing, the co-pilot noticed that the light indicating that the nose landing gear was down, did not light up. They raised and lowered the landing gear number of times, but the light still did not come up.

After communicating with the tower they ascended back to two thousand feet altitude to circle at that level until they can resolve the problem. After reaching 2000' the pilot put the plane on auto pilot. The maintenance specialist ran a test on the light. The test failed. Than he tried to remove the light fixture from the panel to see if maybe the light bulb has burned out. The fixture was stuck and he could not remove it. All 4 people in the cockpit took turns to try to remove the fixture. Finally they gave up on the light and went to plan B. The pilot sent the maintenance specialist down to an area in the plane where you can actually see the landing gear, to determine if the nose gear was down. He came back and reported that it is too dark, and he can't see anything. The pilot turned on a light and sent him down the second time telling him to take another look.

At that time they heard the ground control telling them to change direction. As the pilot acknowledged the change in direction, he said "We did something to the altitude,'. At the airport, the approach controller handled another plane and looked again at the radar screen. On the radar screen, Flight 401's altitude block read 'CST' - for coast, or sea level. He radioed the Whisperliner: 'And, ah, eastern 401, are you requesting the equipment?' There was silence. 'Eastern, ah, 401, ah, I've lost you, ah, on the radar there, your transponder. What's your altitude now? Eastern 401, Miami -' There was no answer."

The airplane crashed into the everglades 18.7 miles away from the Miami airport. The elevation was 8 feet above sea level in the Everglades. The plane was traveling 227 miles per hour when it flew into the ground.

"For reasons unknown, the autopilot had been switched from Command Mode, to Control Wheel Steering Mode. In the latter, any small inputs to the flight controls will instruct the autopilot

how to alter the airplane's course. In this case, small forward pressure on the steering column would force the plane into a descent. Investigators believe the autopilot accidentally switched modes when the captain leaned against the steering column while turning to speak to the flight engineer, who was sitting behind and to the right of him. Like tapping the brakes in a car that is in cruise control, pressure on the steering column switches the autopilot out of command mode.

The NTSB report cited the cause of the crash as pilot error, specifically: ‘the failure of the flight crew to monitor the flight instruments during the final four minutes of flight, and to detect an unexpected descent soon enough to prevent impact with the ground. Preoccupation with a malfunction of the nose landing gear position indicating system - distracted the crew's attention from the instruments and allowed the descent to go unnoticed.’” There were numerous audible warning signals which were ignored as well. 94 passengers and 5 crewmembers died during the crash and four more died of injuries later, 57 survived. The incident was due to burned-out light bulbs with a replacement value of twelve dollars. The landing gear was found to be in the down and locked position.

Why am I talking about an airplane crash this morning that happened 33 years ago? Well, as I heard about this story, it made me think of my priorities in life.

As we all know we are heading for the biggest “crash landing” ever. Prophecies have foretold the events for us. It will happen for sure. The question is, will I be among the survivals, or the casualties? Unlike the passengers of flight 401, I can determine which group I will belong to. I can prepare for the “crash” and survive it.

The question I am asking myself this morning is -- what is the “light bulb” in my life? What is the subject of my preoccupation? Is it my job? Is it finances, illness, pleasing my spouse, pleasing my children? Is it my home, my car, or vacationing?

I am not suggesting that any of that is bad, or we should neglect all these things. What I am saying is that **they can not preoccupy me**. I am suggesting switching my preoccupation to heavenly things.

“But seek all of you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:18

“If all of you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

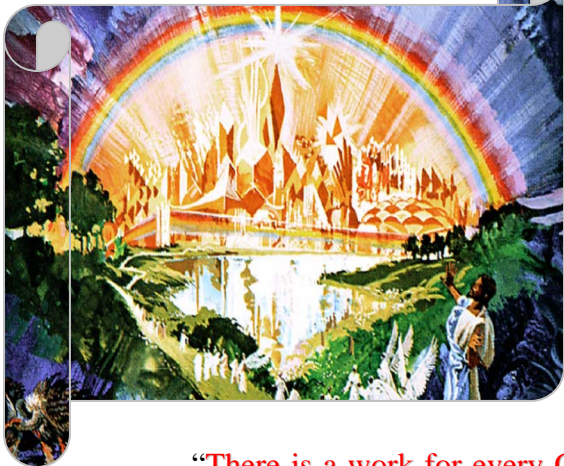
Colossians 3:1-2

If my focus is on anything else than being close to Jesus Christ, being ready for His return and doing the Lord’s work, I am being distracted from all the warning signs -- that God out of His infinite love and mercy is sending us. By the way these two: getting ready and witnessing for God go hand in hand -- one will not happen without the other.

A terrible crash is for sure to happen and very soon! The question is, will I be among the survivors, or will I perish, because of a “light bulb” in my life?



Please read the quotes entitled:
“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”



Seek ye first the kingdom of God!

“There is a work for every Christian to do right at his own door, in his own neighborhood. But how many lose sight of eternal interests and are completely swallowed up in their temporal affairs. There is no necessity for this, for Jesus says, ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ Make your own and your neighbor's eternal welfare the first and most important consideration. Your neighbors have souls to save or to lose, and God expects those to whom He has given the light, to make decided, interested efforts for others. They must remember the holy claims of the truth in every transaction of life. Let believers and unbelievers see in the life of those who claim to have a knowledge of advanced truth, a steady, clear, strong light shining forth in zeal, in devotion, in nobility of character, in their dealings with men. Then the Lord will deal bountifully with you, His servants. We should take time to pray. The time is all the Lord's, and we should be careful not to give others, in our example, a specimen of how we may rob God. Do not steal the time that should be given to God's service, and for gaining spiritual strength, and appropriate an extra half hour to your temporal affairs. May God forbid that those who have had the light of the truth, shall be found as were the foolish virgins, without oil in their vessels.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 02-10-1890

“Christ has said, ‘Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’ No man can serve two masters. No matter how long you have been a Christian, if you do not seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, you do not know Christ or the power of God. If you do not make the service of God your first business, you commit robbery toward God. The question you should ask your soul is: ‘What right have I to rob God of intelligent service? What right have I to take God's gifts of strength and intellect and devote them simply to advancement of self?’ You may have a position of trust and responsibility, and be crowded with work and care, but should you permit yourself to be so burdened that you cannot take time to understand what is your relation to God? Jesus says, ‘Without me ye can do nothing.’ Then of what benefit are you to your fellow-men unless you have a connection with Christ? When you become absorbed in the temporal things of life, eternal things are dropped out of your reckoning, and because of your interest in the fleeting things of earth, you rob God of your ability to serve Him in sending the gospel to all the world. ‘Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken? Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not east up.’”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 07-25-1892

“‘All these things,’ said Jesus, ‘do the nations of the world seek after.’ ‘Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ Luke 12: 30; Matt. 6:32, 33. I have come to open to you the kingdom of love and righteousness and peace. Open your hearts to receive this kingdom, and make its service your highest interest. Though it is a spiritual kingdom, fear not that your needs for this life will be uncared-for. If you give yourself to God's service, He who has all power in heaven and earth will provide for your needs.”

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing -PG- 99

“We are Christ's witnesses, and we are not to allow worldly interests so to absorb our time and attention that we pay no heed to the things that God has said must come first. There are higher interests at stake. ‘Seek

ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.’ Christ gave His all to the work that He came to do, and His word to us is, **‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’** **‘So shall ye be My disciples.’** Willingly and cheerfully Christ gave Himself to the carrying out of the will of God. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Shall we feel it a hardship to deny ourselves? Shall we draw back from being partakers of His sufferings? His death ought to stir every fiber of the being, making us willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are. As we think of what He has done for us, our hearts should be filled with love.”

Messages to Young People -PG- 314-315

“Said Christ: **‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these [needed] things shall be added unto you.’** This promise will never fail. We cannot enjoy the favor of God unless we comply with the conditions upon which His favor is bestowed. By so doing there will come to us that peace, contentment, and wisdom that the world can neither give nor take away. **If you would, as a church, secure the rich blessing of God, you must individually make Him first and last and best in every thought, plan, and work.** Obedience to God is the first duty of the Christian. A humble mind and a grateful heart will elevate us above petty trials and real difficulties. The less earnest, energetic, and vigilant we are in the service of the Master, the more will the mind dwell upon self, magnifying molehills into mountains of difficulty. We shall feel that we are abused, when no disrespect even was designed.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Four -PG- 610-611

“The upbuilding of the kingdom of God is retarded or urged forward according to the unfaithfulness or fidelity of human agencies. Unfaithfulness to the cause of Christ makes manifest that love is lacking in the human agent. It was the love of Christ that constrained Him to come and seek and save that which was lost. But the love of Christ does not seem to constrain those who profess His name; for a deathlike slumber is upon the human agents, and the work is hindered by failure of the human to co-operate with the divine. Men may pray, **‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,’** but fail in acting upon this prayer in their lives. The living Christian is one who has not left his first love, and his candlestick is not removed out of its place. But those who do not maintain their consecration to God are blind, and cannot see afar off, and have forgotten that they were purged from their old sins. But though you may be weak, erring, frail, sinful, and imperfect, the Lord holds out to you the offer of partnership with Himself, inviting you to come under divine instruction. Uniting with Christ, you may work the works of God. **‘Without me,’** said Christ, **‘ye can do nothing.’**”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 11-01-1892

“Jesus Christ has engaged to save every soul who will believe in Him as a personal Savior. He has engaged us in His service, and has pointed out to us the work that He expects us to do. He has given us a glimpse of eternity, in order that we may realize that temporal things are of little moment beside that which is eternal. Something higher than the affairs of this life is to engage our attention, and call forth the energies of our being, that we may glorify our Redeemer. Christ calls upon us as human agents to cooperate with heavenly agencies in the work of saving the world. Not one is to feel that he can use his time as he chooses. Heavenly requirements are not to be ignored. It is the universal tendency of men to subordinate the eternal realities to temporal matters, to make the claims of the future, immortal life subservient to the commonplace affairs of this fleeting life. But the Lord has said: ‘No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’ The god of this world claims the service of men, and seeks to keep them in continual slavery to his will. But Christ, the uplifted Savior, calls to men in authoritative tones, saying, **‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things [of secondary importance] shall be added unto you.’**”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 07-30-1894

“Thus our business or calling is a part of God's great plan, and, so long as it is conducted in accordance with His will, He Himself is responsible for the results. **‘Laborers together with God’** (1 Corinthians 3:9), our part is faithful compliance with His directions. Thus there is no place for anxious care. Diligence, fidelity, caretaking, thrift, and discretion are called for. Every faculty is to be exercised to its highest capacity. But the dependence will be, not on the successful outcome of our efforts, but on the promise of God. The word that fed Israel in the desert, and sustained Elijah through the time of famine, has the same power today. **‘Be not**

therefore anxious (R.V.), saying, *What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? . . . Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*' Matthew 6:31-33."

Education -PG- 138

"*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* Matt. 6:33. This is the first great object -- the kingdom of heaven, the righteousness of Christ. Other objects to be attained should be secondary to these."

Maranatha Life's Top Priority -PG- 71

"*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*' (Matt. 6:33). Here is a precious promise from One who means every word He says. Then why are we fearful, distrustful, and unbelieving? ... **Our time is the Lord's. Our talents are the Lord's.** Then how can any individual feel that he can be independent, not subject to the Spirit of God -- independent of God's will, independent of God's providences and plans? . . ."

That I May Know Him -PG- 231

"To every man is given his work, and that work is not to be looking for faults in others, nor to be seeking to imitate the world. Says the apostle, '*Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*' This means more than we think it does; dead to worldly interests, dead to worldly ambitions. What a position is this! Christ died that all heaven might be brought within our reach, that we might through such a divine provision be able to form characters for the future immortal life. We now have it our work to climb the ladder of progress, and urge our ways into the kingdom of heaven. We are to go on from strength to strength, and make it our first consideration to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, pursuing such a course as will stimulate others to do the same."

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 08-18-1885

"Christ understood the danger of the love of money; for He said, '*How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!*' He looked with sorrow upon the enthusiasm shown for the things that perish, and, lifting the curtain that veiled eternity from view, He declared, '*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.*' '*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.*' Today He calls upon us to give close attention to our eternal interests. **He would have us subordinate every earthly interest to His service.** '*For what shall it profit a man,*' He asks, '*if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*'"

The Signs of the Times -DT- 01-21-1897

"The Lord looks with pity on those who allow themselves to be burdened with household cares and business perplexities. They are cumbered with much serving, and neglect the one thing essential. '*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness,*' the Savior says; '*and all these things shall be added unto you.*' **That is, look away from this world to the eternal. Put forth your most earnest endeavors to obtain those things upon which God places value, and which Christ gave His precious life that you might secure.** His sacrifice has thrown open wide to you the gates of heavenly commerce. **Lay up your treasure beside the throne of God, by doing with His entrusted capital the work that He desires done in the winning of souls to a knowledge of the truth. This will secure you eternal riches. . . ."**

Counsels on Stewardship -PG- 225-226

"Man's ingenuity, his judgment, his power to execute, all come from God. To God's service all should be devoted. The principles of the Bible are to control the Lord's servants. His workers are ever to do justice and judgment, steadfastly keeping the way of the Lord. '*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.*' (Matt. 6:33). Make this the point round which your life centers, and then all things needful will be given you. **Put the Redeemer's interests before your own or those of any other human being. He has bought you, and all your powers belong to Him.**"

The Upward Look -PG- 74

"But do not forget that in coming to God as a father you acknowledge your relation to Him as a child. You not only trust His goodness, but in all things yield to His will, knowing that His love is changeless. **You**

give yourself to do His work. It was to those whom He had bidden to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness that Jesus gave the promise, **‘Ask, and ye shall receive.’** John 16:24.”

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing -PG- 133

“Christ has said that **‘ye cannot serve God and mammon’** [Matt. 6:24]. The one is against the other. However long you have been a professor of religion, even if it has been 20 or 40 years, if you have not learned to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, you do not know God, neither are you acquainted with Jesus Christ if you allow the spirit of the world to come in and absorb the mind and take the whole attention.”

Sermons and Talks Volume One -PG- 174

“Dear brethren and sisters, do not flatter yourselves that all obstacles to your worldly prosperity would be removed, were you to yield unpopular truth. Satan tells you this; it is his sophistry. But if the blessing of God rests upon you, you will prosper; if you turn from Him, He will turn from you. Jesus knows all your wants, and He has left exceeding broad and precious promises. He says: **‘There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel’s, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life.’** **‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’** **‘Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.’**”

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 05-26-1885

“**‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.’** This precious promise is from One who means every word He speaks. Then why are we fearful, distrustful, unbelieving? **Let us go on, doing our duty with an eye single to His glory,** filling up our time, working out God’s plan as in the sight of an invisible world.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 09-25-1893

“**The things that concern our eternal welfare are now to absorb our attention. We can not afford to give heavenly things the second place.** Christ says, **‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’**”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 07-14-1903

“We have always the promise: **‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things** [the needed things of this life] **shall be added unto you.’** Our heavenly Father knows our needs, and He will provide for them **without our giving our time, strength, and affections to the mammon of this world.’**”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 06-02-1887

“**We are Christ’s witnesses, and we are not to allow worldly interests and plans to absorb our time and attention.** There are higher interests at stake. **‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.’** Matthew 6:33. Christ Himself willingly and cheerfully to the carrying out of the will of God. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. In view of all that He has done, should we feel it a hardship to deny self? Shall we draw back from being partakers of Christ’s sufferings? His death ought to stir every fiber of our beings, making us willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are. As we think of all that He has done for us, our hearts should be filled with gratitude and love, and we should renounce all selfishness. **What duty could the heart refuse to perform under the constraining influence of the love of Christ?’**”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Nine -PG- 53-54



**Preoccupies
with a
light bulb?**



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with a
light bulb?**

Directions:

- ❖ Print pages 1 & 2 back to back on 24lb white paper.
- ❖ Print pages 3 - 6 back to back on lilac paper
- ❖ Print page 7 or 8 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 7 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 8 if printer loads envelope in the center)
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Fold set of quotes in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Place 1 appeal, 1 set of quotes in each envelope.