# Focusing on What Matters

**Greg Kline** · Acts 17:16–34

## INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is coming again, and we need to be watching and be ready.
- If we are living as if Jesus could come any day, that changes our life. That changes the way we think, what we spend our time on, who we spend our time with.
- It makes sense then that a lot of the issues of this life don't really matter that much.

## 1 Paul Sticks With What Truly Matters

**Acts 17:22–31**

- I think what we see is that Paul sticks with what truly matters.
- God doesn't need man. Man needs God.
- He establishes who God is. He focuses on Jesus being resurrected from the dead, and he focuses on that day that is coming.
- As sure as there is a God, and as sure as that God raised Jesus from the dead, there is a day coming in which we will be judged.

## 2 Not Distracted by Unnecessary Speculation

**1 Timothy 1:3–5; Genesis 1:1**

- Paul wasn't distracted by things that distract me. He wasn't distracted by unnecessary speculation.
- The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
- Can we acknowledge and accept that what matters is what has been revealed to us?
- We would do well to not waste time or argue things that we can't be sure of. Let's focus on what the Bible does say rather than what it does not.

## 3 Getting Caught Up in Difficult Scripture

**2 Peter 3:14–18**

- A good way to be distracted quickly is to get caught up in trying to understand even difficult scripture.
- Don't let it affect your faith or the faith of others. Don't be distracted from what truly matters.
- There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction as they do the other scriptures.
- To be able to recognize them, we have to know what truth is. We have to know what matters.

## 4 Not Distracted by Affairs of This World

**John 18:36**

- We need to not be distracted by affairs of this world.

- My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting that I might not be delivered over to the Jews.
- If our king is not from this world, our citizenship is not here either, and our focus can't be.
- We are all in with God, or we are all out.

## 5 Our God Reigns and Is in Control

**Daniel 4:17; Daniel 2:44–45**

- This changes the Christian life because we see our God reigns and our God is in control.
- The most high rules the kingdom of men and gives to it whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.
- The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.

## 6 Jesus Lives

**1 Corinthians 15:3–5; 1 Corinthians 15:12–20**

- That means not only that Jesus came to this earth and that he died on the cross for our sins, but that God raised him from the dead.
- For I delivered to you as of first importance. What I also received. That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day.
- And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins.
- Because he lives, we can live forever.

THE CHALLENGE

**Are you ready for the day of the Lord?**

MY NOTES