

**Seeking God's Kingdom: Builders or Seekers?**  
**February 4, 2018**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. (Matthew 6:33 NLT)

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it! (Matthew 13:44-46 NLT)

Seek and you shall find. We must seek God's Kingdom with our whole hearts, every day. But what does that really mean? We will spend some time this week uncovering the ways in which we can be active seekers as we endeavor to live righteously and find heaven right here on earth.

**Digging Deeper**

**Seeking God's Kingdom involves a...**

**Pursuit**

- When you like someone you actively pursue them to convince them you are worth their time. You spend a lot of time thinking of them and probably adjust your schedule to be with them as often as possible. In the same way, when you are seeking the Lord, you must pursue Him. He is ever in our midst and delights in our pursuit of a relationship with Him. He sings with joy over us! (Zephaniah 3:17 paraphrased) The Kingdom of God is both here on earth as well as yet to come in eternity. If we focus on looking for God's handiwork in the big and little happenings of our everyday lives, before we know it, we will see Him everywhere. How do you intentionally seek the Kingdom of God each day? Does your pursuit seem effortless or intentional?

**Price**

- Pursuit of God is a lofty endeavor. If you're doing it right, you will be changed by the experience. It will cost you a piece of what you may now view as comfortable Christianity. But the Lord your God desires your whole heart, mind and strength. We are to serve Him in this life by being His physical form and caring for His people in need. What has pursuing a godly lifestyle cost you thus far (i.e. relationships, finances, time, etc)? What has it given you? Most certainly the gains outweigh the losses. We are wise to remember our reward is in heaven, but the awareness and peace that comes from the Holy Spirit living inside us now is a wonderful treat we can enjoy on this side of the journey to eternity.

**Possession**

- Whatever we treasure as being most valuable or important has a tendency to take over our entire beings. Imagine how life-changing it could be if God took over the MVP position in our lives! We can't take the people or things we hold dear today with us when we die, but we can live a life eternal with our Father in heaven. How can an eternal perspective like this help you

put your loved ones or possessions in their rightful place? Have you ever found yourself sweating the small stuff and stopped to remember that none of this will affect you in heaven? Did it help you find peace and move on? If this is not a common practice you employ, try reciting this the next time a problem comes your way: "This will not follow me to heaven so I need to let it stop consuming me today!"

### **Conclusion**

So what are you seeking? Are you willing to pursue God with all you are and everything you have? It's not going to be easy and will surely cost you something, but if we genuinely lift God up to His rightful place in the center of our lives, we might begin to realize a little bit of heaven right here on earth! And most would agree that would be worth any price we might have to pay!

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13 NIV)